Pseudocercospora casuarinae
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**Pseudocercospora casuarinae** Crous & R.G. Shivas, *sp. nov.*


Culture characteristics — (in the dark, 25 °C, after 2 wk): Colonies spreading, erumpent with sparse aerial mycelium, folded surface, and even, lobate margins; colonies reaching up to 8 mm diam. On oatmeal agar iron-grey with patches of pale olivaceous-grey, forming a diffuse red pigment in the agar; on malt extract agar iron-grey on surface and reverse; on synthetic nutrient-poor agar pale olivaceous-grey.

**Etymology.** Named after the host from which it was collected, *Casuarina cunninghamiana*.

*Conidiomata* sporodochial, developing on needles with red-band needle disease; conidiomata on malt extract agar erumpent, dark brown, dense, up to 600 μm diam, and 200 μm high; basal cells of dense, dark brown textura intricata, giving rise to cylindrical, brown, finely verruculose conidiophores that are branched, multi-septate, constricted at septa or not, up to 120 μm tall, 3–5 μm wide, becoming pale brown toward apex, terminating in conidiogenous cells. *Conidiogenous cells* terminal or lateral, integrated, subcylindrical, pale brown, smooth, proliferating sympodially, apex rounded or truncate, fertile locus, 15–30 × 3–4 μm. *Conidia* pale brown, smooth to finely verruculose, subcylindrical to clavate, with rounded apex, tapering from the middle towards a truncate base, 3–6-septate, (15–)20–27(–35) × (4–)5(–6) μm; hila neither thickened nor darkened.


Notes — A megablast search of GenBank using the LSU sequence retrieved numerous sequences identical to that of *P. elaeodendri*, e.g. *P. madagascariensis* (GenBank GQ852651), *P. zelkovae* (GenBank GU253850) and *P. weigeliae* (GenBank GU253847). Based on DNA sequence data of the ITS region, *P. casuarina* (on *Casuarinaceae*) is closely related to *P. elaeodendri* (on *Celastraceae*). *Pseudocercospora elaeodendri* differs in having larger conidia (15–95 × 2.5–4 μm, 3–11-septate) than *P. casuarina*.

**Colour illustrations.** Beach at Cape Tribulation, Daintree Reserve; colony on malt extract agar; aggregated conidiophores with conidiogenous cells giving rise to conidia. Scale bars = 10 μm.