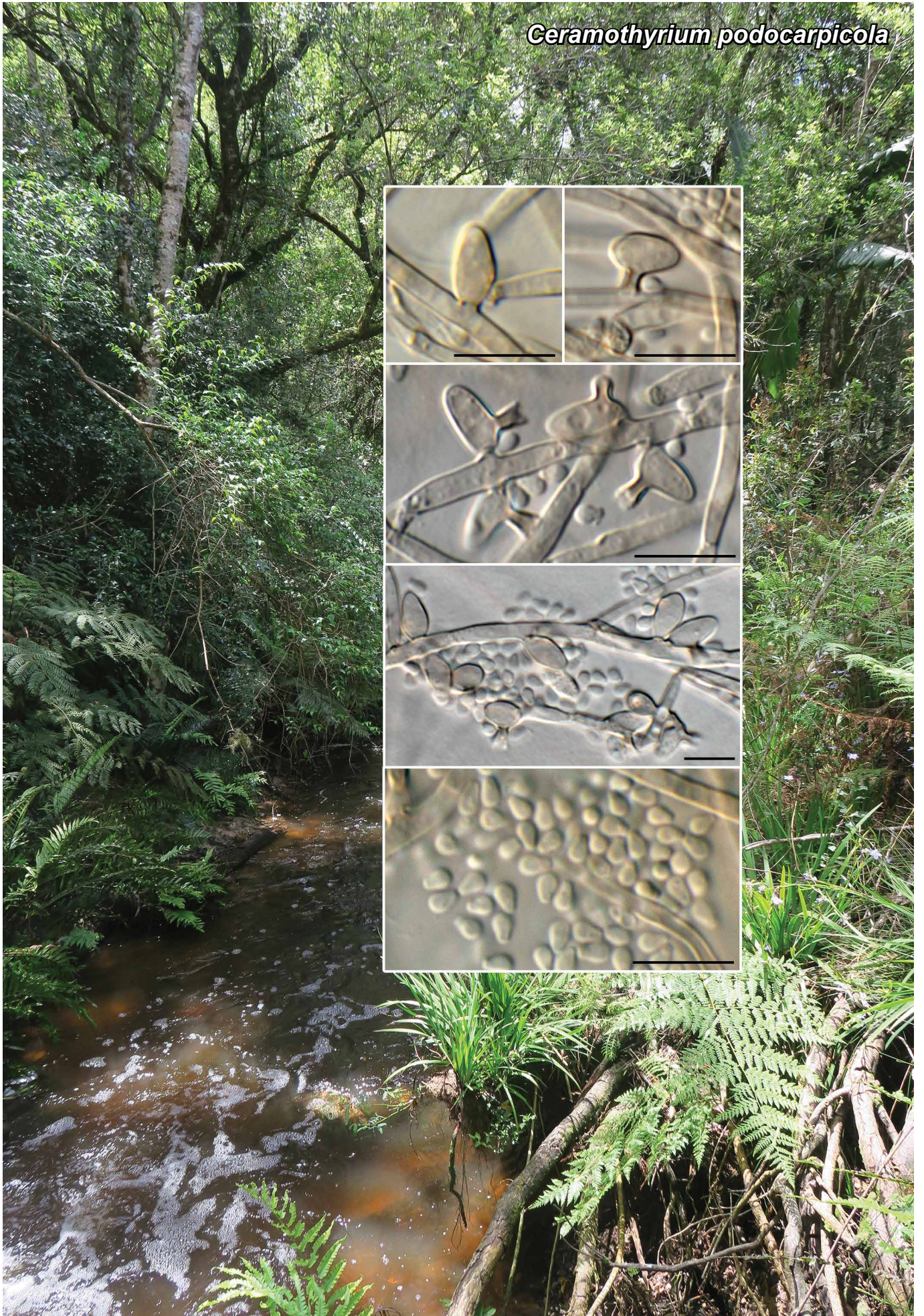


Ceramothyrium podocarpicola



Fungal Planet 985 – 18 December 2019

Ceramothyrium podocarpicola Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

Classification — *Chaetothyriaceae*, *Chaetothyriales*, *Eurotiomycetes*.

Mycelium consisting of pale brown, smooth, septate, branched, 2–3 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* reduced to phialidic conidiogenous cells arising from superficial hyphae, separate, not aggregated in clusters, ampulliform to subcylindrical, medium brown, smooth, 3–7 µm long, apex with long cylindrical neck, 1–3 µm long, slightly flared, base frequently ellipsoid, 3–7 µm diam, attached to hyphae laterally via small hyphal peg. *Conidia* hyaline, smooth, aseptate, triangular, with apex obtuse, tapering towards truncate base, 2–3 µm long, 1.5–2 µm diam, base 1 µm diam; older conidia becoming swollen, ellipsoid.

Culture characteristics — Colonies erumpent, spreading, surface folded, with sparse aerial mycelium and feathery margin, reaching 10 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA surface greyish sepia, reverse dark mouse grey. On PDA and OA surface and reverse mouse grey.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Knysna, Knysna area, on leaves of *Podocarpus latifolius* (*Podocarpaceae*), 20 Nov. 2018, *F. Roets*, HPC 2696 (holotype CBS H-24186, culture ex-type CPC 37080 = CBS 146093, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MN562139.1 and MN567646.1, MycoBank MB832898).

Notes — *Ceramothyrium podocarpicola* is phylogenetically related to *Ceramothyrium*, an epiphyllous genus of ascomycetes with *Stanhughesia* asexual morphs (see *Ceramothyrium podocarpicola*; Crous et al. 2012a). Morphologically, the present collection is quite distinct from *Stanhughesia*, but we suspect that what we observed in culture is actually a synasexual morph, as the species was originally isolated as a *Stanhughesia* morph from *Podocarpus* leaves.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the ITS sequence had highest similarity to *Chaetothyrium agathis* (strain MFLUCC 12-0113, GenBank NR_132914.1; Identities = 451/509 (89 %), 22 gaps (4 %)), *Ceramothyrium exiguum* (strain VTCC F-1209, GenBank NR_159757.1; Identities = 438/499 (88 %), 18 gaps (3 %)), and *Ceramothyrium exiguum* (strain VTCC F-1209, GenBank LC360297.1; Identities = 438/499 (88 %), 18 gaps (3 %)). Closest hits using the LSU sequence are *Ceramothyrium thailandicum* (voucher MFLU 13-0632, GenBank KP324930.1; Identities = 794/824 (96 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Ceramothyrium carniolicum* (strain CBS 175.95, GenBank KC455251.1; Identities = 835/867 (96 %), 2 gaps (0 %)), and *Ceramothyrium linnaeae* (strain CBS 742.94, GenBank MH874144.1; Identities = 834/866 (96 %), 2 gaps (0 %)).

Colour illustrations. Knysna forest with *Podocarpus latifolius* trees. Hyphae with conidiogenous cells and conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Pedro W. Crous & Johannes Z. Groenewald, Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, P.O. Box 85167, 3508 AD Utrecht, The Netherlands; e-mail: p.crous@wi.knaw.nl & e.groenewald@wi.knaw.nl

Michael J. Wingfield, Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa; e-mail: mike.wingfield@fabi.up.ac.za

Francois Roets, Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch 7600, South Africa; e-mail: fr@sun.ac.za

Wijnand J. Swart, Department of Plant Sciences (Division of Plant Pathology), University of the Free State, P.O. Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa; e-mail: Swartwj@ufs.ac.za