

A NEW LEAF AND FLOWER BLIGHT OF *ANTHURIUM ANDREANUM* LIND.

A new leaf and flower blight disease was observed on **anthurium** (*Anthurium andreanum* Lind.) plants grown at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Trivandrum.

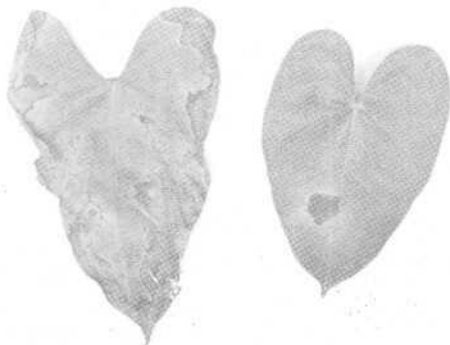


Fig 1. Diseased leaves showing symptoms

The symptoms appeared on the leaf lamina as small brown spots with characteristic yellow halo, which gradually enlarged and developed into irregular necrotic lesions. In

severe cases of infection, the leaves become shrivelled and dried up (Fig 1). Symptoms are noticed on the flowers also, as small brown spots on the petals and on the spikes. As the disease progresses, these spots enlarge, resulting in the blighting and drying up of the flowers. The causal organism was isolated on potato dextrose agar medium. Pathogenicity of the fungus was established by artificial inoculation of healthy leaves and flowers of anthurium plants. Symptoms as those observed in nature were produced within 10 days after inoculation. The pathogen was re-isolated and identified as *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Penz and Sacc. (ITCC 4366). The fungus produced greyish white fluffy mycelium on the medium. The hyphae were hyaline, septate and branched. The conidia produced in acervuli on hyaline conidiophores were cylindrical to oblong, one celled with prominent oil globule and measured 7.69 μm in length and 3.00 μm to 4.00 μm in breadth. The pathogen was identified as *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Penz. and Sacc.