Strelitziana albiziae Crous & H.D. Shin, sp. nov.

Strelitzianae australiensis similis, sed conidiis minoribus et obclavatis, (17–)38–65(–80) × (2.5–)3 μm, (1–)3–8(–10)-septatis, distinguitur.

Etymology. Named after the host from which it was collected, Albizia julibrissin.

Mycelium consisting of smooth, septate, branched hyphae, pale brown, 2.5–3 μm diam. Conidiophores erect, solitary, subcylindrical, straight to geniculous-sinuous, pale brown, 1–9-septate, 20–100 × 3–4 μm. Conidiogenous cells terminal, integrated, pale brown, with several short, conspicuous apical denticles, 2–4 μm long, 1–1.5 μm wide; conidiogenesis rhexolytic with remnants of separating cell clearly visible on conidiogenesis cell, and at times visible on conidium hilum as a minute marginal frill, 15–50 × 3–4 μm. Conidia pale brown, smooth, long obclavate, widest at basal septum, tapering to a subobtusely rounded apex and long obconically subtruncate base, 1 μm wide, at times with inconspicuous marginal frill, (17–)38–65(–80) × (2.5–)3 μm, (1–)3–8(–10)-septate; microcyclic conidiation present in culture.

Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 1 mo): Colonies on oatmeal agar (OA) spreading with moderate aerial mycelium, with even, smooth margins; surface greenish black, with patches of olivaceous-grey; greenish black on malt extract agar (MEA) (surface and reverse), iron-grey (reverse); colonies reaching 40 mm diam on OA, 25 mm on MEA, and PDA.


Notes — A megablast search in GenBank using the LSU sequence retrieved as closest sisters Strelitziana australiensis (GenBank GQ303326; Identities = 856/891 (97 %), Gaps = 10/891 (1 %)) and S. africana (GenBank DQ885895; Identities = 890/928 (96 %), Gaps = 12/928 (1 %)). These same two species were also obtained when a megablast was performed with the ITS sequence, albeit with a slightly lower sequence identity (S. australiensis GenBank GQ303295, Identities = 659/716 (93 %), Gaps = 27/716 (3 %) and S. africana GenBank DQ885895, Identities = 668/724 (93 %), Gaps = 25/724 (3 %)). Therefore on DNA sequence data, S. albiziae is related to S. africana (conidia (18–)50–70(–95) × (3–3.5) μm, 3–5(–10)-septate), and S. australiensis (30–)50–60(–73) × 2.8–3.2 μm, 4–8-septate). Conidia of S. australiensis are similar in size to those of S. albiziae, and also have a small, globose, hyaline, apical mucilaginous appendage. On average though, conidia of S. albiziae are smaller, have more septa, and are obclavate rather than subcylindrical.
