

Outlineoffungi.org - Note 1201 *Neobelonopsis*

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Neobelonopsis Itagaki & Hosoya

In 2023, Itagaki & Hosoya established the genus *Neobelonopsis* designating *Neobelonopsis multiguttata* as its type species, supported by both morphology and phylogenetic analyses incorporating LSU, RPBI, and ITS sequence data. The type species was isolated from decaying culms of *Sasa kurilensis* in Japan. The new genus comprises nine accepted species. In the sexual form, apothecia are dispersed to clustered, appearing superficial, flat to concave, and sessile. The outer excipulum exhibits a texture ranging from globulose to angular, that is non-gelatinous and lacks crystals or exudates. Asci are cylindrical clavate-shaped, and eight-spored. Ascospores are ellipsoid to fusiform, thin-walled, and hyaline. Conidiogenesis follows a phialidic pattern, resembling that observed in *Phialocephala* or *Cadophora*, if it occurs. *Loramyces* and *Ombrophila* formed a sister clade with *Neobelonopsis* based on phylogenetic analyses using LSU, RPBI, and ITS sequence data. *Neobelonopsis* is distinguished from closely related genera such as *Belonopsis*, *Trichobelonium*, and *Mollisia* by distinct morphological traits. The etymology of the genus name is derived from its morphological resemblance to the genus *Belonopsis*. *Neobelonopsis* is distinguished from *Belonopsis* through its superficial apothecia, which can emerge from a dark-hued hyphal mass, presenting as dark spots on the surface and appearing flattened in cross-section. The receptacle is entirely brownish, and there are no crystals present in the medullary excipulum. In comparison to *Trichobelonium*, *Neobelonopsis* lacks crystals in the medullary excipulum and does not have anchoring hyphae that connect the basal apothecia and subiculum. It differs from *Mollisia* due to its longer ascospores with (0–)1–3 septa, the stark contrast in color between the white hymenium and dark receptacle, and its preference for graminicolous habitats like the culms of *Sasa* spp. and *Miscanthus sinensis* (Itagaki & Hosoya 2023).

Reference

Itagaki H, Hosoya T. 2023 – A new genus *Neobelonopsis* and two new species of *Trichobelonium* (*Helotiales, Ascomycota*) discovered mainly from poaceous grasses native to Asia in Japan. *MycKeys* 99, 45.

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