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DACTYLARIA LEPTOSPHAERIICOLA SPEC. NOV.

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Dactylaria leptosphaeriicola spec. nov.

Colonies effuse, dull greyish, on old pseudothecia of the host fungus, mycelium superficial, hyphae subhyaline, yellowish, pale olivaceous to brownish, creeping, septate, sparsely branched, smooth, 1-3 μm wide. Conidiophores solitary, sometimes in small, loose groups, arising from superficial hyphae, swollen cells or groups of such cells, lateral or terminal, about 10-40 x 2.5-4 μm , simple, pale olivaceous to brown, septate, smooth, the apical portion bearing minute, subcylindric denticles, ca. 0.75-1.25 μm long and 0.5-1 μm wide, apex truncate, unthickened. Conidia solitary, narrowly obclavate to fusiform, ca. 40-55 x 1.5-2.5 μm , (0-) 1 (-3)-septate, septa fairly inconspicuous, subhyaline to very pale olivaceous, smooth, apex subacute, base truncate, unthickened. Fig. 1.

Coloniae effusae, cinerascetes, in pseudothecia hospitis fungalis nidulantes. Mycelium superficiale: hyphae subhyalinae, flavidae, pallide olivaceae vel brunneae, repentes, septatae, leniter ramosae, laeves, 1-3 μm latae. Conidiophora solitaria, interdum laxe fasciculata, ex hyphis mycelialibus lateraliter et terminaliter oriunda, ca. 10-40 x 2.5-4 μm , simplicia, pallide olivacea vel brunnea, septata, laevia, denticulis 0.75-1.25 μm longis et 0.5-1 μm latis ornata. Conidia solitaria, anguste obclavata, fusiformia, ca. 40-55 x 1.5-2.5 μm , (0-) 1 (-3) septata, subhyalina vel

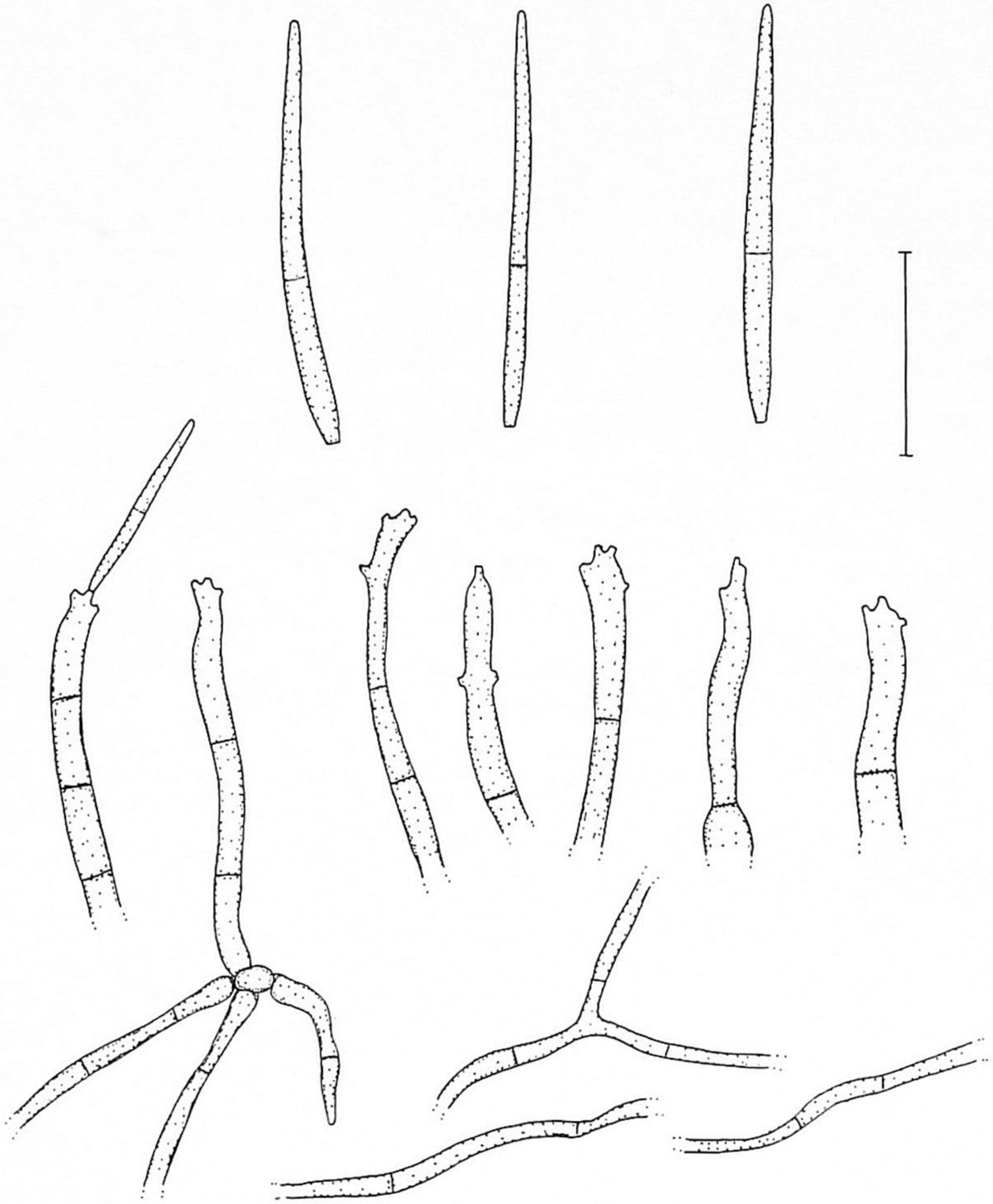


Fig. 1: *Dactylaria leptosphaeriicola* spec. nov., conidia, conidiophores, hyphae. Scale 25 μm . U. Braun del.

dilutissime olivacea, laevia, apice subacuta, basi truncata, non incrassata.

Holotypus: on pseudothecia of *Leptosphaeria protearum* (on *Protea repens*), South Africa, W. Cape, Helderberg, Sept. 1991, P. Crous (HAL).

In 1991, lesions of *Leptosphaeria protearum* on *Protea* leaves were cultured. After about 3-4 weeks this anamorph appeared on the old pseudothecia in moist chambers. The biology of this species is not quite clear. It is either hyperparasitic on *Leptosphaeria* or saprophytic. *D. leptosphaeriicola* is close to the saprophytic *Dactylaria fusiformis* Shearer & Crane (de Hoog 1985) and the hyperparasitic *D. pusilla* (Deighton & Piroz.) de Hoog & v. Arx (1974; = *Scolecobasidium pusillum* Deighton & Pirozynski 1972). The latter species is not included in the check-list of *Dactylaria* epithets (de Hoog & van Oorschot 1985). The new species belongs to *Dactylaria* sect. *Mirandina* (Arn. ex Mats.) de Hoog (1985). It differs from all related taxa by almost exclusively 1-septate conidia.

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