

Harzia metrosideri



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Harzia metrosideri Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

Classification — *Ceratostomataceae*, *Melanosporales*, *Sordariomycetes*.

Mycelium consisting of hyaline, smooth, branched, septate, 3.5–4 µm diam hyphae. *Conidiophores* macronematous, hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical, multiseptate, up to 1 mm long, with conidiogenous cells terminal and intercalary; terminal conidiogenous cells (1–2 cells) hyaline, smooth, subcylindrical with prominent apical taper, 10–20 × 4–5 µm; intercalary conidiogenous cells denticles-like, tapered, 3–5 × 2 µm. *Conidia* golden brown, smooth to finely roughened, granular, aseptate, dry, ovoid, (15–)16–18(–20) × (12–)15–16 µm, with minute marginal frill.

Culture characteristics — Colonies flat, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium, covering dish after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface and reverse cinnamon.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Eastern Cape Province, Amathole, Haga Haga, on leaf litter of *Metrosideros* sp. (*Myrtaceae*), 2010, *M.J. Wingfield*, HPC 2753 (holotype CBS H-24191, culture ex-type CPC 37374 = CBS 146065, ITS and LSU sequences GenBank MN562143.1 and MN567650.1, MycoBank MB832904).

Notes — *Harzia* is characterised by sympodially branched, hyaline superficial mycelium, brown conidia and a *Proteophiala* synasexual morph (Domsch et al. 2007, Schultes et al. 2017). *Harzia metrosideri* is related to *Harzia patula* (conidia (16–)25–37.5(–50) × (12.5–)15–28(–37.5) µm; Holubová-Jechová 1974) and *H. acremonioides* (conidia 20–30 × 15–20 µm; Domsch et al. 2007), but distinct based on its conidial dimensions.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Harzia patula* (strain CBS 379.88, GenBank NR_161009.1; Identities = 640/667 (96 %), 11 gaps (1 %)), *Harzia acremonioides* (strain CBS 598.71, GenBank MH860282.1; Identities = 638/666(96%), 11 gaps (1 %)), and *Harzia tenella* (as *Olpitrichum tenellum*, strain CBS 121.81, GenBank KY628696.1; Identities = 627/656 (96 %), 10 gaps (1 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Harzia patula* (as *Olpitrichum patulum*, strain CBS 121524, GenBank KY628687.1; Identities = 840/843 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Harzia macrospora* (as *Olpitrichum macrosporum*, strain CBS 343.67, GenBank MH870687.1; Identities = 838/842 (99 %), no gaps), and *Harzia verrucosa* (strain CBS 113456, GenBank KY628675.1; Identities = 838/842 (99 %), no gaps).

Colour illustrations. Beach area at Haga Haga. Hyphae with integrated conidiogenous loci; 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