Coniochaeta dendrobiicola
**Coniochaeta dendrobiicola** Sujit Shah, sp. nov.

*Etymology.* Name reflects the host genus it was isolated from, *Dendrobium longicornu*.

*Classification.* — *Coniochaetaceae*, *Coniochaetales*, Sordariomycetes.

*Vegetative hyphae.* Thin, septate, smooth 1.2–2.4 µm wide. *Conidiogenous cells* arising laterally from vegetative hyphae, broader at base tapering towards apex (1.4 µm at base and 0.67 µm at apex). *Conidia* hyaline, smooth, cylindrical to allantoid, variable in size, 4.35–11.28 × 1.2–2.3 µm. *Sexual morph* absent which is reported in *Coniochaeta velutina*, *C. prunicola*, *C. africana* isolated from *Prunus* (Damm et al. 2010, Weber 2002, Abdalla & Al-Rokibah 2003, Asgari & Zare 2006).

*Cultural characteristics.* — First isolated on Czapek-Dox agar (CDA). The shape of the colony was circular, with lemon yellow colour and pale regular margin with pale white band as growing zone. The surface was smooth with flat topography and submerged mycelium. Colonies reach 4 cm diam after 15 d of incubation, with 1–2 concentric rings. On potato dextrose agar (PDA) the colony was circular with regular margin, pale brown with yellowish margin having radiating furrows. The surface was glistening, smooth with flat topography and the presence of submerged mycelium. Colonies reach 4 cm diam after 15 d of incubation, with 1–2 concentric rings present. On oatmeal agar (OA) the colony shape was circular with regular margin, lemon yellow with 1 cm thick white growing margin. The colony surface was smooth, shiny with flat topography and submerged mycelium. Colonies reach 4.5 cm diam after 15 d of incubation, with a single concentric brown ring present.

*Habitat.* — Roots of *Dendrobium longicornu*, District Makwanpur, Nepal.

*Typus.* **NEPAL.** District Makwanpur, roots of *Dendrobium longicornu* (Orchidaceae), 25 May 2017, S. Shah (holotype culture and specimen, MCC1811, preserved as metabolically inactive, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MK225602 and MK225603, MycoBank MB830652).

*Notes.* — Phylogenetic trees of the ITS region was prepared using sequences of *C. dendrobiicola* and other *Coniochaeta* species obtained from GenBank. An NCBI BLASTn search of ITS sequences showed closest similarity to be 93 % with *C. africana* (CBS 120868, GenBank MH863095), 92 % with *C. velutina* (STE-U 8315, GenBank KY312638), 92 % with *Coniochaeta angustispora* (CBS 871.73, GenBank MH860816) and 92 % with *Coniochaeta nepalica* (NBRC 30584, GenBank LC146727).

**Colour illustrations.** *Dendrobium longicornu* orchid species from Chitlang village, Makwanpur district, Nepal. Colony after 15 d on PDA, OA and CDA; conidia, conidiogenous cells and hyphae. Scale bars = 10, 10 and 100 µm.

**Neighbour-Joining tree** based on ITS sequences using MEGA v. 6.06, showing the phylogenetic position of the new species among closely related 11 *Coniochaeta* species whose sequences were retrieved from the NCBI database. *Coniochaeta dendrobiicola* (DLCCR7) clustered in a clade containing the majority of the *Coniochaeta* species with a bootstrap support value of 100 %. The analysis involved 15 nucleotide sequences with Chaetosphaeria garethjonesii and Phialoemenium obovatum as outgroups.

Jyotsna Sharma, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech. University, USA; e-mail: jyotsna.sharma@ttu.edu

© 2019 Naturalis Biodiversity Center & Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute