



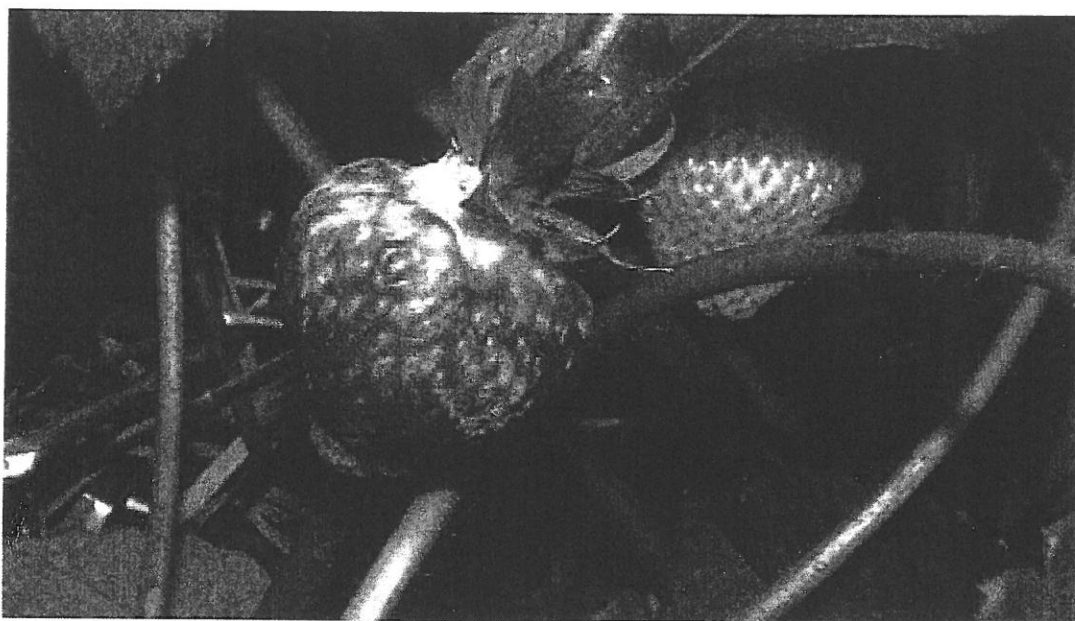
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Sundelin, Thomas; Jensen, Birgit

*Publication date:*  
2009

*Document version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Citation for published version (APA):*  
Sundelin, T., & Jensen, B. (2009). *Molecular tools helps us to reveal the secrets of Colletotrichum acutatum*. Abstract from NJF Seminar 429, Challenges in sustainable plant protection in strawberries, Alnarp, Sweden.



**NJF Seminar 429**  
**Challenges in sustainable plant  
protection in strawberries**

**Alnarp, Sweden, 10-11 November 2009**

## **Molecular tools helps us to reveal the secrets of *Colletotrichum acutatum***

Thomas Sundelin and Birgit Jensen

*University of Copenhagen, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology*

*Thorvaldsensvej 40, 1871 Frederiksberg C, Denmark;*

E-mail: [tsu@life.ku.dk](mailto:tsu@life.ku.dk)

*Colletotrichum acutatum*, causing strawberry black spot, was found on strawberries in Denmark for the first time in 2000. Later the same fungal species was also shown to cause disease in Danish cherry production. In other parts of the world strawberry black spot was a big problem for strawberry production, but it was not known how important the disease would be under Nordic conditions. Potentially the treat could be great as *C. acutatum* is known cause severe yield losses and to have a wide host range. Furthermore, it can be introduced to a field with plant carrying latent infections. Therefore, work was initiated with the aim to improve and develop detection techniques. During this work fungal isolates were collected from strawberry growers, and in the later years also cherry growers, with disease outbreaks. Using the molecular technique UP-PCR we have shown that there are differences in the pathogen populations between isolates originating from strawberry and isolates originating from cherry. As a consequence of this we are now working on the development of PCR-based methods that can detect the different *C. acutatum* sub-populations and we hope that these methods will be important tools in future management strategies of *C. acutatum*.