

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOME LOCAL DESSERT BANANA CULTIVARS
TO ANTHRACNOSE CAUSED BY *GLOEOSPORIUM MUSARUM*

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Many quantitative and qualitative differences among the various Banana cultivars indicate their varying genetic constitution. In this study ten local dessert Banana cultivars were tested for their susceptibility to the common fruit disease Anthracnose, at 25°C and at room temperature (29°C - 30°C).

The cultivars used were : Anamalu, Embul, Kolikuttu, Embon, Nethrapalam, Kochchikehel, Rathambala, Walsuwandel, Puwalu and Seenikehel.

The experiment at each temperature was of completely randomized design with three replicate fruits and a control. The mature, but unripe fruits of each cultivar were inoculated with a spore suspension of *Gloeosporium musarum*.

Resulting lesions were measured at twelve hour intervals, after the eating ripe stage, for a period of four days, to assess the level of susceptibility. Qualitative changes were also recorded.

The cultivar Anamalu was found to be most susceptible at both temperatures, while Kolikuttu was the most resistant type. Results also indicated the presence of Genotype x Temperature interaction for susceptibility to Anthracnose. Kolikuttu was found to be stable to changes in temperature whereas Embul and Seenikehel exhibited an appreciable increase in susceptibility with the increase in temperature.

References

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