

Scolecobasidium podocarpicola



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Scolecobasidium podocarpicola Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

Classification — *Sympoventuriaceae*, *Venturiales*, *Dothideomycetes*.

Mycelium consisting of smooth, medium brown, septate, branched, 1.5–2 µm diam hyphae, forming hyphal coils. *Conidiophores* erect, 1-septate, unbranched, medium brown, smooth, subcylindrical, 9–17 × 2.5–3 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal, medium brown, smooth, subcylindrical, 6–10 × 2.5–3 µm, with 1–4 terminal cylindrical denticles, 1–1.5 × 1 µm. *Conidia* solitary, 1(–3)-septate, subcylindrical, apex obtuse, base with marginal frill, 0.5 µm long, medium brown, verruculose, (19–)22–25(–26) × (2.5–)3 µm.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, lobate margin, reaching 25 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface and reverse amber.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Knysna, Knysna area, on leaves of *Podocarpus latifolius* (*Podocarpaceae*), 20 Nov. 2018, F. Roets, HPC 2739 (holotype CBS H-24185, culture ex-type CPC 37078 = CBS 146057, ITS, LSU and *rpb2* sequences GenBank MN562138.1, MN567645.1 and MN556811.1, MycoBank MB832896).

Notes — *Scolecobasidium podocarpicola* is related to but distinct from species of *Scolecobasidium* (incl. *Ochroconis*) based on its conidial morphology, being subcylindrical, 1(–3)-septate, (19–)22–25(–26) × (2.5–)3 µm. Of interest is the fact that *S. podocarpicola* was cultured from spermatia oozing from a spermatogonium, suggesting that it could have a sexual morph, and that it proved to be closely related to a sexual species, *Ochroconis sexualis* (Samerpitak et al. 2014).

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Ochroconis sexualis* (strain PPRI 12991, GenBank NR_132049.1; Identities = 454/522 (87 %), 22 gaps (4 %)), *Ochroconis mirabilis* (strain UTHSC 04-2378, GenBank LM644513.1; Identities = 416/495 (84 %), 32 gaps (6 %)), and *Ochroconis icarus* (strain CBS 536.69, GenBank MH859368.1; Identities = 400/476 (84 %), 26 gaps (5 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Ochroconis sexualis* (strain PPRI 12991, GenBank NG_060299.1; Identities = 747/778 (96 %), 3 gaps (0 %)), *Ochroconis robusta* (strain CBS 112.97, GenBank NG_058141.1; Identities = 803/837 (96 %), 6 gaps (0 %)), and *Ochroconis bacilliformis* (strain CBS 100442, GenBank NG_058140.1; Identities = 800/838 (95 %), 7 gaps (0 %)). Closest hits using the **rpb2** sequence had highest similarity to *Ochroconis musicola* (strain CPC 32927, GenBank MH327876.1; Identities = 686/838 (82 %), 12 gaps (1 %)), *Scolecobasidium terreum* (strain CBS 536.69, GenBank FR832487.1; Identities = 667/818 (82 %), 4 gaps (0 %)), and *Ochroconis humicola* (strain HGUP1204, GenBank JX546578.1; Identities = 662/843 (79 %), 21 gaps (2 %)).

Colour illustrations. Base of *Podocarpus latifolius* tree in Knysna. Conidiophores with conidiogenous cells; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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