Disease Note

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

A. Garibaldi, D. Bertetti, G. Ortu and M.L. Gullino

Centre of Competence for the Innovation in the Agro-Environmental Sector (AGROINNOVA), University of Turin, Via Leonardo da Vinci 44, 10095 Grugliasco, Italy

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* GU395993. In pathogenicity test, symptoms were reproduced on plants of *R. fulgida* sprayed with a spore and mycelial suspension of the pathogen and *B. cinerea* was consistently reisolated. Controls sprayed only with water remained healthy. This is the first report of *B. cinerea* on *R. fulgida* in Italy. Fifteen isolates of *B. cinerea* obtained from *R. fulgida* were evaluated *in vitro* on PDA amended with increasing concentrations of fungicides. Five strains were resistant to benzimidazoles (ED_{50} > 100 mg/l, M.I.C. > 300 mg/l), while 3 strains out of 15 showed a reduced sensitivity to iprodione (ED_{50} 5 mg/l, MIC 10 mg/l).

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Corresponding author: M.L. Gullino
Fax: +39.011.6709307
E-mail: marialodovica.gullino@unito.it

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Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF *COLLETOTRICHUM GRAMINICOLA* ON SOUTHERN SWEET-GRASS LEAVES IN POLAND

E. Mirzwa-Mróz[1], W. Kukula[1], R. Dzieciot[1], M. Wit[1], K. Baczek[2], Z. Weglarz[2] and A. Pawelczak[2]

[1]Department of Plant Pathology, [2]Department of Vegetable and Medicinal Plants, Faculty of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape Architecture, Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW, 159 Nowoursynowska Street, 02-776 Warsaw, Poland

Southern sweet-grass (*Hierochloë australis*) is a perennial tuft-grass the leaves of which are used for aromatization of alcohol and tobacco products (Przybyl *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 after10 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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Corresponding author: E. Mirzwa-Mróz
E-mail: ewa_mirzwa_mroz@sggw.pl

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