

A NEW LEAF SPOT OF *STYLOSANTHES GUIANENSIS* DUE TO *COLLETOTRICHUM GLOEOSPORIOIDES* FROM INDIA

Stylosanthes guianensis (Aubl) W. B. the nutritive fodder legume is gaining much popularity in Kerala and is usually grown as an inter-crop in the coconut gardens. During a survey of the diseases of the fodder crops, the authors came across a severe leaf spot disease of this fodder legume during September-October, 1979.

Initial symptom of the disease appeared as small specks of 0.1 to 2.0 mm in diameter on the leaflets. The spots were grey white at the centre with dark pinkish brown margins. As the disease advanced the spots enlarged resulting in blighting of the whole leaflets. Often shot hole symptoms were also noticed.

Repeated isolations from the affected portions yielded the fungus *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz. Isolation trials conducted with seeds collected from the affected plants gave negative results, showing that the disease is not seed transmissible. The pathogen was purified by single spore isolation technique and the pathogenicity proved by inoculating on *Stylosanthes*.

Ellis *et al.* (1976) reported the isolation of *C. gloeosporioides* from the surface sterilised seeds of *S. scabra* grown in Colombia. They also reported the production of anthracnose symptoms and death of the seedlings of *S. guianensis* by these isolates. Isolation of *C. dematium* from *S. guianensis* along with several other fungi was reported by Lenne (1977). O'Brien and Pont (197?) reported the incidence and symptoms of anthracnose due to *C. gloeosporioides* on *Stylosanthes* from Queensland. Diseases on *Stylosanthes* spp. due to *C. gloeosporioides* was also reported by Irwin and Cameron (1978) from Australia. However, *C. gloeosporioides* was not reported from India affecting this fodder legume.

In Kerala *C. gloeosporioides* is known to affect a number of economically important crops (Nair *et al.*, 1978; and Karunakaran and Nair 1980 a, b) and also on a number of ornamental plants (Santhakumari, 1980). This points to the potential danger of *C. gloeosporioides* assuming importance as a pathogen of this legume fodder.

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സംഗ്രഹം

സംഗ്രഹം: *Stylosanthes guianensis* (Aubl) W. B. എന്ന കാലിത്തീറ്റ വിളയുടെ ഇലകളെ ഒരു തരം പുളളിക്കുത്തു രോഗം ബാധിയ്ക്കുന്നതായി കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. രോഗഹേതുവായ കുമിൾ കൊളറോട്രിക്കം ഗ്ലോസ്പോറിയോയിഡ്സ് ആണെന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഇത് ഇടം പ്രഥമമായി ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ നിന്നും റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നു.

College of Agriculture,
Vellayani-695 522.

P. SANTHAKUMARI
M. CHANDRASEKHARAN NAIR

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