



First report of *Colletotrichum fioriniae* causing anthracnose of elephant garlic (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *ampeloprasum*) in New York, USA

F. Hay^{1*}, N. Vaghefi², D. Strickland¹, R. Hadad³ and S. Pethybridge¹

¹ Plant Pathology & Plant Microbe Biology Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University, Geneva, NY 14456, USA; ² Centre for Crop Health, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350, Australia; ³ Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rochester NY 14617, USA

*E-mail: fsh32@cornell.edu

Published: 05 Jul 2018. Keywords: fungal plant disease

In July 2015 and 2016, an unusual disease was observed on scapes of approximately 10% of field-grown elephant garlic (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *ampeloprasum*) growing in a field in Newark, New York. Symptoms were sunken lesions up to 50 mm long, causing twisting, girdling and collapse of the scape. Lesions were initially cream to tan-coloured and became orange with the production of numerous acervuli without setae. Symptoms were confined to the scape. Although scapes are often removed to improve bulb yield, the disease is of importance where scapes are intended for fresh market sale, or where bulb production is required for propagation.

Conidia from acervuli in lesions were spread over 2% water agar, incubated at 20°C for three days, and hyphal tips transferred to potato dextrose agar (PDA). Conidia ($n = 200$) of isolate BD001 cultured on 10% PDA were narrowly elliptical, (11.7-) 14.5 (-17.4) μm long \times (3.0-) 3.8 (-4.8) μm wide, and pointed at both ends, similar to *Colletotrichum fioriniae* (Shivas & Tan, 2009; Damm *et al.*, 2012). Standard primers were used to amplify the internal transcribed spacer (ITS), actin (ACT), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) and β -tubulin (TUB2) regions. Sequences were deposited in GenBank for two isolates, BD001 (KY886306-KY886309) and BD004 (KY886310-KY886313). Identity to ex-holotype CBS 128517 in the ITS (NR_111747), ACT (JQ949613), GAPDH (JQ948622) and TUB2 (JQ949943) regions for BD001 was 100%, 100%, 98.4% and 98.6%, respectively, and for BD004 was 100%, 98.8%, 98.0% and 99.8% respectively. Isolates BD001 and BD004 were deposited in the International Collection of Microorganisms from Plants, Landcare Research, New Zealand as ICMP 21632 and 21633, respectively.

For pathogenicity testing, isolate BD001 was grown on 10% PDA (20°C for 30 days) to produce conidia. A scalpel blade was passed through a conidial mass prior to making an incision (approximately 2 mm long by 0.5

mm deep) in a surface-sterilised scape. For each of three trials, four scapes were inoculated at five positions. For controls, scapes were wounded with a sterilised blade. Scapes were incubated under high humidity at 20°C. At seven days, disease was observed on four, four and seven of the twenty inoculation sites in each trial respectively, but not on control scapes. Symptoms were sunken cream-coloured lesions (4-11 mm long by 3-5 mm wide), upon which developed orange-coloured sporulating acervuli without setae. Conidia were of similar size and shape to *C. fioriniae*, and conidia transferred to PDA resulted in colonies similar to *C. fioriniae*.

This is the first report of *C. fioriniae* causing disease of *Allium*. Since this study, anthracnose has been observed on *A. sativum* scapes on several farms across New York, USA.

Acknowledgements

We thank Ms Ammie Chickering and Mr David Stern for assistance in collecting diseased material.

References

- Damm U, Cannon PF, Woudenberg, JHC, Crous PW, 2012. The *Colletotrichum acutatum* species complex. *Studies in Mycology* **73**, 37-113. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3114/sim0010>
- Kou LP, Gaskins V, Luo YG, Jurick II WM, 2014. First report of *Colletotrichum fioriniae* causing postharvest decay on 'Nittany' apple fruit in the United States. *Plant Disease* **98**, 993. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-08-13-0816-PDN>
- Shivas RG, Tan YP, 2009. A taxonomic re-assessment of *Colletotrichum acutatum* in Australia, introducing *C. fioriniae* comb. et stat. nov. and *C. simmondsii* sp. nov. *Fungal Diversity* **39**, 111-122.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

To cite this report: Hay F, Vaghefi N, Strickland D, Hadad R, Pethybridge S, 2018. First report of *Colletotrichum fioriniae* causing anthracnose of elephant garlic (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *ampeloprasum*) in New York, USA. *New Disease Reports* **38**, 1.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5197/j.2044-0588.2018.038.001>

©2018 The Authors

This report was published on-line at www.ndrs.org.uk where high quality versions of the figures can be found.