

**LEAF BLIGHT DISEASE OF PINEAPPLE CAUSED BY
DRECHSLERA HAWAIIENSIS (BUNGICOURT) SUBRAM & JAIN,
EX. M. B. ELLIS**

A new leaf blight disease of pineapple was observed at the Pineapple and Banana Research Station, Kannara in Kerala during January 1972.

The initial symptoms of the disease appeared on the upper surface of the leaves as small purplish brown spots which gradually enlarged and became dark brown and finally turned dirty white in colour. The fully developed spots were oval to oblong in shape with characteristic purplish to dark brown raised margins surrounded by a yellow halo and measured 27 to 116 mm X 7 to 20 mm. Usually 1 to 3 distinct and isolated spots were formed on a leaf. In advanced stages the affected leaves presented a blighted appearance. (Fig. 1)

The pathogen was isolated and brought into pure culture on potato dextrose agar. The mycelium, in culture, was brown, smooth walled, septate and 2 to 3.5 μ in diameter, while that in the host appeared greyish brown to dark brown, short segmented, 2.5 to 3.5 μ in diameter and inter as well as intracellular. The conidiophores produced on the host were stout, erect, usually solitary but rarely in groups, dark brown, septate geniculate, 51.6 to 109.2 μ long and 3.6 to 7.2 μ in diameter. The conidiophores in culture were, however, thinner and shorter measuring 27.5 to 96.7 x 2.0 to 4.0 μ . Conidia were formed acrogenously, straight, ellipsoidal, oblong or cylindrical, rounded at the ends and pale to mid brown in colour with basal hilum. On the host the conidia measured 9.2 to 23.5 X 4.0 to 8.2 μ (usually 12.75 x 6.3 μ) having 1 to 5 pseudosepta (mostly 5). But in culture they measured 12.2 to 25.5 X 5.1 to 8.1 μ (usually 17.7 X 6.1 μ) with 2 to 6 pseudosepta. The conidia germinated in water within a few hours, the germ tube arising from the end cells (Fig. 2).

The pathogenicity was proved by spraying spore suspension of the organism on potted pineapple plants. Lesions developed on the tender leaves within 4 to 5 days while those on the older leaves developed within 8 to 10 days.

LEAF BLIGHT OF PINEAPPLE

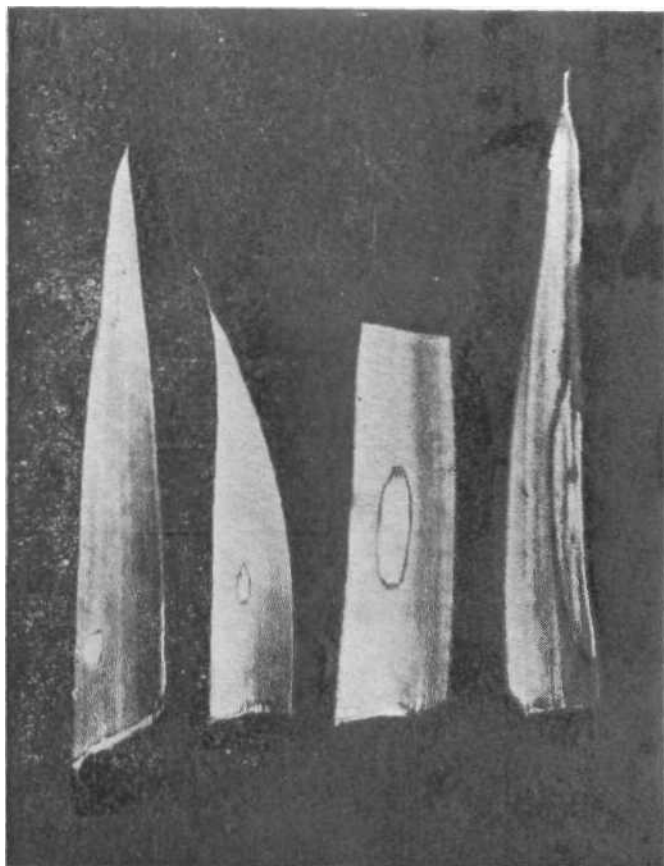


Fig. 1

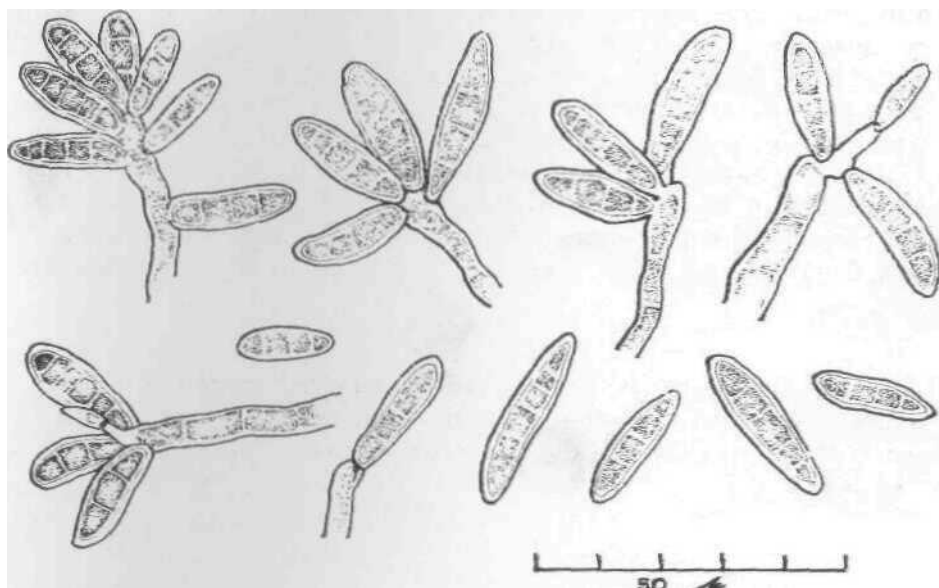


Fig. 2

Based on the morphological characters, the causal organism was **identified** as *Drechslera hawaiiensis* (Bungicourt) Subrum. & Jain, ex. M. B. Ellis (Ellis, 1971). This is a new record on pineapple.

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