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# MYCOTAXON

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5248/127.33>

Volume 127, pp. 33–37

January–March 2014

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## Conidial fungi from the semiarid Caatinga biome of Brazil: a new species of *Pseudoacrodictys*

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**ABSTRACT** — *Pseudoacrodictys magnicornuata* sp. nov., collected on decaying twigs in the semiarid region northeastern Brazil, is described and illustrated. It is distinguished by turbinate, sub-napiform, subglobose to irregular, dictyoseptate, golden brown, brown to dark brown conidia with 7–35 corniform cellular appendages that are 1–2(–4) circinate and arranged around the conidial margin or apex.

**KEY WORDS** — asexual fungi, taxonomy, *Acrodictys*-like

### Introduction

Baker & Morgan-Jones (2003) introduced the genus *Pseudoacrodictys* for seven species previously described under a broad generic concept of *Acrodictys*. These are distinguished from *Acrodictys* by more commonly indeterminate, cylindrical, doliiform to subulate enteroblastic percurrent elongations of the conidiogenous cells and schizolytic conidial secession; they produce conidia that are holoblastic, solitary, acrogenous, subglobose to broadly pyriform to turbinate or irregular, obscurely dictyoseptate and bear one to several (a)septate, somewhat hypha-like, straight, undulate, involute to uncinuate cellular appendages. Four other species have also been described: *P. dimorphospora* Somrith. & E.B.G. Jones, *P. aquatica* R.F. Castañeda et al., *P. fici* Y.D. Zhang & X.G. Zhang, and *P. steviae* Rashm. Dubey & A.K. Pandey bis (Castañeda Ruiz et al. 2010, Dubey & Pandey 2012, Somrithipol & Jones 2003, Zhang et al. 2011). Recently an interesting *Pseudoacrodictys* specimen from Brazil,

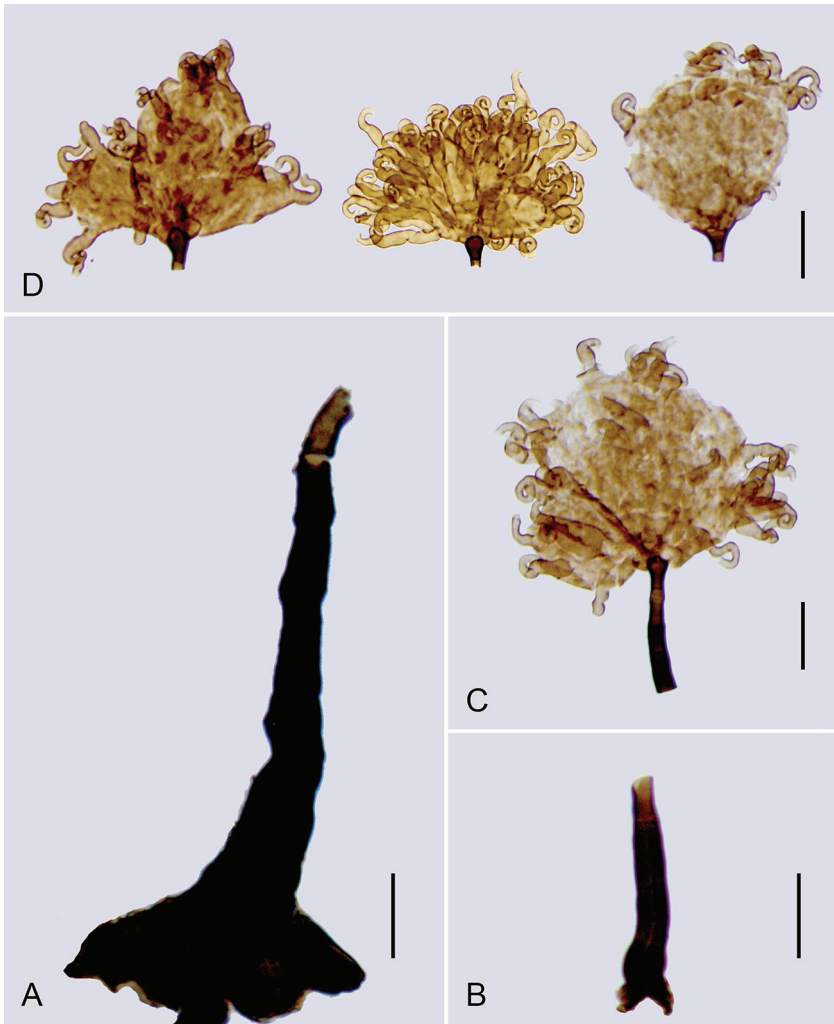


FIG. 1. *Pseudoacrodictys magnicornuata* (ex HUEFS 194255). A–B. Conidiophores and conidiogenous cells. C. Conidiogenous cell and conidium. D. Conidia. Scale bars: A–B = 10  $\mu$ m; C–D = 20  $\mu$ m.

morphologically distinct from all previously described species, has been discovered and is here described as new.

