

## SUMMARY

Curvularia lunata (wakker) was found to be associated with the leaf spot/blight diseases of coconut. The pathogenicity of the fungus on coconut and environmental and certain other factors which influence the development of pathogen have been examined in detail.

The optimum temperature for vegetative growth was found to be 30°C. The fungus grew rapidly in all culture media tested and was only slightly affected by nutrients of the medium used.

The germination of conidia occurred within the range 10-40°C, and the optimum temperature was 30°C. Initiation of germination required a minimum period of 1-2h at 30°C. In all temperatures except at 10 and 40°C germination exceeded 50% after 2h of incubation. Maximum germination in culture medium was attained at about 8h of incubation and on coconut leaf at about 14h. The density of the conidia was found to be an important factor in affecting germination and thus in disease development.

Disease development was greatly influenced by temperature and humidity.