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Five new species of the Botryosphaeriaceae from *Acacia karroo* in South Africa

Fahimeh JAMI^a, Bernard SLIPPERS^b,
Mike J. WINGFIELD^a & Marieka GRYZENHOUT^{c,*}

^aDepartment of Microbiology and Plant Pathology,
University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

^bDepartment of Genetics, Forestry & Agricultural Biotechnology Institute,
University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

^cDepartment of Plant Sciences, University of the Free State,
Bloemfontein, South Africa
email: Gryzenhoutm@ufs.ac.za

Abstract – The Botryosphaeriaceae represents an important, cosmopolitan family of latent pathogens infecting woody plants. Recent studies on native trees in southern Africa have revealed an extensive diversity of species of Botryosphaeriaceae, about half of which have not been previously described. This study adds to this growing body of knowledge, by discovering five new species of the Botryosphaeriaceae on *Acacia karroo*, a commonly occurring native tree in southern Africa. These species were isolated from both healthy and diseased tissues, suggesting they could be latent pathogens. The isolates were compared to other species for which DNA sequence data are available using phylogenetic analyses based on the ITS, TEF-1 α , β -tubulin and LSU gene regions, and characterized based on their morphology. The morphological data were, however, useful to make comparisons with other species found in the same region and on similar hosts. The five new species were described as *Diplodia allocellula*, *Dothiorella dulcispinae*, *Do. brevicollis*, *Spencermartinsia pretoriensis* and *Tiarosporella urbis-rosarum*. Evidence emerging from this study suggests that many more species of the Botryosphaeriaceae remain to be discovered in the southern Africa.

Acacia karroo / *Diplodia* / *Dothiorella* / phylogeny / southern Africa / *Tiarosporella* / *Spencermartinsia* / taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

The Botryosphaeriaceae (Dothideales) is a cosmopolitan family of fungi with a very wide host range of mostly woody plants. They can be primary or opportunistic pathogens, endophytes or saprobes, as reviewed by Slippers & Wingfield (2007). Many species have been reported from South Africa in recent years, isolated from trees in the Myrtaceae (*Eucalyptus* spp.), Proteaceae (*Protea* spp.), Fabaceae (*Acacia* spp.), Combretaceae (*Terminalia* spp.) and Pinaceae

* Corresponding author