NEW HOSTS OF *PSEUDOMONAS SOLANACEARUM* IN SRI LANKA

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The host species associated with bacterial wilt caused by *Pseudomonas solanacearum* in Sri Lanka are members of the family Solanaceae. Three biovars of *P. solanacearum* have been recorded for Sri Lanka, biovars 2, 3 and 4 (Seneviratne, 1969). Biovar 2 infects only one host species, potato, and occurs in the up country wet zone. Biovar 3 infects several host species and is the only biovar recorded at elevations below 4,000 feet.

In recent studies, *P. solanacearum* has been detected, causing wilt diseases, in several hosts hitherto unrecorded in Sri Lanka. The new hosts recorded are the following:

Araceae: *Anthurium andraeanum*

Euphorbiaceae: *Croton hirtus*

Labiatae: *Hyptis suaveolens*

Leguminosae: *Phaseolus vulgaris* (bush bean) and *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* (winged bean)

Pedaliaceae: *Sesemun indicum* (gingelly)

Zingiberaceae: *Curcuma domestice* (turmeric) and *Zingiber officinale* (ginger)

The locations where the diseases occurred were in the mid and low country *A. andraeanum* was affected at Handessa, turmeric and ginger at Gampaha, bush been and winged bean at Gannoruwa, and *C. hirtus*, *H. suaveolens* and gingelly at Kurunegala.

A. andraeanum, *C. hirtus*, *H. suaveolens*, *P. tetragonolobus* and *C. domestice* appear to be the first records of *P. solanacearum* on these hosts.

Reference:

1. Seneviratne, S. N. de S. (1969). Journal of Horticultural Science, **44**, 393.