

# Disease Notes

**Outbreak of Citrus Postbloom Fruit Drop Caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* in Florida.** R. T. McMillan, Jr., University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead 33031, and L. W. Timmer, University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred 33850. *Plant Disease* 73:81, 1989. Accepted for publication 4 November 1988.

Necrotic lesions on petals, blossom blight, and fruit abscission followed by persistent calyxes were first observed on Tahiti lime (*Citrus latifolia* Tan.) in Collier County, Florida, in 1983. Symptoms were similar to postbloom fruit drop of citrus, first described in Belize and later in several Central and South American countries. The disease is caused by a strain of *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Sacc. (1). In 1987, the disease was found in many orange (*C. sinensis* (L.) Osb.) orchards in south Florida, and by 1988 it was common south of Highlands County and present in scattered locations throughout the state. *C. gloeosporioides*, producing acervuli with one-celled conidia and black setae, was consistently isolated from affected petals and peduncles of limes and oranges in Florida and produced necrotic lesions and blight of inoculated, detached blossoms of lime and sweet orange. On potted lime plants, the fungus caused blossom blight, fruit abscission, and persistent calyxes, thus reproducing field symptoms. This is the first report of postbloom fruit drop in the United States.

*Reference:* (1) H. J. Fagan. *Ann. Appl. Biol.* 91:13, 1979.

***Acremonium typhinum* Identified as an Endophyte in Blue Fescue.** P. J. Newton and P. M. Halisky, Department of Plant Pathology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, and J. F. White, Jr., Department of Biology, Auburn University, Montgomery, AL 36193. *Plant Disease* 73:81, 1989. Accepted for publication 29 September 1988.

Recently, we isolated a fungus from blue fescue (*Festuca glauca* Lam.) and from a hybrid fescue (*F. ovina* L. × *F. glauca*). It was identified as *Acremonium typhinum* Morgan-Jones & Gams after comparison with other isolates of *A. typhinum* and *Acremonium* spp. *A. typhinum* is an anamorph of *Epichloë typhina* (Pers. ex Fr.) Tul., which is known to commonly produce a stroma or "choke" symptom on grass hosts. Some species of *Acremonium* impart insect resistance as well as other benefits to grass hosts and consequently have been of much interest in recent years (2). Saha et al in 1987 reported the presence of an unidentified *Acremonium*-like fungus in blue fescue (1). To our knowledge, this is the first isolation and identification of an *Acremonium* endophyte from blue fescue.

*References:* (1) D. C. Saha et al. *Plant Dis.* 71:1021, 1987. (2) M. R. Siegel et al. *Annu. Rev. Phytopathol.* 25:293, 1987.

**Viruses Detected in Fushuai, a New Apple Cultivar from the People's Republic of China.** Z. Li, Fruit Tree Research Institute, Zhengzhou, Henan, People's Republic of China, and G. I. Mink, Washington State University, Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Prosser 99350. *Plant Disease* 73:81, 1989. Accepted for publication 20 October 1988.

Fushuai, a newly developed apple cultivar from the People's Republic of China (1), was indexed on the woody greenhouse indicator clones R12740-7A, Hopa, Sparkler, Radiant and Virginia Crabs, Spy 227, Nouveau Poiteau, Lord Lambourne, Golden Delicious, and

Red Delicious, as well as on herbaceous indicator plants and by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The following viruses were identified: apple chlorotic leaf spot, apple stem pitting (ASPV), pear vein yellows strain of ASPV, apple stem grooving, and apple mosaic. Inoculated Red and Golden Delicious trees showed pronounced leaf distortion, necrotic spotting, and chlorotic mottle. The causal agent of this previously unreported symptom has not yet been determined. The first introduction of this cultivar into the United States was illegal, and our results suggest that clones of Fushuai not heat-treated should be regarded as high risk for subsequent propagation and distribution in the United States.

*Reference:* (1) Z. N. Guo and G. N. Guo. *HortScience* 19:726, 1984.

**First Report of *Meria laricis* on European Larch in Wisconsin.** J. Cummings Carlson, Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI 53711. *Plant Disease* 73:81, 1989. Accepted for publication 23 November 1988.

*Meria laricis* Vuill. was identified as the cause of needle cast of European larch (*Larix decidua* Mill.) seedlings at the Hayward State Nursery in Hayward, Wisconsin. Approximately 30,000 2-yr-old seedlings were infected. In early June, the tips of the needles at the base of the current year's shoots were necrotic. Infected needles shed in June and July. Defoliation was less than 25% on any one tree. Signs of the fungus, conidia and conidiophores emerging from stomata, could only be seen microscopically. *M. laricis* has been reported on European larch in the Canadian province of Ontario (1) and in Europe, where severe defoliation of seedlings has occurred. This disease is also known to occur on western larch (*L. occidentalis* Nutt.) in the states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana and in the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

*Reference:* (1) D. T. Myren. *Plant Dis.* 68:732, 1984.

**First Report of *Dichotomophthora indica* as a Pathogen of *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* and *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* var. *friedrichii* in Arizona.** C. M. Pfeiffer and J. E. Wheeler, Acre, Inc., 4429 North Highway Drive, Tucson, AZ 85705; D. A. Bach, Bach's Greenhouse, 8602 North Thornydale, Tucson 85714; and R. L. Gilbertson, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Arizona, Tucson 85721. *Plant Disease* 73:81, 1989. Accepted for publication 20 October 1988.

A dematiaceous hyphomycete identified as *Dichotomophthora indica* Rao was isolated from diseased tissue of *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* (Mart.) Cons. and *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* (Fric & Gürke) Br. & R. var. *friedrichii* Werd. The diseased cacti were from a commercial greenhouse where attempts had been made to graft *G. m. var. friedrichii* onto *M. geometrizans*. The fungus colonized wounded tissue surrounding the graft area and invaded the rootstock and scion. Lesions created by the fungus on *M. geometrizans* were brown to black, and infected tissue was collapsed. Infection of *G. m. var. friedrichii* by *D. indica* resulted in a grayish dry rot. Koch's postulates were used to verify that *D. indica* was the causal agent of the disease of *M. geometrizans* and *G. m. var. friedrichii*. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *D. indica* occurring on a host other than *Portulaca oleracea* L. (1).

*Reference:* (1) P. N. Rao. *Mycopathologia* 28:137, 1966.