**Disease Note**

**FIRST REPORT OF BLACK ROT OF APPLE CAUSED BY DIPLODIA SERIATA IN INDIA**

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Apple is a predominant fruit crop in Jammu and Kashmir state (India), grown over an area of 107,925 ha, with an annual production of 1.09 million metric tonnes (Anonymous, 2005). In July-August 2006 and 2007, rotting fruits were observed in various orchards of the Kashmir valley. Incipient symptoms were small brown spots on the fruit surface, which enlarged forming reddish-brown concentric rings with scattered pycnidia. The fruits finally turned black. Isolations on oat meal agar consistently yielded cottony greyish-white colonies that produced black pycnidia within 10-12 days of incubation at 24±1°C. Conidiogenous cells were hyaline, smooth and thin-walled. Conidia were cylindric to ellipsoid, rounded at both ends, some truncate at the base, initially hyaline but dark-brown when mature, smooth walled, finely ornamented on the inner surface, and measured 20.9-28.3 x 10.64-15.20 µm (average 22.2 x 12.8 µm). A few conidia developed unusual median septa (not true septa) at a later stage. Pathogenicity was proved by inserting 3 mm mycelial disc inside 5 mm long and 2-3 mm deep cuts on each of ten surface-sterilized fruits of cv. Golden delicious. Five non-inoculated fruits served as control. Fruits were incubated at 24±1°C. Symptoms developed within 3-4 days and re-isolations yielded the original fungus. Control fruits remained healthy. Based on morphological characters (Phillips, 2006) the fungus was identified as *Diploodia seriata* De Not (culture deposited at the National Center of Fungal Taxonomy, New Delhi, vide accession no. 2835.09). *D. seriata* has been reported as the cause of black rot of apple in Holland, Belgium and northern Germany but, to our knowledge, this is the first record of it from India.

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**Disease Note**

**FIRST REPORT OF FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH WOOD DISCOLOURATION OF GRAPEVINE ROOTSTOCKS FROM LEBANESE NURSERIES**

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Self-rooted and grafted grapevine rootstocks are supposed to be the main sources of inoculum for several fungal pathogens in new vineyards. *Pseudoispora chaneyii* (W. Gams, P. Croux, M.J. Wingf. & L. Mognat) P. Croux & W. Gams and *Phaeoacremonium* spp. are frequently recovered from young vines and are supposed to be the main causal agents of young vine decline (Mognati et al., 1999). *Cylindrocarpon* spp. and *Botryosphaeria* spp., the causal agents of black-foot and black dead arm diseases, respectively, have also been associated with young vine decline (Phillips, 2002; Petit and Gubler, 2005). In January 2008, at uprooting time, a total of 115 samples of one-year-old grafted and self-rooted rootstocks were randomly collected in six nurseries in the Bekaa Valley (Lebanon). Each vine was transversely cut in three points (1 cm above the crown, in the middle, and 1 cm below the apex or the graft union), and observed for the presence of wood alterations. The severity of wood discoloration was assessed using an empirical scale with six classes, and the McKinney's Index (IMK) was then calculated. Discoloured wood fragments were placed on malt extract agar addition with 0.5 g l-1 streptomycin sulphate for mycological analysis. Wood alterations were more severe at the crown level (IMK mean value: 38.8%) and at the apex (IMK: 33.1%), whereas IMK was 18.0% in the middle of the rootstocks. *Cylindrocarpon* spp. proved to be the most common fungi associated with wood discoloration (11% of samples), while *P. chaneyii* (P. acremonium) spp. and *Phaeoacremonium* spp. were associated with discoloured tissues in 4, 3.5 and 1% of the samples, respectively. To our knowledge, this is the first report of fungi responsible for wood discoloration of self-rooted and grafted grapevine rootstocks in Lebanese grapevine nurseries.


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