

## OCCURRENCE OF ROTTING DISEASE IN ANTHURIUM

*Anthurium* (*Anthurium andreaeanum*) is an export potential plant, the flowers of which are used for cut flower arrangements and bouquet making. During a survey on the diseases of anthuriums, a severe rotting incidence was observed in the anthurium plants in the anthurium house at the District Agricultural Farm, Mavelikara, Alleppey District, Kerala. The affected plants showed severe rotting of the leaf petioles. Initially the symptoms appeared as pinhead sized water soaked areas, which spread very fast. Similar rotting symptoms were also observed at the base of the spadix also. The affected petioles and spadix came out with a slight pull. Yellowing and blackening of the leaf axils and spadix were also observed. About 100 per cent death of the plants was observed in the farm.

The infected plants were brought to the laboratory for the isolation of the associated pathogen. The bacterial ooze test revealed profuse bacterial oozing from the cut ends of the infected leaf petioles and spadix. The bacterium could be isolated in culture medium. The bacterium was a motile gram-negative rod

and its morphological and physiological characters resembled those of *Xanthomonas* sp. Growth of a fungal pathogen was also observed in the culture medium with repeated isolation. The cultural and conidial morphology of the pathogen revealed that the associated pathogen was *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz) Penz Sacc. This is in agreement with the culture of *C. gloeosporioides* available in the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Trivandrum. The pathogen was inoculated on healthy anthuriums and they were re-isolated after an interval of three days proving the pathogenicity. The isolated bacterium was also inoculated separately on healthy anthuriums. Severe rotting of the leaf axils and spadix were observed on the second day of inoculation. The occurrence of a leaf and flower blight of anthurium was reported earlier (Naseema *et al.*, 1997). The incidence of a bacterial blight was also reported from Hawaii (Nishijima and Fujiyama, 1985). However, the incidence of a rotting complex involving these pathogens causing the death of the plants was reported for the first time in Kerala, India.

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