

ANTHRACNOSE OF ORCHIDS INCITED BY *GLOMERELLA CINGULATA* (Stonem) Spauld and Schrenk

The orchids, *Oncidium* spp. are susceptible to several maladies caused by fungi, bacteria and viruses. During a survey conducted on the incidence of various diseases, a moderate to severe occurrence of anthracnose was observed in most of the orchid gardens in Kerala.

The initial symptoms appeared as minute yellowish dots which became dark brown to grey and sunken with age. Later on, the lesions enlarged, coalesced and spread the entire leaf. The older leaves were more susceptible. During the south west monsoon when the atmosphere was more humid, the incidence of the disease was also more. Similarly, in isolated areas of less light intensity the development and spread of the disease was rapid. In severe

cases, the infection spread to all leaves and stem and sometimes die back symptoms were also noticed.

The pathogen was isolated into pure culture. On PDA it produced ashy white mycelium which turned to dark in a week on sporulation. There was production of perithecia on PDA supplemented with host extract. They were globose and dark brown to black. The ascospores measured 2.14 to 5.01 x 9.66 to 18.97 μ m. The fungus was identified as *Glomerella cingulata* (Stonem) Spauld and Schrenk which was confirmed by International Mycological Institute, U.K. (IMI 322534). This is a new record of this disease on orchid reported from Kerala.

College of Agriculture
Vellayani 695 522, Trivandrum, India

A. Sreedharan
Lulu Das
G. Padmakumari