

IDENTITY OF AN INCITANT OF ANTHRACNOSE IN SWEET PEPPERSWm. Irwin Illman¹

The recent finding (2) that the bulk of anthracnose in tomato fruit is caused by the ubiquitous, sclerotium-forming organism widely known as Colletotrichum atramentarium (Berk. & Br.) Taubenh. raises the question of the possibility of similar etiology in diseases of related fruits. Since Vermicularia atramentaria Berk. & Br. (1850) is antedated by Wallroth's Chaetomium coccodes of 1833, we must accept Hughes' Combination (1), Colletotrichum coccodes (Wallr.) Hughes, as the legitimate name for this fungus under the rules of nomenclature.

Dr. C.D. McKee kindly sent two samples of several cultures which he isolated from anthracnose lesions of field-grown sweet pepper fruits in Essex County, Ontario, in September, 1959. The two cultures which were received proved to be morphologically and culturally similar to isolates from tomato anthracnose and potato late blight. Spores from both, under moist incubation, have proved capable of causing infection in intact, greenhouse-grown, green tomato fruit. These fruit, upon ripening, developed lesions typical of C. coccodes and yielded isolates of this fungus similar to those providing the conidial inoculum.

It would appear that, under suitable field conditions, the tomato anthracnose fungus, C. coccodes, is capable of inciting anthracnose in sweet pepper fruits as well.

Literature Cited

1. HUGHES, S.J. 1958. Revisiones Hyphomycetum Aliquot cum Appendice de Nominibus Rejiciendis. Can. J. Botany 36:754.
2. ILLMAN, W.I., R.A. LUDWIG and JOYCE FARMER. 1959. Anthracnose of Canning Tomatoes in Ontario. Can. J. Botany 37:1237-1246.

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