

Outlineoffungi.org - Note 1330 *Neoostropa*

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Neoostropa Y.Y. Yang, A.R. Gomes de Farias & K.D. Hyde

The monotypic genus *Neoostropa* was erected to accommodate *N. castaneae* Y.Y. Yang, A.R. Gomes de Farias & K.D. Hyde as the type species, based on morphology and phylogenetic analyses of ITS, LSU, and SSU sequence data (Gao et al. 2024). The type species was found on the dead stem of *Castanea henryi* in China. *Neoostropa* is classified under *Stictidaceae* (*Ostropales*, *Ostropomycetidae*, *Lecanoromycetes*, *Pezizomycotina*, *Ascomycota*). In *Neoostropa*, ascomata are solitary, multilocular, immersed, and perithecial. Ostioles are surrounded by crystals. Paraphyses are aseptate, branched, hyaline, and filamentous. Asci are cylindrical-shaped and long, with thickened caps. Ascospores are hyaline, aseptate, and guttulate. The asexual structure has not been observed. *Neoostropa* is positioned as a separate clade in the phylogenetic analysis, located between *Ostropomyces* and *Ostropa* with strong support. However, *Neoostropa* differs in appearance from the mentioned genera due to its characteristics of multilocular ascomata, aseptate, and guttulate ascospores.

BLASTn analysis of the recently identified species (*N. castaneae*) revealed that its ITS sequence exhibited similarity to *Ostropomyces pruinosellus* and *O. thailandicus*. The results of a multigene phylogenetic analysis using a combined dataset (ITS, LSU, and mtSSU sequence data) indicated that *N. castaneae* formed a unique clade within *Stictidaceae*, distinct from *O. thailandicus* with strong statistical support. Morphologically, *N. castaneae* differs from *O. pruinosellus* and *O. thailandicus* in terms of its aseptate and guttulate ascospores, as well as the appearance of its ascomata. Additionally, *N. castaneae* is a saprotrophic species not involved in lichenization. However, the ascomata on the branch surface are not easily visible, emerging with a pruinose appearance (Gao et al. 2024).

Reference

Gao Y, Thiyagaraja V, Eungwanichayapant PD, Roberto Gomes de Farias A et al. 2024 – Two new *Stictidaceae* species from grasslands in Yunnan province, China. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 9, 1–5.

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