

COLLAR ROT OF *MURRAYA KOENIGII* L. BY *CORTICIUM ROLFSII* CURZI

During June-July, 1993, a severe collar rot disease of fungal origin was noticed on the curry leaf plants (*Murraya koenigii* L.) grown in the vegetable garden of the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Trichur. The symptom initiates at the collar region of the plant as water soaked lesion. Later the infected region turns dark brown in colour and finally results in rotting. Under humid condition the infected area gets covered with white cottony growth of the fungal mycelium and small dark brown spherical sclerotia.

Due to the collar rotting, the leaflets of infected plants show yellowing. Later they become brown in colour, dry up and defoliate. Usually these symptoms start from lower leaves and gradually spread upwards. In advanced stage the whole plant gets defoliated and leads to the death of the plant. The causal organism was isolated on potato dextrose agar

medium (PDA) and its pathogenicity was established by artificial inoculation on healthy plants. The fungus produced white coloured colony with narrow septate mycelial strands on PDA. Later, dark brown coloured spherical sclerotia of size 1-2 mm were developed on colony surface. Based on the morphological characters coupled with the pathogenicity test, the pathogen was identified as *Corticium rolfsii* Curzi. The identity of the pathogen was further confirmed by the International Mycological Institute, London (IMI No. 359942). Recourse to the literature revealed that there is no record of collar rot of curry leaf by *Corticium rolfsii* Curzi. However, Jain and Mahmud (1952) reported a collar rot of *Murraya koenigii* by another sclerotial fungus, *Rhizoctonia solani* from Nagpur. So this is the first authentic record of the occurrence of collar rot on *Murraya koenigii* by *Corticium rolfsii* Curzi.

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