

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *PHAEOACREMONIUM ALVESII* ASSOCIATED WITH GRAPEVINE PETRI DISEASE IN IRAN**H. Mohammadi and H. Hashemi***Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Shahid Babonar University of Kerman, Kerman, Iran*

In June 2013, a survey was conducted for grapevine decline in Abadeh (Fars province, south-western Iran). Branch and trunk samples were collected from grapevines showing Petri disease symptoms, i.e. stunted growth, chlorotic leaves, and necrosis in cross-sectioned wood. Isolations were made from symptomatic wood tissue on malt extract agar (MEA). Six isolates of a *Phaeoacremonium* sp., were recovered from a 10-year-old grapevine stock (*Vitis vinifera* cv. Askari). Colonies were flat, pink to beige on MEA, conidiophores were mostly short and unbranched, 16-45 (average 27.5) μm long and type III phialides were predominant. Conidia were hyaline, obovoid or ellipsoidal, 2.5-4.5 (3.4) μm \times 1.2-1.4 (1.3) μm . Based on cultural and morphological characters, the isolates were identified as *Phaeoacremonium alvesii* (Mostert *et al.*, 2006). The identity of two isolates (IRNHM-ALV103 and IRNHM-ALV104) was confirmed by partial sequencing of the β -tubulin gene, using primers T1 and Bt2b. The sequence of these isolates (GenBank accession No. KP322595 and KP322596), showed 99% similarity with the comparable ones of *Phaeoacremonium alvesii* available in GenBank (accession No. EU883990). A pathogenicity test under greenhouse conditions was performed on detached shoots of grapevine and the lesion length was measured. All tested isolates were pathogenic and caused wood discolorations (ranging from 26 to 37 mm) four weeks after inoculation. Fungal isolates identical to those used for pathogenicity trials were consistently recovered from inoculated branches, while re-isolations from mock-inoculated branches were negative. This is the first report of the presence of *P. alvesii* on grapevine in Iran.

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FIRST REPORT OF BOTRYTIS BLIGHT CAUSED BY *BOTRYTIS CINEREA* ON BOLIVIAN SAGE (*SALVIA OXYPHORA* L.) IN ITALY**A. Garibaldi, D. Bertetti, G. Ortu and M.L. Gullino***Centre for Agro-Environmental Innovation (AGROINNOVA), University of Torino, Via Leonardo da Vinci 44, 10095 Grugliasco, Italy*

Starting from July 2014, symptoms of a previously unreported blight were observed on leaves, stems and inflorescences of *Salvia oxyphora*, family Labiatae, growing in a private garden near the city of Biella (northern Italy). Infections started from fallen flowers adhering to the leaves. A soft, grey mycelium developed on symptomatic stem tissues, from which a fungus was isolated that, on potato dextrose agar, produced abundant mycelium with branched conidiophores and enlarged apical cells. Conidia were unicellular, light ash-colored, ovoid, and measured 6.3-14.8 \times 5.3-9.8 (average 9.8 \times 7.1) μm . These morphological features are 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. KP686392). BLAST analysis (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) of the amplified 497 bp sequence, showed a 99% similarity with the sequence of *Botryotinia fuckeliana* isolate KF667540. Pathogenicity tests were performed by inoculating leaves of three healthy *S. oxyphora* plants with mycelial disks from PDA cultures. Controls were inoculated with sterile PDA disks. Plants were covered with plastic bags. The first foliar necrotic symptoms developed three days after the experimental inoculation and seven days afterwards the symptoms were similar to those observed in the field. *B. cinerea* was consistently re-isolated from symptomatic leaves, whereas controls remained healthy. This is the first report of *B. cinerea* on *S. oxyphora* in Italy and in the world.

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