

B-79: Occurrence of crown-rot in 'Embul' bananas

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Pathogens associated with rotted crowns of 'Embul' variety bananas in 3 major districts of Sri Lanka were isolated and identified. *Colletotrichum*

musae (Berk & Curt.) and *Fusarium moniliforme* (Sheld.) were isolated more frequently while *Verticillium theobrome* (Turc.) and *Botryodiplodia theobrome* (Pat.) were less frequent from the affected crowns. All the above pathogens were found to be associated with crown surface, stem surface, bracts, floral remnants and dried leaves of banana. Crowns inoculated with the above fungi showed *C. musae* to be the most aggressive species. The inoculation of *C. musae* in combination with *F. moniliforme* did not alter the extent and pattern of development of the rot. Storage of infected crowns at low oxygen concentrations of 1 - 5% minimized the incidence of the rot.