

Leaf spot and stem necrosis disease of Coffee seedlings caused by *Myrothecium roridum* Tode ex Fr. in India

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The leaf spot and stem necrosis disease was observed in severe form on coffee seedlings during 2016 in nursery at Central Coffee Research Institute, Balehonnur, Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka State, India. Samples were collected from the affected seedlings and the fungus was isolated, purified, identified and characterized as *Myrothecium roridum* Tode ex Fr. The disease caused by the fungus *M. roridum* on leaves of coffee seedlings in India was wrongly reported as "Target leaf spot" and "Tip blight of coffee" by earlier workers and they considered it then as a minor disease. The present study revealed that the fungus *M. roridum* could infect both the leaves and young stem of coffee seedlings at nursery stage. Further, identification, confirmation and characterization of the causative organism from this study enable in better understanding of the pathogen and its interaction with the host (coffee plant) which in future help to develop strong control strategies against the disease.

Key words: Coffee, leaf spot, stem necrosis, *Myrothecium roridum*