During several July 2007–May 2009 expeditions through “Serra da Jibóia” in the semiarid region northeastern Brazil, samples of lignified plant debris were collected, taken to the laboratory, and treated according to Castañeda

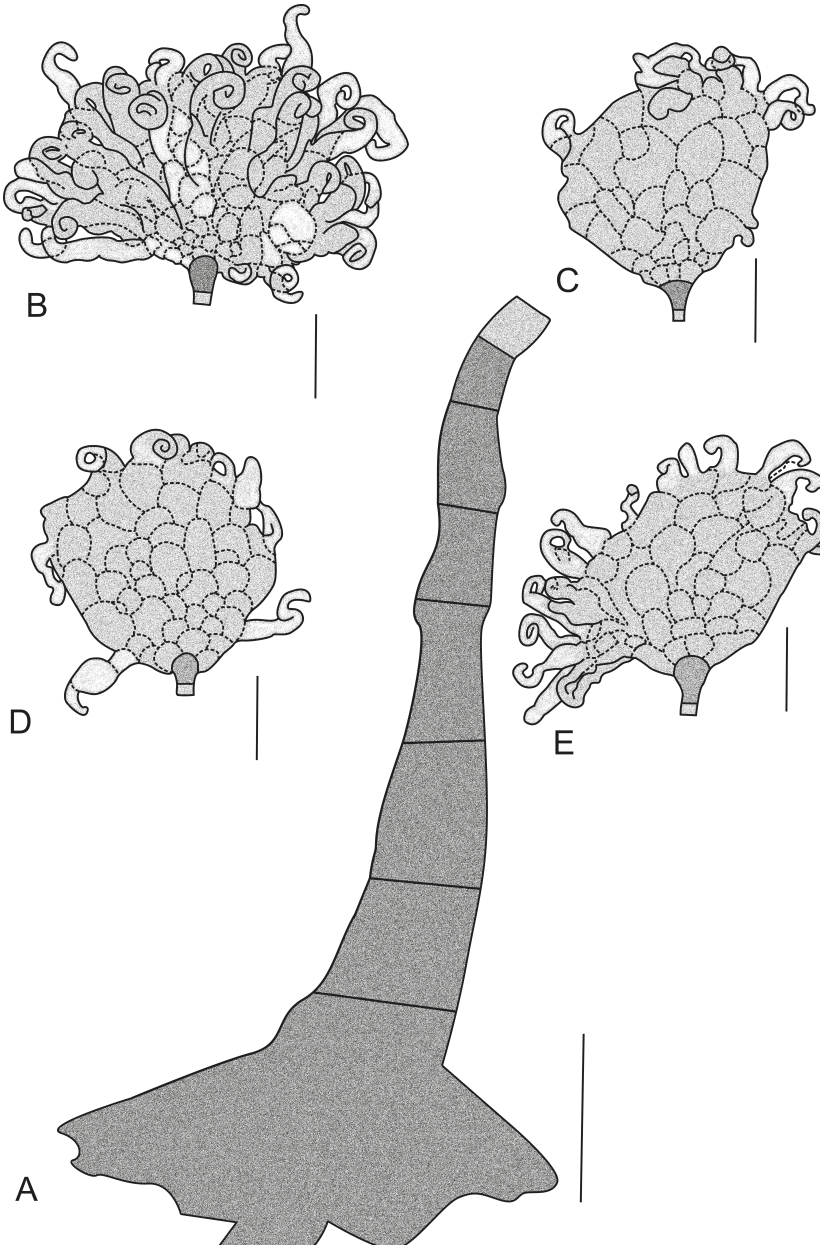


FIG. 2. *Pseudoacrodictys magnicornuata* (ex HUEFS 194255).  
A. Conidiophore. B–E. Conidia. Scale bars: A = 15  $\mu\text{m}$ ; B–D = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Ruiz (2005). Mounts were prepared in PVL (polyvinyl alcohol, lactic acid, and phenol) and measurements made at a magnification of  $\times 1000$ . Micrographs were obtained with an Olympus microscope (model BX51) with bright field and Nomarski interference optics. The type specimen of the new species is deposited in the Herbarium of “Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana” (HUEFS).

