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DETECTION OF SPECIES OF *ALTERNARIA* IN IMPORTED SEEDS  
OF CARROT (*Daucus carota* L.)

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Carrot seeds are imported from sources abroad for cultivation in Sri Lanka. Two species of *Alternaria*, *A. dauci* and *A. radicina* were detected seed-borne in imported seed samples in incubation and blotter tests used for routine seed health testing. They were pathogenic to several cultivars of carrot in which they caused typical leaf blight symptoms. In pathogenicity tests in which shoots were

sprayed with spore suspensions, plants more than eight weeks old were most susceptible to infection. Under the climatic conditions prevailing at Peradeniya, *A. dauci* and *A. radicina* were able to survive in the soil for periods of over five and seven months respectively. Cultures on potato dextrose agar incubated under controlled temperature conditions made most growth in the temperature range 24-29°C, while a pH of 6 was more favourable for growth than more alkaline media.

This appears to be the first report of *A. radicina* in Sri Lanka.