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Terfezia solaris-libera Louro, Nobre & Santos-Silva, sp. nov.

IF554112

Holotype UEVH-FUNGI 2004089

Description: Ascomata hypogeous, subglobose, 1.5–2.5 cm in diameter, light ochre colour at first, becoming darker in maturity, smooth. Faint odour, not distinctive. Mild taste. Peridium 500–700 μm thick, not separable from gleba, poorly delimited, whitish in cross section, pseudoparenchymatous, composed of subglobose cells of variable size, hyaline and thin-walled in the innermost layers (max. 50 μm diam), yellowish and with thicker walls in the outermost layers (max. 8 μm diam). Gleba solid, fleshy, succulent, whitish at first, then with brownish pockets of fertile tissue surrounded by whitish sterile veins, finally becoming uniformly brownish coloured at maturity. Asci nonamyloid, subglobose, sessile, 65–80 \times 50–65 μm diam, walls 1 μm thick, with 6–8 irregularly disposed spores, randomly arranged in the gleba. Ascospores globose, (20–) 21.6 (–23) μm diam (median = 22 μm) including ornamentation; (15–) 15.7 (–17) μm (median = 16 μm) without ornamentation; hyaline, smooth and uniguttulated at first, by maturity light brown and ornamented with conical, blunt spines, sometimes cylindrical, generally straight, but sometimes slightly curved, separated, 2–3 μm long, 1–1.5 μm wide at the base.

Notes: Differs from other spiny-spored *Terfezia* species by its poorly delimited and thicker peridium and distinct spore ornamentation. Hypogeous, putatively mycorrhizal, in sandy loam (80–83% sand material), acid soils (pH 6), appearing solitary or in small groups, from February to April, in roadside verges near grasslands areas without trees, associated exclusively with *Tuberaria guttata*. Occurring in Southwestern Iberian Peninsula. GenBank MN338731. For additional information see <https://medwinpublishers.com/OAJMMS/OAJMMS16000121.pdf>.