DISEASE NOTE
FIRST REPORT OF BOTRYTIS BLIGHT CAUSED BY BOTRYTIS CINEREA ON RUDBECKIA FULGIDA IN ITALY

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In January 2014, a previously unknown leaf and stem blight was observed on Rudbeckia fulgida grown in a glasshouse of the Agroinnova Centre, in Grugliasco, northern Italy. In June 2014, the same symptoms appeared on R. fulgida cultivated in a private garden near Biella, northern Italy. The morphological characteristics of the fungus isolated from infected tissues were typical of Botrytis cinerea (Ellis, 1971). The Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) region of rDNA was amplified using the primers ITS1/ITS4, and sequenced (GenBank Accession No. KJ698645). BLAST analysis (Altschul et al., 1997) of the 489 bp segment showed a 99% similarity with the sequence of Botryotinia fuckeliana GU399993. In pathogenicity test, symptoms were reproduced on plants of R. fulgida of the Agroinnova Centre, in Grugliasco, northern Italy. The morphological characteristics of the fungus isolated from infected tissues were typical of Botrytis cinerea (Ellis, 1971). The Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) region of the fungus was amplified using the primers ITS1/ITS4 (Hsiang and Goodwin, 2001) and sequenced (GenBank accession Nos. KM040784, KM040785). BLAST analysis of sequences showed 99% homology to Colletotrichum graminicola. To our knowledge, this is the first report of C. graminicola on H. australis. So far, in Poland this pathogen was only found on maize (Korbas, 2006) and bentgrass (Pronczuk, 2000).

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DISEASE NOTE
FIRST REPORT OF COLLETOTRICHIUM GRAMINICOLA ON SOUTHERN SWEET-GRASS LEAVES IN POLAND

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Southern sweet-grass (Hierochloë australis) is a perennial tuft-grass the leaves of which are used for aromatization of alcohol and tobacco products (Przybył et al., 2011). In 2013 oblong, irregular lesions surrounded with reddish-brown ring, as well as yellow, reddish brown discoloration were observed in Warsaw-Wilanów on H. australis leaves. Black acervuli with setae were only noted around necrotic spots. Seven isolates of the fungus were obtained on PDA from infected leaves. Cultures were black-gray with aerial white mycelium. Conidia were hyaline, 1-celled, lunate to falcate 22.4 × 4.4 µm in size. All isolates produced melanized appressoria. Linear growth of isolates was measured on PDA, Czapek solution agar, CMA, MEA and SNA at 24°C. The best growth of the fungus after 10 days incubation was observed on PDA (73 mm in diameter) and the slowest on SNA (34 mm). To fulfill Koch’s postulates each of isolates was used to inoculate healthy, 30-day-old seedlings of H. australis by placing a drop of a conidial suspension on their leaves (10 plants/isolate). The leaf surface had previously been disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite. Inoculated plants were sealed in foil bags and incubated at 24°C. Symptoms appeared after 5 days. Isolates obtained from artificially inoculated leaves had the same morphology as those used for inoculation. The internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of the fungus was amplified using the primers ITS1/ITS4 (Hsiang and Goodwin, 2001) and sequenced (GenBank accession Nos. KM040784, KM040785). BLAST analysis of sequences showed 99% homology to Colletotrichum graminicola. To our knowledge, this is the first report of C. graminicola on H. australis. So far, in Poland this pathogen was only found on maize (Korbas, 2006) and bentgrass (Pronczuk, 2000).


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