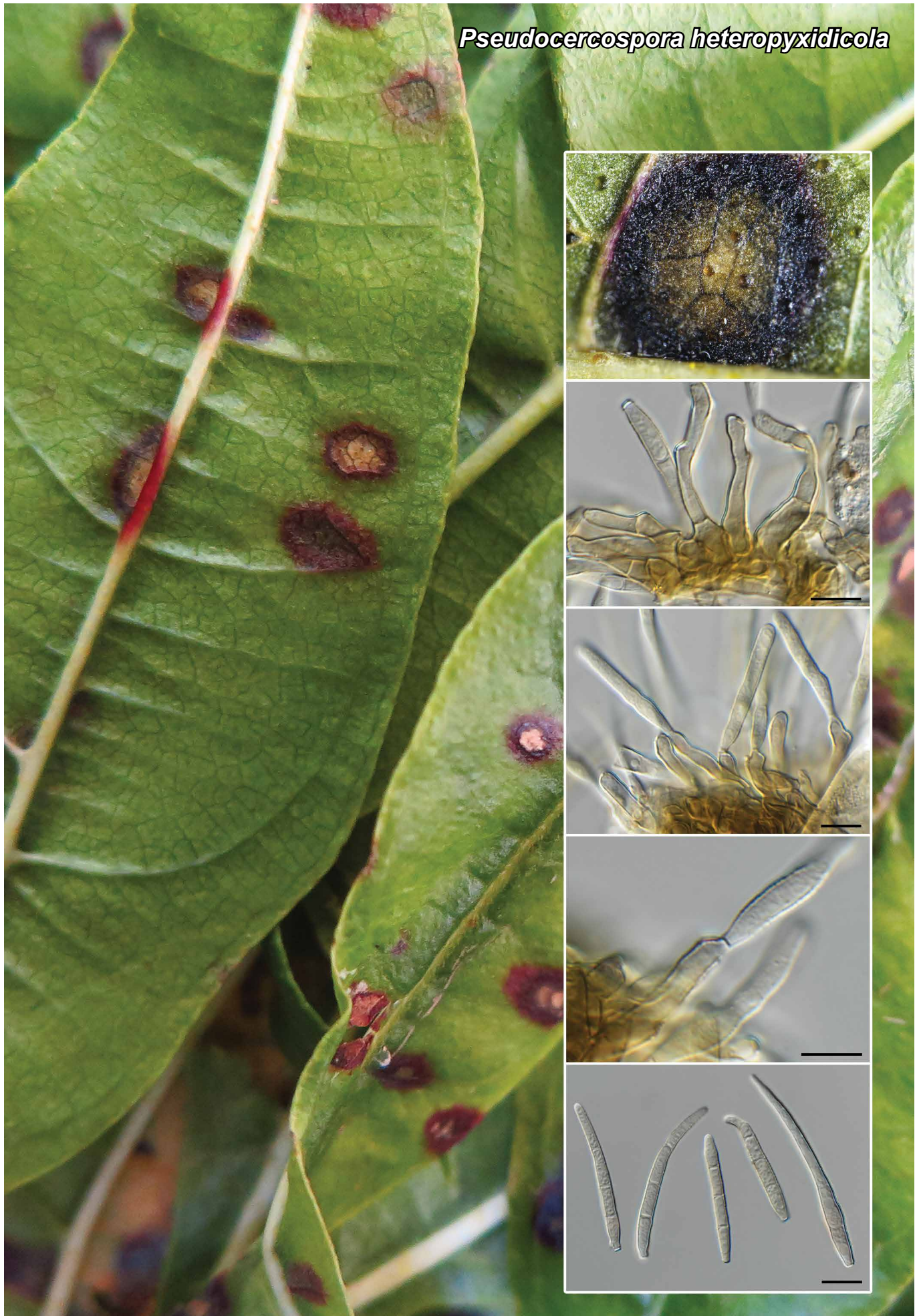


Pseudocercospora heteropyxidicola



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Pseudocercospora heteropyxidicola Crous, *sp. nov.*

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

Classification — *Mycosphaerellaceae*, *Capnodiales*, *Dothi-deomycetes*.

