## CYPRUS

### Plum pox virus on apricot and peach

The Plant Protection Service in Cyprus reports that an infection by plum pox virus was discovered in June 1982 on apricot at Argaka (Paphos district). During 1983, the disease was found on a larger scale in the same area, as well as in nurseries at Triboukia and Saittas (Troodos Mountains) on peach and apricot mother plants. About 20 trees were uprooted and destroyed. A survey for the distribution of the disease will be carried out in 1984 and regulatory measures will be taken for its eradication. This new record was reported to FAO by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation.

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## INDIA

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### *Leiosphaerella longispora* on seed coconuts from French Polynesia[1]

A collection of seven accessions of 100 seed coconuts each, imported from French Polynesia (Tahiti) through Madras Airport by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, Kerala State, was examined as a quarantine measure.

The seed coconuts were fumigated with methyl bromide (32 g/m$^3$ for three hours) upon receipt at the Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Station, Madras Airport, following the schedule prescribed by CPCRI. After fumigation, the scrapings of epicarp from individual seed coconuts were examined microscopically to determine external seed mycoflora.

The most common fungi recorded on the seed coconuts were *Botryodiplodia theobromae, Chlamydomyces palmarum, Fusarium* spp., *Penicillium* spp., *Pestalotia palmarum* and *Phoma* spp. In addition to these fungi, a few nuts of the Rangirova tall variety from Rangirova Atoll showed the ascigerous stage of a fungus. The fungus was identified as *Leiosphaerella longispora* Sivan, Shaw & Brown. The identification was confirmed by the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, United Kingdom (IMI 268856).

*L. longispora* was first reported on coconut from Papua New Guinea by Sivanesan *et al.*[2] It was associated with lesions on collapsed fronds; pathogenicity was not tested on coconut as the organism could not be cultured. The same fungus was reported from Western Samoa on ungerminated seed coconuts, where it was seen in association with a blast disease in coconut nurseries that caused discoloration of the eyes and the surrounding husk. Its role in the aetiology of blast disease in coconut seedlings is yet to be established (Bourke, unpublished, cited in Rao and Koshy, 1982). This is the first record of the fungus on seed coconuts from Tahiti and the first report from India.

[1] Contribution No. 278 of the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, India. Thanks are due to the director, CPCRI, Kasaragod, and the Plant Protection Advisor to the Government of India, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad, for providing necessary facilities.

The senior author also wishes to thank the Director, CMI, United Kingdom, for confirming the identification of the fungus.

[2] SIVANESAN, A., SHAW, D.E. & BROWN, J.S. 1976. *Leiosphaerella longispora* sp. nov. on coconut petiole in Papua New Guinea. *Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc.*, 67(3):529-532.

[3] RAO, E.V.V.B. & KOSHY, P.K. 1982. *Coconut germplasm collection in Pacific Ocean Islands.* Deputation Report, CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala, India. (Mimeo)

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## Two new hosts of *Peronospora parasitica*

Knolkhol, kholrabi or *ganth-gobi* (*Brassica oleracea* var. *gongylodes* L. cv. Purple Vienna) and kale or *khanyari sag* (*B. oleracea* var. *acephala* L.), two important cole crops, were attacked by downy mildew during April-May 1980 in the Kashmir Valley. Characteristic, irregular yellow lesions were seen on the upper surface of older leaves. The lesions were small and scattered initially but subsequently covered the entire leaf surface. Severely affected leaves turned yellow and fell off. The typical downy growth of the fungus was visible on the corresponding under-surfaces of the leaves (see Fig. 1).

The fungus was identified as *Peronospora parasitica* (Pers. ex Fr.) Fr. and the affected leaf material of *B. oleracea* var. *acephala* has been deposited at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute (CMI), Kew, United Kingdom (IMI 273221).[1]

This appears to be the first record of the pathogen on these hosts from India.[2, 3] *P. parasitica* has been reported on *B. oleracea* var. *acephala* on seed crops from Kenya,[4] but its occurrence in nature on *B. oleracea* var. *gongylodes* has not been reported previously. However, the susceptibility of *B. oleracea* var. *gongylodes* to an isolate of *P. parasitica* from cabbage has been observed under artificial inoculation.[5]

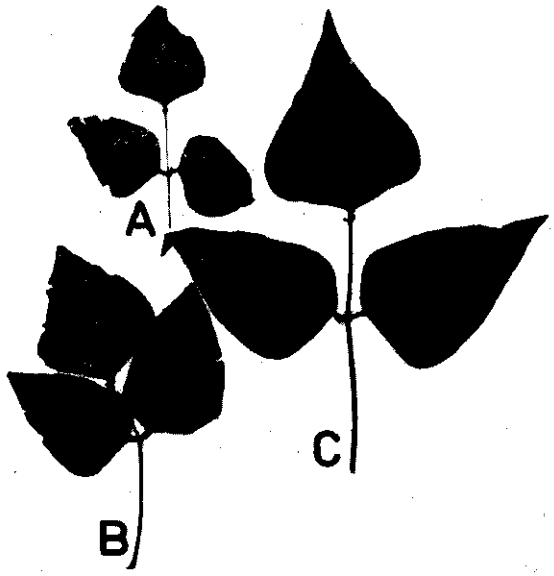


**Figure 1.** *Lesions incited by* Peronospora parasitica *on* Brassica oleracea *var.* acephala *leaf*

[1] The authors are grateful to S.M. Francis, CMI, for his help in identification of the fungus.

[2] BILGRAMI, K.S., JAMALUDDIN & RIZWI, M.A. 1979. *Fungi of India, Part I.* Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.

[3] BILGRAMI, K.S., JAMALUDDIN & RIZWI, M.A. 1981. *Fungi of India, Part II.* Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.

[4] DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, KENYA. 1955. *Annual Report.*

[5] FELTON, M.W. & WALKER, J.C. 1946. Environal factors affecting downy mildew of cabbage. *J. Agric. Res.*, 72:69-81.

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## Leaf blight on winged bean

Winged bean, *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* L., has been recently introduced into India for breeding and cultivation. During January 1983, a severe leaf blight disease was observed in the research farm of Banaras Hindu University. The first symptoms were small, brownish, circular spots on the margins of both young and old leaves. The spots subsequently increased in size and coalesced to form large circular to irregular brownish areas (see Fig. 1). In the late