

A NEW LEAF SPOT DISEASE OF KODAMPULI (*GARCINIA CAMBOGIA*) DESR.

Kodampuli (*Garcinia cambogia* Desr.) is a hardy horticultural crop of the tropics which is of immense value as a condiment as well as a medicinal plant. The fruits are valued for their dried rind which is used for flavouring fish curries. It often finds a place in the backyard of Kerala's homesteads as one among the miscellaneous tree crops.

The crop is relatively free from pest and diseases. However, recently a leaf spot disease was observed in young plants in the vegetable garden of the College of Horticulture, Trichur. The infection initiated with the appearance of small reddish brown spots on older leaves. As the disease advanced, the spots enlarged to about 0.5 to 1.0 cm in size and became circular to irregular in shape. In the meantime, the central grey coloured necrotic portion dried out leaving a shot hole behind. In severe condition, the infected leaves got blighted and dried.

The pathogen was isolated from infected tissues on potato dextrose agar medium. The pathogenicity of the fungus was established by inoculating it on to the healthy leaves. The fungus produced white colony growth with narrow septate mycelial strands on PDA. Later, dark brown coloured spherical sclerotia of size 1-2 cm were developed on colony surface. Based on the morphological characters coupled with the pathogenicity test the fungus was identified as *Corticium rolfsii* Curzi. The identity of the fungus was confirmed by International Mycological Institute, England (IMI No.359940). This disease is reported for the first time in *Garcinia cambogia*.

The authors are grateful to Dr. J. E. M. Mordue of CAB International Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, England for confirming the identity of the fungus.

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