Leaf spots amphigenous, circular, 2–3 mm diam, pale brown with broad red-purple margin. *Caespituli* forming on a weakly developed brown stroma of pseudoparenchymatal cells up to 40 µm diam, 20 µm high. *Conidiophores* arranged in fascicles of 20–30 conidiophores, subcylindrical, geniculate-sinuous, rarely branched above, medium brown, verruculose, 1(–2)-septate, 25–50 × 4–6 µm. *Conidiogenous cells* integrated, terminal, medium brown, verruculose, subcylindrical, 13–30 × 3–6 µm, with flat-tipped loci 2 µm diam, thickened, somewhat darkened and refractive. *Conidia* solitary, obclavate, curved, rarely straight, apex obtuse, base obconically truncate, olivaceous brown, verruculose, guttulate, (20–)40–55(–65) × (3–)4(–5) µm, (1–)3(–5)-septate, hila truncate, somewhat darkened, thickened and refractive. In culture conidia are pale brown, smooth to finely verruculose and hila are unthickened nor darkened.

Culture characteristics — Colonies erumpent, spreading, with moderate aerial mycelium and smooth, lobate margin, reaching 20 mm diam after 2 wk at 25 °C. On MEA, PDA and OA surface dirty white with patches of olivaceous grey, reverse olivaceous grey.

Typus. SOUTH AFRICA, KwaZulu-Natal Province, Kwambonambi, on leaf spots of *Heteropyxis natalensis* (*Heteropyxidaceae*), 16 Apr. 2010, *M.J. Wingfield*, HPC 2863 (holotype CBS H-24207, culture ex-type CPC 38030 = CBS 146082, ITS, LSU and *actA* sequences GenBank MN562151.1, MN567658.1 and MN556791.1, MycoBank MB832911).

Notes — Based on the morphology on the host material, the present collection is a passalora-like fungus in the sense of Crous & Braun (2003), but based on its morphology in culture, it is a typical *Pseudocercospora* (Crous et al. 2013a, Videira et al. 2017). No species of *Pseudocercospora* is presently known from *Heteropyxis natalensis*, and thus it is herewith described as new.

Based on a megablast search of NCBI's GenBank nucleotide database, the closest hits using the **ITS** sequence had highest similarity to *Pseudocercospora tamarindi* (strain MFLUCC 14-0805, GenBank KP744461.1; Identities = 496/509 (97 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Pseudocercospora eriodendri* (GenBank AF222840.1; Identities = 494/508 (97 %), no gaps), and *Pseudocercospora punctata* (strain CBS 113315, GenBank EU167582.1; Identities = 524/542 (97 %), no gaps). Closest hits using the **LSU** sequence are *Pseudocercospora rhododendri-indici* (strain CBS 131591, GenBank JQ324965.1; Identities = 799/800 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)), *Pseudocercospora udagawana* (strain CBS 131931, GenBank MH877467.1; Identities = 801/803 (99 %), 2 gaps (0 %)), and *Pseudocercospora punctata* (strain CBS 132116, GenBank GU253791.1; Identities = 796/802 (99 %), 1 gap (0 %)). Closest hits using the **actA** sequence had highest similarity to *Pseudocercospora cercidis-chinensis* (voucher BJFC LZC1609256, GenBank MG733154.1; Identities = 450/500 (90 %), 4 gaps (0 %)), *Pseudocercospora punctata* (strain CBS 132116, GenBank GU320468.1; Identities = 518/580 (89 %), 4 gaps (0 %)), and *Pseudocercospora udagawana* (strain CBS 131931, GenBank GU320527.1; Identities = 519/583 (89 %), 6 gaps (1 %)).

Colour illustrations. Symptomatic leaves of *Heteropyxis natalensis*. Close-up of leaf spot; conidiophores with conidiogenous cells; 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