

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF LEAF BLIGHT OF PHYSIC NUT CAUSED BY *CURVULARIA* *CLAVATA* IN INDIA

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Physic nut (*Jatropha curcas* L.) is an important commercial bio-diesel plant. In a survey carried out during 2011 in Tamil Nadu (India), physic nuts plants were observed exhibiting leaf yellowing, chlorotic or necrotic spots and greyish-brown spots, predominantly on leaf margin. Infected leaf portions cut into small fragments (1 cm²) were surface-sterilized in 0.1% mercuric chloride for 30 sec, washed three times in sterile distilled water, plated on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium containing streptomycin sulphate, and incubated at room temperature (28±2°C) for five days. Ten single-spore isolates of a fungus recovered from infected tissues were maintained on PDA slants. Pathogenicity was tested by artificially inoculating (pinprick method) the leaves of 45-day-old glasshouse-grown host plants with a spore suspension (5 × 10⁵ spores ml⁻¹) (Rao *et al.*, 1991). Inoculated plants were maintained in glasshouse at 25-28°C, RH above 90%, and 12 h photoperiod. Symptoms similar to those observed in the field were detected two weeks post inoculation and the fungus was consistently reisolated from leaf lesions. Conidia were clavate, 3-septate, straight or occasionally slightly curved, with base cell pale brown, while the other cells were brown to dark brown, 17-29 (23) µm long, 7.2-12 (8) µm thick in the broadest part, sometimes truncate at the base. The fungus was identified as *Curvularia clavata* and confirmed by the Agarkar Mycological Research Institute, Pune, India (NFCCI 2673). *C. clavata* infects monocot and dicot plants causing an array of symptoms including leaf spot and leaf blight (Chen *et al.*, 2013). To our knowledge, this is the first report of leaf blight caused by *C. clavata* on physic nut in India.

Chen X., Sui C., Feng J., Huang X., 2013. First report of *Curvularia* leaf blight on *Curcuma wenyujin* caused by *Curvularia clavata* in China. *Plant Disease* 97: 138.

Rao G.P., Singh M., Verma K.P., 1991. Leaf spot disease causing fungus of sugar cane. *Annual Report, CSSBRI, Seorabi, India:* 86-87.

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DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *LASIODIPLODIA* *CITRICOLA* ASSOCIATED WITH STEM CANKER OF PEACH IN CALIFORNIA, USA

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In July 2009 and October 2012, stems of young peach (*Prunus persica*) trees with cankers from Kings, Fresno and Yuba Counties, respectively, in California were submitted to our diagnostic laboratory. The cankered areas were discoloured brown in comparison with the creamy healthy bark and covered with gum galls. More than 30 trees were killed in Fresno and Kings Counties, and 6 trees in Yuba County. Scraping the cankers revealed large black pycnidia and brown discoloured wood. A fungus consistently isolated from the cankers was identified as *Lasioidiplodia citricola* based on morphological characteristics (Abdollahzadeh *et al.*, 2010) and analyses of ITS, and TEF-1 α gene regions. The sequence showed high identity (ITS, 100%; TEF-1 α , 99%) with reference sequence (isolate: IRAN 1522C = CBS 124707, ex-type of *L. citricola*; accession Nos.: ITS, GU945354; TEF-1 α , GU945340; β -tubulin, not available) for *L. citricola* (Abdollahzadeh *et al.*, 2010). Sequences were deposited to GenBank (isolates: 7F93, 7F94 and 7F95. Accession Nos.: ITS, KC357262–KC357264; TEF-1 α , KC357268–KC357270; β -tubulin, KC357265–KC357267). Pathogenicity of *L. citricola* in *P. persica* variety *nectarina* cv. Summer Fire was tested using three isolates. Ten two-year-old branches for each isolate were inoculated. Inoculations were made in late Oct. 2012 as described by Chen *et al.* (2013). Lesion length was measured 3 weeks after inoculation. The three isolates of *L. citricola* produced 60–67 mm long lesions within 3 weeks, while wounds were covered with callus tissue in the control inoculations. *L. citricola* was re-isolated from the inoculated branches and no fungus was re-isolated from the control branches. These results indicate the pathogenicity of *L. citricola* to *P. persica*. To our knowledge, this is the first report worldwide of *L. citricola* causing cankers of peach.

Abdollahzadeh J., Javadi A., Mohammadi Goltapeh E., Zare R., Phillips A.J.L., 2010. Phylogeny and morphology of four new species of *Lasioidiplodia* from Iran. *Persoonia* 25: 1-10.

Chen S.F., Morgon D.P., Beede R.H., Michailides T.J., 2013. First Report of *Lasioidiplodia theobromae* associated with stem canker of almond in California. *Plant Disease*. 97: 994.

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