### Taxonomy

*Pseudoacrodictys magnicornuata* Fiuza, Gusmão & R.F. Castañeda, sp. nov.

PLATE. 1, 2

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Differs from other *Pseudoacrodictys* species by its multi-appendiculate conidia with corniform, circinate, cellular appendages arising around the margin or towards the apex of the conidium.

TYPE: Brazil, Bahia, Santa Terezinha, Serra da Jibóia, 12°51'23.1''S 39°28' 33''W, on decaying twigs, 11-V-2009, coll. P.O. Fiuza- (Holotype: HUEFS 194255).

ETYMOLOGY: Latin, *magni*- meaning major, large + *-cornuata* for the coiled or circinate horn-shaped cellular conidial appendages.

COLONIES on the natural substratum effuse, brown to black. Mycelium mostly immersed. CONIDIOPHORES distinct, single, erect, straight or flexuous, unbranched, 3–5-septate, smooth, dark brown to black. CONIDIOGENOUS CELLS monoblastic, integrated, indeterminate, with 3–5 subulate enteroblastic percurrent elongations, smooth, dark brown. Conidial secession schizolytic. CONIDIA solitary, turbinate, sub-napiform, subglobose to irregular, finely ruminant dictyoseptate, golden brown, brown to dark brown, 50–87  $\times$  50–67  $\mu\text{m}$ , multi-appendaged, with 9–35 cellular appendage, corniform, 1–2 (–4)-times coiled or circinate, each appendage 1–4-septate, brown to pale brown, 18–50  $\times$  4.0–7.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , scattered around the margin or towards the apex of the conidium.

NOTE: The conidial appendages of *Pseudoacrodictys magnicornuata* are unique among *Pseudoacrodictys* species (TABLE 1) in being circinate.

### Acknowledgments

The authors express their sincere gratitude to Dr. De-Wei Li and Prof. Dr. Bryce Kendrick for their critical review of the manuscript. They are grateful to the “Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado da Bahia (FAPESB)” for financial support and the “Programa de Pós-graduação em Botânica – PPGBot/UEFS” and also acknowledge support provided by “Programa Ciência sem Fronteiras” (proc. 452967/2013-9). RFCR is grateful to Cuban Ministry of Agriculture and “Programa de Salud Animal y Vegetal,” project P131LH003033 Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment for facilities. LFPG is grateful to CNPq (proc. 305413/2011-2). We acknowledge the

TABLE 1. *Pseudoacrodictys* species with appendaged conidia

SPECIES	CONIDIAL SHAPE	CONIDIAL SIZE ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	APPENDAGES		
			NUMBER	LENGTH	SHAPE
<i>P. appendiculata</i>	Pyriiform to turbinate	27–45 $\times$ 22–30	2–3	56 $\mu\text{m}$	Subulate
<i>P. corniculata</i>	Globose, subglobose to broadly pyriform	19–35 $\times$ 17–30	3–4	8–20 $\mu\text{m}$	Subulate and curved
<i>P. eickeri</i>	Pyriiform to turbinate	28–64 $\times$ 22–42	3–4	7–12 $\mu\text{m}$	Cylindrical
<i>P. fici</i>	Subglobose, sometimes lobed	35–52 $\times$ 22–44	2–4	30–70 $\mu\text{m}$	Cylindrical
<i>P. magnicornuata</i>	Turbinate, sub-napiform, subglobose, or irregular	50–87 $\times$ 50–67	9–35	18–50 $\mu\text{m}$	Circinate
<i>P. viridescens</i>	Globose, subglobose to broadly pyriform	62–80 $\times$ 40–60	4–6	8–20 $\mu\text{m}$	Cylindrical

assistance provided by Dr. P.M. Kirk and Drs. V. Robert and G. Stegehuis through the IndexFungorum and Mycobank websites. Dr. Lorelei L. Norvell's editorial and Dr. Shaun Pennycook's nomenclatural reviews are greatly appreciated.

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