

CIGAR—END DISEASE OF BANANA

A severe fruit disease of banana (*Musa paradisiaca L.*) was noticed on immature bunches in several homestead gardens in the Trivandrum district, Kerala.

The symptoms first appeared on half-ripe fruits. In some bunches, only a few fruits were affected, while in others all fingers showed disease symptoms. The affected bunch did not develop fully and the entire bunch became useless for table purposes. Infection was initiated on the perianth and later caused blackening, shrinkage and folding of the tissues. The diseased portion developed a rot and the fungus completely enveloped the rotten portion and produced conidiophores and conidia in abundance. This gave the disease the characteristic appearance of a burnt ashy cigar end (Fig. 1). The diseased portion was sharply delimited from the uninvaded healthy tissues. The disease usually made slow progress and even in well developed specimens did not cause an area of decay extending over 3 cm.

The fungus responsible was isolated and identified as *Verticilliumtheobromae*. *Trichothecium roseum* and *Botryodiplodia theobromae* were also found associated with *V. theobromae* under field conditions.

The fungus readily sporulated in culture and pathogenicity of the fungus was confirmed by inoculating fresh immature fruits of the standing crop at the perianth end with the fungi. Adequate humidity was also provided. Symptoms developed within 30 days.

A study on the varietal susceptibility of this disease showed that the *Nalipoovan* variety was highly susceptible. The disease was found to occur regularly on suckers arising from diseased mother plants, but not on other varieties in the vicinity.

Cigar end rot of banana fruits has been reported from various countries like Gold Coast and Trinidad (Wardlow, 1961). In India, the pathogen has been recorded by Dhingra *et al.* (1970) from Jabalpur. But this is the first report of the pathogen occurring in Kerala.

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സംഗ്രഹം

വാഴയ്ക്കായ്കളുടെ അഗ്രഭാഗം മൂപ്പെത്തുന്നതിന് മുമ്പ് ശുഷ്കിച്ചു കറുത്തുണങ്ങി, കത്തിയ ചുട്ടട്ടിന്റെ അഗ്രം മാതിരിയായിത്തീരുന്ന ഒരു തരം കമിര രോഗം, കേരളത്തിലാദ്യമായി തിരുവനന്തപുരം ജില്ലയുടെ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. വെർട്ടിസീലിയം ത്രിക്രോട്ടെബ്രോമെ എന്ന കമിര മൂലാന്തിരമുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഈ രോഗം ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ കണ്ടത് ഞാലിപ്പൂവൻ ഇനം വാഴ്കളിലാണ്.

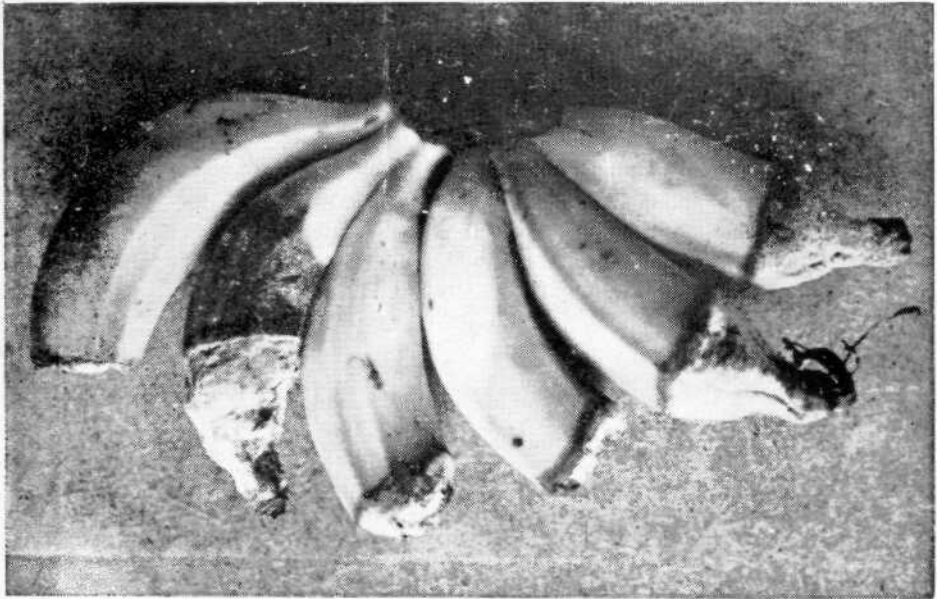


Fig 1 Symptoms of the cigar end disease

References

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