

DISEASE NOTE

**FIRST REPORT OF LEAF SPOT CAUSED
BY *COLLETOTRICHUM COCCODES* ON
SALVIA GREGGII IN ITALY**

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During summer 2014, leaf spots were observed on a number 6- to 8- month-old plants of autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*) in a private garden near Biella (northern Italy). Brown small irregular lesions were present on the leaves of plants grown in the shadow with high relative humidity which, at the final stage, were almost completely defoliated. A fungus consistently isolated on potato dextrose agar (PDA), was characterized by a gray mycelium producing hyaline, cylindrical, aseptate and thin walled conidia (7.5-19.3×2.8-6.0, average 13.9×4.4 µm) in acervuli which, based on these traits, was identified as a *Colletotrichum* sp. (Bailey and Jeger, 1992). The internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of rDNA was amplified using the primers ITS1/ITS4, and custom-sequenced. BLAST analysis (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) of the 510 bp amplicon (GenBank accession No. KP792748) showed 100% similarity with *Colletotrichum coccodes* (AM422215.1). Leaves of three healthy 10-month-old potted plants of *S. greggii* were inoculated by spraying a conidial suspension of 1×10⁵ CFU/ml. Control plants were sprayed with sterile distilled water. Plants were covered with plastic bags and kept in a greenhouse at 18 to 25°C. Symptoms similar to those observed on naturally infected sage appeared on all inoculated plants 14 days post inoculation while controls remained healthy. *C. coccodes* was consistently reisolated only from inoculated plants. This is to our knowledge the first report of *C. coccodes* on *S. greggii* worldwide. The disease is currently limited to the area where it was first observed. However, *C. coccodes* could become a significant problem due to its wide host range that includes also other member of lamiaceae such as peppermint.

Altschul S.F., Madden T.L., Schaffer A.A., Zhang Z., Miller W., Lipman D.J., 1997. Gapped BLAST and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programme. *Nucleic Acids Research* **25**: 3389-3402

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DISEASE NOTE

**FIRST REPORT OF LAUREL
ANTHRACNOSE CAUSED BY
COLLETOTRICHUM ACUTATUM
IN CENTRAL ITALY**

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Laurus nobilis (laurel) is an evergreen tree whose communities are spread throughout Italy (Filibeck, 2006). During summer 2014, in a laurel hedge of a garden near Rome symptoms were seen consisting of shoots with tips with typical 'shepherd's crook' and necrotic spots on leaves and twigs. Tissue fragments from the margin of necrotic spots were cut, surface-disinfected (1% NaClO for 1 min), plated onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) and incubated at 25°C in the dark. A single fungal species was consistently isolated, pure cultures of which were obtained by single conidia transfer. The fungus was morphologically identified as *Colletotrichum acutatum*. DNA of one monospore isolate (2002ER) was extracted and amplified with primers specific for the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions and the beta-tubulin gene (TUB2). This isolate showed 100% similarity with several *C. acutatum* strains (i.e. AJ301964, AJ301950, DQ286130) for the ITS region and *C. acutatum* strains (i.e. JQ424939, JN121284) for the TUB2 gene. Our sequences were deposited in European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) with the accession No. LN836025 for ITS, and No. LN836026 for TUB2. Mycelial plugs (5 mm diameter) cut from the margins of actively growing cultures were inserted under the epidermis at different levels of six-year-old potted laurel plants. Controls were inoculated with sterile PDA plugs. After 45 days inoculated plants grown at 24±2°C showed symptoms similar to those observed in the garden and *C. acutatum* was re-isolated from the margin of the lesions. There are a few report of anthracnose by other *Colletotrichum* species on laurel in Europe (Constantinescu and Jonsson, 1987; Göre and Bucak, 2006). To our knowledge, this is the first report of damages caused to laurel in Italy by *C. acutatum*.

Constantinescu O., Jonsson L., 1987. A severe attack of *Glomerella cingulata* (Ascomycetes) on *Laurus nobilis*. *Växtskyddsnotiser* **51**: 11-13.

Filibeck G., 2006. Notes on the distribution of *Laurus nobilis* L. (Lauraceae) in Italy. *Webbia* **61**: 45-56.

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