Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF FRUIT SPOT OF POMEGRANATE CAUSED BY *COLLETOTRICHUM GLOEOSPORIOIDES* IN IRAN

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Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is one of the most important commercial fruit crop in eastern Mazandaran (Iran, 35°47'N, 50°34'E). During spring 2013, distinct dark brown spots were observed on pomegranate fruits, from which a fungus was isolated on standard potato dextrose agar (PDA) amended with streptomycin (0.05% w/v). The mycelium was white-grey turning olive green over time, and produced oval to cylindrical, hyaline, unicellular, aseptate conidia measuring 5-13×1.5-4 µm. Based on these morphological characters the mycete was tentatively identified as *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides.* The fungal internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of r-DNA was then amplified using the primers ITS5/ITS4 sequenced locally and deposited under GenBank accession No. KJ769129. A sequence similarity search performed using BLAST (Altschul *et al*., 1990) algorithm available via GenBank confirmed the identification as *C. gloeosporioides.* Pathogenicity tests were carried out by placing agar-discs from a six-day-old culture of the fungus onto five artificially injured pomegranate fruits, which were placed inside sterile plastic bags. Controls consisted of non-inoculated fruits. Symptoms were reproduced after six days only on inoculated fruits and the pathogen was subsequently re-isolated, fulfilling Koch's postulates. To our knowledge, this is the first report of. *C. gloeosporioides* in pomegranate fruits in Iran.

Altschul S.F., Gish W., Miller W., Myers E.W., Lipman D.J., 1990. Basic local alignment search tool. *Journal of Molecular Biology* **215**: 403-410.

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