

Cylindrocladiella postalofficium



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Cylindrocladiella postalofficium Crous, *sp. nov.*

Etymology. The famous milkwood tree in Mossel Bay is over 500 years old. It is commonly known as the Post Office Tree, as in 1500 a sailor left a letter in a shoe at the tree, found by Joao da Nova in 1501 en-route to India. Name derived from *L. postalis* = postal, and *L. officium* = service; isolated from leaf litter of the Post Office Tree.

Classification — *Nectriaceae*, *Hypocreales*, *Sordariomycetes*.

Conidiophores penicillate, comprising a stipe, a penicillate arrangement of fertile branches, a stipe extension and a terminal vesicle; stipe septate, hyaline, smooth, 30–60 × 4–6 µm. **Stipe extension** aseptate, straight, thick-walled, 100–150 µm long, with a basal septum, terminating in a thin-walled, narrowly lanceolate to ellipsoid vesicle, 3.5–4 µm wide. Penicillate conidiogenous apparatus with primary branches aseptate, 12–25 × 3.5–5 µm, secondary branches aseptate, 18–22 × 3.5–4 µm, tertiary branches 12–15 × 3.5–4 µm, each terminal branch producing 2–4 phialides; **phialides** cymbiform to cylindrical, hyaline, 12–15 × 2.5–4 µm, with minute periclinal thickening and cylindrical collarette. **Conidia** cylindrical, rounded at both ends, straight, 1-septate, (10–)14–15(–17) × 2(–2.5) µm, straight, held in clusters by colourless slime.

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

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape Province, Mossel Bay, 'Post Office tree', on leaf litter of *Sideroxylon inerme* (*Sapotaceae*), 19 Feb. 2016, *L. Lombard*, HPC 2801 (holotype CBS H-24199, culture ex-type CPC 37513 = CBS 146060, ITS, LSU, *his3* and *tub2* sequences GenBank MN562148.1, MN567655.1, MN556796.1 and MN556845.1, MycoBank MB832908).

Notes — *Cylindrocladiella* was recently treated (Lombard et al. 2012, Pham et al. 2018, Marin-Felix et al. 2019). *Cylindrocladiella postalofficium* is related to *C. lageniformis* (vesicles lageniform to ovoid, conidia (9–)11(–15) × (1.5–)1.8(–2) µm; Crous & Wingfield 1993) and *C. pseudocamelliae* (vesicles ellipsoidal to lageniform to lanceolate, conidia (9–)11–15(–16) × 2–4 µm; Lombard et al. 2012), but distinct based on its lanceolate to ellipsoid vesicles and longer conidia.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Cylindrocladiella lageniformis* (strain CPC 17600, GenBank JN100631.1; Identities = 498/508 (98 %), 4 gaps (0 %)), *Cylindrocladiella pseudocamelliae* (strain CBS 129555, GenBank NR_111644.1; Identities = 504/515 (98 %), 3 gaps (0 %)), and *Cylindrocladiella hawaiiensis* (strain CBS 129569, GenBank NR_111651.1; Identities = 501/512 (98 %), 3 gaps (0 %)). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Cylindrocladiella cymbiformis* (strain CBS 129554, GenBank JN099144.1; Identities = 840/847 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Cylindrocladiella variabilis* (strain CPC 17504, GenBank JN099241.1; Identities = 838/846 (99 %), no gaps), and *Cylindrocladiella stellenboschensis* (strain CBS 115611, GenBank JN099185.1; Identities = 837/846 (99 %), no gaps). Closest hits using the **his3** sequence had highest similarity to *Cylindrocladiella parva* (strain TRR-CL, GenBank JQ859985.1; Identities = 344/370 (93 %), 9 gaps (2 %)), *Cylindrocladiella peruviana* (strain CMW47333, GenBank MH017013.1; Identities = 425/474 (90 %), 22 gaps (4 %)), and *Cylindrocladiella queenslandica* (strain CBS 129574, GenBank JN098861.1; Identities = 420/469 (90 %), 20 gaps (4 %)). Closest hits using the **tub2** sequence had highest similarity to *Cylindrocladiella camelliae* (strain CPC 237, GenBank JN098749.1; Identities = 321/336 (96 %), 4 gaps (1 %)), *Cylindrocladiella nederlandica* (strain CBS 152.91, GenBank JN098800.1; Identities = 320/336 (95 %), 4 gaps (1 %)), and *Cylindrocladiella pseudocamelliae* (as *Cylindrocladiella* sp. LL-2011j, strain CBS 129556, GenBank JN098815.1; Identities = 319/336 (95 %), 4 gaps (1 %)).

Colour illustrations. Post Office Tree in Mossel Bay. Conidiophores with stipe extensions; conidiogenous cells; conidia. Scale bars = 10 µm.