

MONSTERA DELICIOSA Adans, Schott - A NEW HOST OF *COLLETOTRICHUM GLOESPORIOIDES* (Penz.) Penz and Sacc

A severe leaf blight disease was observed on *Monstera deliciosa* Adans, Schott. in the Instructional farm, Vellayani during September 1992. *Monstera deliciosa*, popularly known as split leaf philodendron, is a leafy ornamental plant with thick stem having elongated heart shaped leaves deeply cut almost towards the mid-rib with holes near the mid-rib between the cuts.

The symptom initially appeared as yellow spots on the leaf lamina. As the infection progressed the spots enlarged and became irregular brown lesions with an yellow halo. In severe cases, the lesions coalesced forming larger necrotic patches resulting in blighting of the leaves.

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The causal organism was isolated on potato dextrose agar medium and pathogenicity was established by inoculating the fungus on healthy monstera plants.

The fungus produced greyish white fluffy mycelium on the medium. The conidia produced in acervuli on hyaline conidiophores were cylindrical to oblong, one celled with prominent oil globule and measuring 15.38 μ m - 19.33 μ m in length and 2.89 μ m - 3.85 μ m in breadth. The pathogen was identified as *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Penz and Sacc.

A perusal of literature revealed that there is no record of *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* causing leaf blight of *Monstera deliciosa*.

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