

**LEAF SPOT DISEASE OF COCONUT INCITED BY *BIPOLARIS INCURVATA* (BERNAD) ALCORN**

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A leaf spot disease has been recorded on coconut occurring sporadically in the coconut-growing tracts of South Andaman, Little Andaman, Campbell Bay of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The disease causes moderate to severe damage to the leaves of young seedlings as well as grown-up palms. The severity of the disease is slightly higher in the dry season.

The leaf spots appear at first as small, oval, dark brown spots, usually towards the leaf tip, later enlarging and becoming pale buff in the centre with a broad, dark brown margin. With multiple infection the lesions coalesce and the leaf becomes blighted from tip to backwards (figure 1). A fungus was isolated from lesions and it was identified as *Bipolaris incurvata* at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, London (No. 302957). The incidence of the disease was recorded as 0.12% (South Andaman), 0.1% (Little Andaman) and 1% (Campbell Bay) of the palms covered under preliminary survey.

This pathogen was reported earlier as *Helminthosporium incurvata* (Bernad) from countries<sup>1</sup> like Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, New Guinea, Virgin Island, French Polynesia, Sahah, Seychelles, New Hebrides and Andaman (India)<sup>2</sup>.

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**Figure 1.** Oval, dark brown spots at the tip of leaflets and on the margins incited by *Bipolaris incurvata* on coconut leaves.

the identification of the fungus and also to Dr K. K. N. Nambiar, CPCRI for a perusal of the manuscript.

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1. Anonymous, *Nematodes, fungi, insects and mites associated with coconut palm*, Tech. Bull. 2, CPCRI, 1979, p. 60.
2. Anonymous, *Annual Report*, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, 1985, p. 54.