

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *TRICHOCONIELLA PADWICKII* CAUSING LEAF SPOT DISEASE ON PARTHENIUM WEED

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Parthenium hysterophorus is an annual or ephemeral weed causing great damage to grassland ecosystems, but also allergy and dermatitis in humans and livestock. Since the use of fungal pathogens has been suggested as a most efficient biocontrol method, a survey was conducted in 2012-2014 in the Haryana state (India), during which dark brown to black marginal spots were observed on parthenium leaves. These lesions were initially round pinpoint spots that enlarged and coalesced causing a premature defoliation. From symptomatic leaves collected from different areas, surface-sterilized in 70% ethanol and placed on PDA, a fungus was isolated showing an initially whitish brown aerial mycelium that turned orange-brown to purple black (Aneja *et al.*, 2000). Conidiophores were brown, straight to geniculate (160×5.0-9.3 µm), bearing obclavate, rostrate, pale to golden brown 71-103×16.4-23.6 µm conidia, smooth to minutely verruculose, with 5-9 transverse but no longitudinal septa, singly or in chains of two. The conidial beak (50-172×1.4-3.1 µm) was hyaline, filiform, septate, straight to geniculate, sometimes swollen at the apex, often much longer than the spore body. Based on these characteristics, the fungus was identified as *Trichoconiella padwickii* (Ellis, 1971), as confirmed by the International Mycological Institute (IMI accession no. 502783). Pathogenicity was proven by placing seven-day-old mycelial plugs (5 mm) on detached parthenium leaves that reacted with spots from which *T. padwickii* was re-isolated. The ITS rDNA sequence analysed using the FASTA algorithm shared 100% nucleotide similarity to six unpublished ITS sequences from *Alternaria padwickii* (current name *T. padwickii*). This pathogen has previously been reported on rice, millet, sorghum, eucalyptus and various grasses but, to our knowledge, this is the first report on *P. hysterophorus*.

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FIRST REPORT OF *PAPAYA RINGSPOT VIRUS W* INFECTING *MOMORDICA CHARANTIA* IN CUBAD. Cabrera Mederos^{1,2}, F.J. Giolitti² and O. Portal¹¹Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuarias,
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During a survey conducted in July 2010, severe mosaic and deformations were observed on the leaves of cerassee (*Momordica charantia*) in Villa Clara, Cuba. The symptoms resembled those induced by *Papaya ringspot virus* (PRSV) in papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) plants (Olarie *et al.*, 2011). Leaf samples were ELISA positive when tested with a specific PRSV antiserum (Agdia, USA). The presence of PRSV was confirmed by the amplification of a 850bp fragment by RT-PCR using primers specific to the PRSV coat protein gene (unpublished information). BLASTn analysis of the sequences from the RT-PCR amplified product (GenBank accession No. KP019380) showed 94% identity with PRSV-W isolates from *Citrus lanatus* in the USA (GenBank accession Nos. JN132439 to JN132457) and PRSV-P isolates (GenBank accession Nos. AF196839 and EF189736). Crude sap extracts from symptomatic *M. charantia* leaf samples were mechanically inoculated onto *Cucurbita moschata* and papaya plants. Symptoms developed in the former but not in the latter plants, suggesting the presence of PRSV-W, since only PRSV-P is able to infect papaya plants (Romay *et al.*, 2014). In inoculated plants, the presence of this virus was determined by ELISA. In Cuba, the first molecular detection of PRSV-W was from *Cucurbita pepo* (Rodríguez-Martínez, personal communication) and PRSV-P has only been reported in papaya plants (Portal *et al.*, 2006). To our knowledge, this is the first report of PRSV-W infecting *M. charantia* in Cuba. This finding is relevant for the epidemiology, and management of this disease in cucurbits.

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