

B68 A WILT DISEASE OF COWPEA CAUSED BY *Phytophthora vignae*  
PURSS. IN SRI LANKA

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A wilt disease in cowpea plants grown under warm greenhouse conditions and also in garden plots was characterised by elongated brown dry lesions close to the soil surface in the collar region, which gradually girdled the stem, wilting of leaves and eventual death of plants. The causal organism was identified as *Phytophthora vignae* Purss., first recorded as a pathogen in cowpea in Australia and thereafter in two other countries, India and Japan. This is the first record of the pathogen in Sri Lanka. In pathogenicity tests, the local isolates were highly pathogenic to two cultivars of *Vigna unguiculata*, 'Black Eye' cowpea and 'Polon mae', but not pathogenic to green gram, black gram, soya bean and bush bean. These results confirm the pathogenic specificity of *P.vignae* to cowpea.