
Alloconiothyrium encephalarti

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Alloconiothyrium encephalarti Crous, *sp. nov.*

Etymology. Name refers to the host genus *Encephalartos* from which it was isolated.

Classification — *Didymosphaeriaceae*, *Pleosporales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

Conidiomata separate, pycnidial, globose, 180–200 µm diam, medium brown, opening via central ostiole; wall of 3–6 layers of pale brown *textura angularis*. *Conidiophores* reduced to conidiogenous cells lining inner cavity, hyaline, smooth, ampulliform to subcylindrical, 4–6 × 2–3.5 µm, phialidic with periclinal thickening. *Conidia* solitary, aseptate, subcylindrical, straight, hyaline, smooth with obtuse ends, (3.5–)4(–6) × 1.5(–2) µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and feathery margin, reaching 35 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA and PDA surface and reverse olivaceous grey. On OA surface iron-grey.

Typus. South Africa, Limpopo Province, Tzaneen, on leaves of *Encephalartos* sp. (*Zamiaceae*), 2010, *P.W. Crous*, HPC 2491 (holotype CBS H-24161, culture ex-type CPC 35980 = CBS 146012, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MN562102.1 and MN567610.1, MycoBank MB832861).

Notes — *Alloconiothyrium encephalarti* represents a new species related to species in the coniothyrium-complex, including *Alloconiothyrium* and *Verrucoconiothyrium* (Crous et al. 2015a), and is tentatively named in *Alloconiothyrium*.

Based on a megablast search of NCBIs GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Microsphaeropsis arundinis* (strain SCAU194, GenBank MK281564.1; Identities = 452/474 (95 %), 11 gaps (2 %)), *Huperzia serrata* (strain HS8-2-3, GenBank MK424445.1; Identities = 452/474 (95 %), 11 gaps (2 %)), and *Paraconiothyrium cyclothyrioides* (strain UTHSC DI16-346, GenBank LT796893.1; Identities = 452/474 (95 %), 11 gaps (2 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Alloconiothyrium aptrootii* (strain CBS 981.95, GenBank JX496235.1; Identities = 869/875 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Verrucoconiothyrium nitidae* (as *Coniothyrium nitidae*, strain CBS 119209, GenBank EU552112.1; Identities = 881/888 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), and *Paraconiothyrium archidendri* (strain CBS 168.77, GenBank NG_057964.1; Identities = 880/888 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)).

Colour illustrations. *Encephalartos* sp. Symptomatic leaf; conidiomata on pine needle agar; conidiogenous cells; conidia. Scale bars = 200 µm (conidiomata), 10 µm (all others).

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