



Fungal Planet 82 – 31 May 2011

Sclerostagonospora cycadis Crous & G. Okada, *sp. nov.*

Sclerostagonosporae leucadendri similis, sed conidiis minoribus, (6–)7–10(–13) × 3–4(–4.5) µm.

Etymology. Named after the host from which it was collected, *Cycas*.

On oatmeal agar. *Conidiomata* pycnidial, globose, solitary, brown, 60–300 µm diam, opening mostly by means of a single, central ostiole, up to 30 µm diam, lined with hyaline, 0–1-septate periphyses, 2–2.5 µm wide; wall consisting of 2–3 layers of brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to annellides. *Conidiogenous cells* ampulliform to subcylindrical, 3–6 × 3–5 µm, hyaline, smooth, becoming brown, with 1–3 apical, percurrent proliferations. *Paraphyses* interspersed among conidiogenous cells, 0–3-septate, simple or branched, hyaline, 10–30 × 2–2.5 µm. *Conidia* ellipsoid to subcylindrical (apex obtuse, base truncate), smooth, medium brown, (0–)1–3-septate, becoming constricted at septa with age, (6–)7–10(–13) × 3–4(–4.5) µm.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 1 mo): *Colonies* on potato-dextrose agar and oatmeal agar spreading, reaching 40–50 mm diam, with sparse aerial mycelium, smooth, with catenulate margins; surface buff to honey with patches of mouse-grey; reverse honey with patches of mouse-grey.

Typus. JAPAN, Umihotaru Parking Area, Tokyo Bay Aqualine highway, on living leaves of *Cycas revoluta*, 22 Oct. 2005, P.W. Crous & G. Okada, holotype CBS H-20161, culture ex-type CPC 12388 = CBS 123538, ITS sequence GenBank FJ372393 and LSU sequence GenBank FJ372410, MycoBank MB560171.

Notes — The present fungus is placed in *Sclerostagonospora* due to the presence of pycnidia, conidiogenous cells with percurrent proliferations, and pigmented conidia. The anamorph genus *Sclerostagonospora* has been linked to *Leptosphaeria* (Crous & Palm 1999, Crous et al. 2004) and *Montagnula* (Huhndorf 1992), and is paraphyletic.

Presently nine species of *Sclerostagonospora* are listed in *Index Fungorum*, none of which occur on *Zamiaceae*, or resemble *S. cycadis* in morphology. BLASTn results of the ITS sequence revealed an identity of 99 % with *Sclerostagonospora* sp. (GenBank accession DQ286767; Identities = 532/538 (99 %), Gaps = 3/538 (1 %)) and *Sclerostagonospora opuntiae* (GenBank accession DQ286768; Identities = 531/538 (99 %), Gaps = 3/538 (1 %)). The LSU sequence has 99 % identity to the latter two GenBank sequences as well as sequences of *Phaeosphaeria* species. *Sclerostagonospora cycadis* is morphologically similar to *Hendersonia togniniana*, which was described from *Cycas revoluta* plants cultivated in a botanical garden in Italy. Conidia of the latter, however, are brown, oblong-ellipsoidal, 3-septate, 10–12 × 6–7 µm, thus being wider than that of the present species (Saccardo 1899).

Colour illustrations. *Cycas revoluta* growing at Sakae-cho, Asaka, Saitama; colony on oatmeal agar; conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bar = 10 µm.

Pedro W. Crous & Johannes Z. Groenewald, CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, P.O. Box 85167, 3508 AD Utrecht, The Netherlands;
e-mail: p.crous@cbs.knaw.nl & e.groenewald@cbs.knaw.nl
Gen Okada, Microbe Division / Japan Collection of Microorganisms, RIKEN BioResource Center, Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan;
e-mail: okada@jcm.riken.jp