SOME FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH LEAF SPOTS OF WATER HYACINTH IN SRI LANKA

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Forty different kinds of leaf spots on water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms. from 8 different sites in the Western and North Western provinces of Sri Lanka yielded 70 fungal isolates which belonged to 15 genera. Only 5 species were found to be pathogenic to water hyacinth. These species produce leaf spots on artificial inoculation after damaging the leaf surface.

Fungal isolate	*Herb IMI No.*	*Patho-genicity*	*Diameter of spot in mm.*	*% Frequency of occurrence*
Myrothecium roridum Tode ex Fr	261802	high	15	7.5
Cercospora piaropi Jarp.	261803	medium	10	20.0
Septofusidium elegantulum (Pidlopl.) W. Gams	261800	low	8	7.5
Curvularia tuberculata Jain	261801	low	3	15.0
Phaeotrichoconis crotalariae (Salam & Rao) Subram.	261804	low	3	12.5

Of these species *M. roridum* and *C. piaropi* have been reported to cause leaf spots of water hyacinth in India and Florida. *S. elegantulum*, *P. crotalariae* and *C. tuberculata* have not been recorded to be pathogenic to water hyacinth. This was the first occasion that *C. piaropi* was received at CMI in artificial culture (*personal communication*, CMI).

Leaf spots often yielded more than one pathogenic fungus and also non-pathogens, such as *Curvularia lunata* (Wakker) Boedjin (IMI 264391), *Glomerella cingulata* (Stonem.) Spauld. and Schrenk (IMI 264392), *Idriella lunata* Nelson & Wilhelm (IMI 264393), *Penicillium oxalicum* Currie and Thom and *Fusarium* sp.

Isolation from naturally occuring leaf spots suggest that pathogenic fungi form disease complexes among themselves and/or with the above non-pathogens in varous combinations. Occasionally leaf spots yielded only non-pathogenic fungi suggesting the occlusion of the primary pathogen.

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