

RESEARCH NOTE

COLLECTOTRICHUM BLIGHT OF CINNAMON

Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Mess.) is an important spice crop of India. Country's requirement is being met mostly by imports. Sri Lanka produces the major portion of the world requirement.

During the year 1979-80 a severe leaf blighting of cinnamon seedlings was observed in the experimental gardens at the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Research Centre, Hirehalli. The disease caused severe damage to the seedlings by affecting leaves and the stem causing die-back resulting in mortality of the seedlings.

The symptoms consist of small circular spots on the leaf which becomes more or less elliptical later. As disease advances, the spots get diffused to black or dirty grey colour or may be delimited by a sharp outline encircling straw coloured area. The disease also causes necrosis of tender twigs from the tip backwards. The entire branch withers and gets defoliated thus giving a stunted appearance (Plate). The dead twigs are dirty brown initially, turning to greyish white colour.



The casual organism has been identified as *Collectotrichum* state of *Glomerella cingulata* by CMI (IMI No. 214995). The presence of this fungus on cinnamon spp. has been recorded from Annamalainagar, Tamilnadu (Rangaswami *et al*, 1970). This appears to be the first report of the fungus on Cinnamon from Karnataka.

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S. N. SAMPATH KUMAR

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute,
Research Centre, Hirehalli-572168, Karnataka, India

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