

Identification of causal organism of nutmeg leaf fall disease

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Nutmeg leaf fall disease is considered a serious disease and causes a considerable damage to the cultivation. Small brown color spots appear on the young leaves first. Then brown color spots spread from margins and the affected leaves fall from trees leaving the bare twigs on the tree, resulting low yield. After that small branches die and this condition spread top to bottom of the tree. Then large branches die and ultimately, after about five years whole tree will die. The experiment was carried out in the Central research station of the Department of Export Agriculture, Matale. To identify the causal organism of Nutmeg leaf fall disease, Humid chamber and culturing methods were used to isolate the causal organism. Two different media (i.e. Potato Dextrose Agar and nutrient Agar) were used for the culturing method. According to the results most frequently isolated fungus was *Colletotrichum* sp. Pathogenicity of *Colletotrichum* fungus was proved by the Koch's rules.

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