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## Research Note

## CURVULARIA LEAF SPOT OF COCONUT

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Leaf Blight disease of coconut is common in Sri Lanka where two fungi, viz., Pestalozzia palmarum Cooke and Drechslera incurvata (Ch. Bernard) M. B. Ellis, have been implicated. During a recent study in our laboratory, a species of Curvularia was consistently isolated from coconut leaves showing leaf spots collected from Bandrippuwa Estate, Lunuwila. Subsequently, diseased samples from Madampe and Weligama areas too yielded the same species of Curvularia recorded earlier. Although it was generally accepted that the leaf blight disease is caused by the two fungi mentioned earlier, it now appears that Curvularia can also cause considerable damage to coconuts.

Curvularia maculans (Bancroft) Boed. (now called Curvularia eragrostidis (P. Henn.) J. A. Meyer) and Curvularia sp. have been recorded from coconut in Malaysia and India respectively (Joseph and Radha, 1979). The species recorded from Sri Lanka is distinct from C. eragrostidis but is close to C. lunata (Wakker) Boed. (conidial state of Cochliobolus lunatus). This is the first record of Curvularia from coconut in Sri Lanka.

Under controlled conditions, necrotic spots appeared 3-5 days after inoculation of coconut seedlings. With time, these spots coalesced to form large brownish-grey patches (Fig. 1) from which the fungus was reisolated. The fungus sporulates readily in culture (Fig. 2).

Further work on this disease is in progress.

## REFERENCES

Joseph, T. and Radha. K. (1979). Coconut disease and quarantine regulations. Technical document No: II8 of the Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region — FAO 14 p.



Fig. 1. Coconut leaf with brownish -- grey patch caused by Curvularia sp.

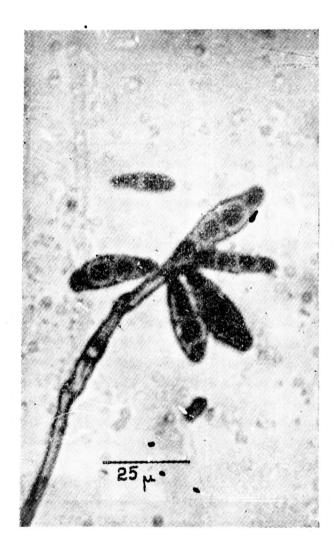


Fig. 2. Conidia of Curvularia sp.