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Three new additions to the genus *Talaromyces* isolated from Atlantis sandveld fynbos soils

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During a survey of *Penicillium* spp. in soils from the diverse fynbos region in the Western Cape, South Africa, a number of previously undescribed species were isolated. Three of these belong to subg. *Biverticillium* sensu Pitt, recently incorporated into its previously associated teleomorph genus, *Talaromyces* s.str. These species displayed symmetrical biverticillate penicilli, acerose phialides and poor growth at reduced water activity, typical of this group. Morphological characters of the new species were compared to known *Talaromyces* species. The ITS and β -tubulin gene regions were used for phylogenetic comparisons, which confirmed the distinct nature of the three fynbos soil species described here as *Talaromyces chloroloma* sp. nov., *T. pychoconidium* sp. nov. and *T. solicola* sp. nov., respectively. *Talaromyces chloroloma* is typically recognised by its strongly funiculose colony texture and after prolonged incubation, synnemata can be observed on CYA. *Talaromyces pychoconidium* is characterised by closely appressed conidiophores that produce spirally rough-walled conidia, while *T. solicola* typically struggle to grow on CYA and is distinguished from similar species by its prominently rough-walled, spheroid conidia.

Keywords: CAPE; ITS AND β -TUBULIN PHYLOGENY; MORPHOLOGY; PENICILLIUM SUBG. BIVERTICILLIUM; SOUTH AFRICA WESTERN

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