

**A LEAF DISEASE OF AVOCADO
CAUSED BY COLLETOTRICHUM
GLOESPORIODES (PENZIG)
SACCARDO**

IN an orchard near Bangalore, some of the Avocado trees (*Persea gratissima* Gaertn.) were found to be affected by a leaf disease. Both mature and young leaves were affected. The infected leaves presented a parched or

singed appearance in advanced stages of infection, the chief damage being due to the destruction of the lamina. The disease was first noticed by us in June/July (1965) breaking out in rather restricted areas, extending gradually with the onset of regular monsoon rains. At first the spots were seen appearing at the tip of the leaves; they were pale green, water-soaked patches, slowly becoming dry and turning ultimately reddish-brown in colour. The spots were mostly contiguous, the necrotic areas cracking and falling away in some instances. In many cases, only the upper half of the leaf was affected and in a few instances, however, the entire leaf was affected resulting in partial defoliation of some branches.

The fungus sporulates abundantly producing on the upper surface of the leaves, buff to salmon coloured conidial masses which ultimately turn black.

In microscopic preparations, the fungal mycelium was found to be intercellular, upto 2μ in diameter; the stromata formed on the upper surface of the leaves are subcuticular composed of subhyaline, pseudoparenchymatous cells with simple cylindrical conidiophores measuring upto 20μ long, each producing conidia, terminally singly and successively. No acervular setae were recorded. Conidia, cylindrical, hyaline, continuous, with rounded ends, $12-21 \times 3-6\mu$.

This is perhaps the first report of *Colletotrichum glæosporioides* as the cause of a leaf disease in Avocado pear.

From the literature it would appear that *Colletotrichum crassipes* (Speg.) von Arx¹ was reported earlier as *Glæosporium perseæ-drymifoliæ* Calvino, from San Remo, Florida, on fruits and twigs of *Persea drymifolia* Cham. and Schlecht. On leaves of *Persea gratissima*, however, three species of *Pestalotia*² were recorded namely, *Pestalotia adusta* Ell. and Ev. from Bayanon, Puerto Rico, *P. mangiferæ* P. Henn. from Miami, Florida, and *P. eugeniæ* Thume. as *P. eriobotryæ-Japonicæ* Sawada from Taihoju, Formosa.

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1. von Arx, J. A., *Revision der Zu Glæosporium Gestellten Pilze*, 1957, pp. 153.
2. Guba, E. F., *A Monograph of Monochetia and Pestalotia*, 1961, pp. 342.