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LEAF BLIGHT OF *Coccinia indica* Wight & Am. CAUSED BY *Corynespora cassiicola* (Berk. & Curt) Wei.

During February 1972, *Coccinia indica* plants were found to be infected by a species of *Corynespora* at the Agricultural College & Research Institute Campus, Vellayani, Kerala. The symptoms appeared on both surfaces of leaves as minute brown spots with a light yellow halo which increased in size and formed irregular patches upto 15 mm in diameter. Later on zonations developed on the spots which coalesced and affected a major portion of the lamina giving it a scorched appearance. In advanced stages of infection, the leaves withered and the plants were defoliated. Symptoms were not noticed on the stem.

The pathogen was isolated on potato-dextrose agar and purified by the single spore method. The fungus produced dark grey mycelium on PDA and sporulated abundantly after 6 days. No stromata were observed. The conidiophores were erect, simple, straight to slightly flexuous and measured 120 - 684  $\mu$  X 6 - 11  $\mu$ . Conidia were borne at the tips of the conidiophores either singly or in chains of 2 - 4 spores. They were thick walled, olivaceous brown, cylindrical, straight or slightly curved, obclavate with a truncate base, 4 - 14 septate and measured 38 - 156  $\mu$  X 9 - 16  $\mu$ .

The pathogenicity of the organism was established by inoculating *C. indica* plants under laboratory conditions. On artificial inoculations, the fungus infected tomato, sesamum and rubber plants. On the basis of the morphological characters and the host range of the pathogen, it was identified as *Corynespora cassiicola* (Berk. & Curt.) Wei. which is a new record on *Coccinia indica* Wight & Am.

Division of Plant Pathology,  
College of Agriculture,  
Vellayani, Kerala.

SUSAMMA PHILIP  
C. K. RAMAKRISHNAN  
M. RAMANATHA MENON

(MS. received: 24-4-1973)