

STUDIES ON LEAF BLIGHT DISEASE OF COCONUT

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The phylloplane mycoflora of coconut was studied using leaf disc washings. Older coconut leaves yielded a higher population of fungi than younger leaves. Healthy as well as diseased leaves showed an abundance of the fungus *Pestalozzia palmarum*, the agent implicated in the leaf blight disease.

Inoculation studies with this fungus failed to produce typical symptoms on healthy leaves, which, together with earlier observations, indicate the surface inhabitant nature of the fungus. The possible role of *P. palmarum* in the leaf blight disease of coconut is discussed.