

Ramularia miae* Crous, sp. nov.*MycoBank:** MB501004.**Etymology:** Named after its collector, Mia Karina Crous (age 6), who collected diseased leaves with great enthusiasm!**Latin diagnosis:** Conidiophora fasciculata, levia, hyalina, 2–6-septata, 20–80 × 3–4 μm . Cellulae conidiogenae sympodialiter proliferantes, 20–40 × 2–3 μm ; loci inspissati, pigmentati, refringentes. Conidia catenulata, hyalina, levia, subcylindrica-fusiformia vel ellipsoidea, 0(–1)-septata; ramoconidia (14–)17–26(–30) × 2.5–3 μm ; conidia secundaria (5–)7–10(–15) × 2.5–3 μm ; hila inspissata, pigmentata, refringentia.**Description:** Leaf spots amphigenous, sub-circular, up to 4 mm diam, uniformly black, although older lesions can appear grey at centre due to separation of the cuticle. Mycelium internal, subhyaline, smooth, consisting of branched, septate hyphae, 2–3 μm wide. Caespituli fasciculate, amphigenous, white on leaves, up to 60 μm wide and 90 μm high. Conidiophores aggregated in loose fascicles arising from the upper cells of a brown stroma up to 30 μm wide and 20 μm high; conidiophores hyaline to pale brown towards stroma, smooth, 2–6-septate, subcylindrical, straight to variously curved, unbranched or branched below, 20–80 × 3–4 μm . Conidiogenous cells terminal, unbranched, hyaline, smooth, tapering to flat-tipped apical loci, proliferating sympodially, 20–40 × 2–3 μm ; loci thickened, darkened, refractive. Conidia catenulate, in branched chains, hyaline, smooth, but appearing verruculose when mounted in lactic acid, subcylindrical-fusiform to ellipsoid with rounded to attenuated ends, straight, larger conidia somewhat curved, 0(–1)-septate; hila thickened, darkened, refractive; ramoconidia (14–)17–26(–30) × 2.5–3 μm ; secondary conidia (5–)7–10(–15) × 2.5–3 μm .**Cultural characteristics:** Colonies reaching 25 mm diam on 2 % potato-dextrose agar¹ (Difco) after 5 weeks at 25 °C; erumpent with moderate grey to white-grey aerial mycelium; margins regular but feathery; colonies grey-olivaceous to smoke-grey with zones of white-grey aerial mycelium; olivaceous-black in centre; colonies fertile.**Typus:** South Africa, Western Cape Province, Bettie's Bay, Harold Porter Botanical Garden, on leaves of *Wachendorfia thyrsiflora*, 4 Jan. 2006, collected by M.K. Crous & P.W. Crous, CBS-H 19763, **holotypus**; cultures ex-type CPC 12736 = CBS 120121, CPC 12737–12738.**Notes:** *Wachendorfia thyrsifolia* is a member of the Bloodwort family, related to the Australian Kangaroo Paw. It is a tall evergreen geophyte with bright, fluorescent red roots. It is a bog plant, which is native to South Africa, growing in permanent marshes and streams.*Ramularia miae* causes a well-known disease of *Wachendorfia thyrsiflora*, and can readily be isolated from the black leaf spots which appear commonly on leaves of this host. The disease appears to be prominent on this host throughout the Western Cape Province of South Africa, and probably occurs wherever it is cultivated. To date no species of *Ramularia* Unger has been recorded from this host, and nucleotide analysis and subsequent comparison with known species of *Ramularia* suggests that this is a species new to science.BLASTn results of the ITS sequence of *R. miae* (GenBank DQ885902) had an E-value of 0.0 (96 % identical) with the ITS sequence of *Ramularia carthami* Zaprom. (DQ466083), *Mycosphaerella fragariae* (Tul.) Lindau (AF297235) and *Ramularia collo-cygni* B. Sutton & J.M. Waller (AF173310).**Colour illustrations:** *Wachendorfia thyrsiflora* growing at the bottom of Disa Kloof in the Harold Porter Botanical Garden, Bettie's Bay (P.W. Crous); fasciculate conidiomata on host tissue; conidia *in vivo* (P.W. Crous). Scale bars = 10 μm .**References:** ¹Gams W, Hoekstra ES, Aptroot A (eds) (1998). *CBS course of mycology* 4th ed. Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, Delft, Netherlands.

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