Lectera nordwiniana Giraldo López, sp. nov.

Etymology: nordwiniana, refers to the school named ‘Nordwin College’ where the soil sample was collected by the students Dylan van der Pol, Rémon Verf, Joost Wilks and Mathis de Ruiter. This species was discovered during a Citizen Science project in the Netherlands, ‘Wereldfaam, een schimmel met je eigen naam’, describing novel fungal species isolated from Dutch soils.

Classification — Plectosphaerellaceae, Glomerellales, Sordariomycetes.

Mycelium consisting of branched, septate, smooth, hyaline and thin-walled hyphae, up to 2 µm wide. Conidiomata sporodochial, punctiform, dark brown, solitary or gregarious, surrounded by abundant setae. Setae dark brown, 3–8-septate, flexuous, tapering to acutely rounded apices, thick- and smooth-walled, intermingled among the conidiogenous cells, 78–193 × 3–5 µm. Phialides subcylindrical, hyaline, smooth-walled, 13–24.5 µm long, 1.5–2.5 µm wide at the base, with conspicuous periclinal thickening at the conidiogenous locus. Conidia broadly fusiform, acute ends, inequilateral, with inner plane flat, and outer plane convex, 1-celled, hyaline, becoming orange in mass, thick- and smooth-walled, 6–8 × 2–3 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies on PDA after 14 d at c. 25 °C, reaching 22–23 mm diam, elevated, slightly folded, salmon, with brown punctiform sporodochia on the top.


Notes — Lectera was introduced based on the plant pathogen Lectera colletotrichoides as the type species, along with L. longa (Cannon et al. 2012). Recently, three more species have been added to the genus, i.e., Lectera capsica from Capsicum annumum, L. phaseola from Phaseolus vulgaris and L. humicola from soil (Crous et al. 2017a, Giraldo & Crous, in prep.). Morphologically, L. nordwiniana resembles L. longa and L. phaseola in the profuse production of flexuous setae in artificial media. However, in L. nordwiniana these structures are longer (up to 193 µm long) than those produced by the other species (L. longa up to 111 µm long, L. phaseola up to 38 µm long).

Colour illustrations. Netherlands, Nordwin College where the soil sample was collected; sporodochium, setae, conidiogenous cell and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.