

LEAF SPOT DISEASE OF *DIOSCOREA ALATA* LINN.

A leaf spot disease of *Dioscorea alata* was observed for the first time in Kerala at the Instructional Farm, College of Agriculture, Vellayani during the year 1978. It was later found that the disease was prevalent all over Kerala.

The disease first appeared as brown specks encircled by yellow haloes. The spots increased in size with age and became irregular in shape. In advanced cases of infection, the adjacent spots coalesced forming dark-brown necrotic patches, resulting in withering of the leaves (Fig.1). In moist atmosphere, acervii appeared as small dots on the infected patches.

Isolations from the naturally infected leaves collected from different localities always yielded a species of *Colletotrichum*.

Pathogenicity tests were carried out on young plants by spraying the spore suspensions of the conidia from 10 day old culture. The disease symptoms were initiated within 3-4 days of inoculation, but it took 10-15 days to produce symptoms similar to those found in natural infection. Re-isolation from the artificially inoculated lesion yielded the same organism.

The causal organism grew and sporulated well on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium. The mycelium consisted of rather narrow sparsely septate hyphae. The conidia are yellow, single celled and measured 12.53 μ to 15.39 μ long and 3.58 μ to 5.01 μ broad. The morphological description of this organism agreed with those of *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz. enumerated by Mordue (1971) and hence this was identified as *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz.

Prasad and Singh (1960) reported a similar anthracnose disease of *Dioscorea alata* from Udaipur, Rajasthan. Rangaswami *et al.* (1970) recorded *Colletotrichum* species on *Dioscorea* sp. in the Mysore State.

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സംഗ്രഹം

ഡയോസ്കോറിയ അലാറ്റാ എന്ന കിഴങ്ങു വർഗ്ഗച്ചെടിയുടെ ഇലകൾക്ക് കോളി രോഗാട്രിക്കാ തളിയോസ് പോരിയോയിഡ്സ് എന്ന കീടമിശ്രിതം നിലത്തുണ്ടാകുന്നു. ഈ രോഗം ഇലകളിൽ കരിച്ചിലും പൂക്കളിടത്തു കളും വരുത്തുന്നതായി കണ്ടു.

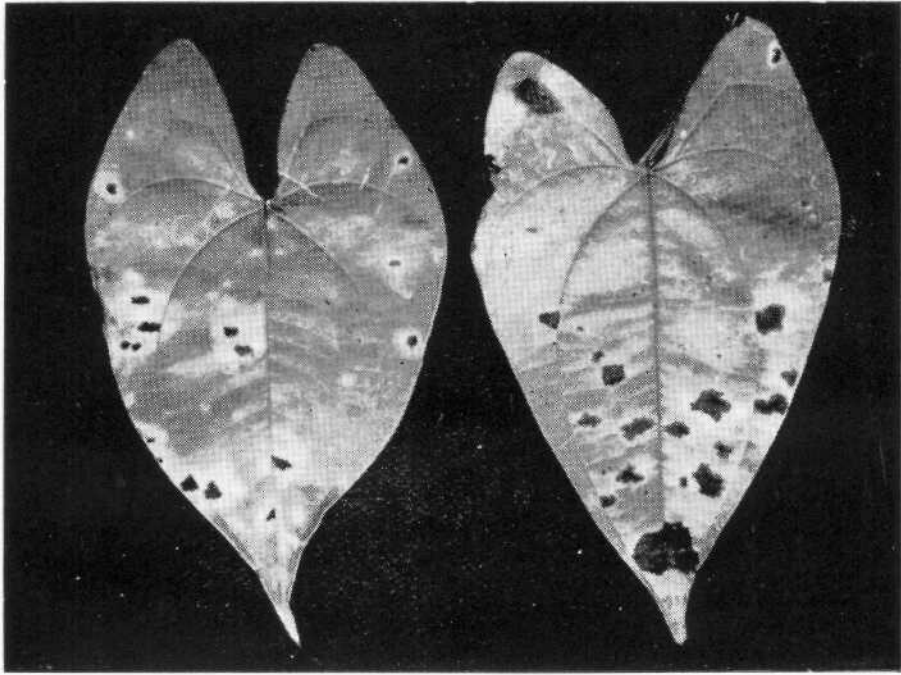


Fig. 1 Symptoms of leaf spot disease of *Dioscorea alata* L. caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*.

References

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