

An outbreak of leaf spot caused by *Stemphylium solani* on eggplant in Malaysia.

ABSTRACT

In 2011, a severe gray leaf spot was observed on aubergine (*Solanum melongena*) in major aubergine growing areas in Malaysia, including the Pahang, Johor and Selangor states. Disease incidence was >70% in severely infected areas of approximately 150 ha of aubergine greenhouses and fields examined. Symptoms initially appeared as small (1-5 mm in diameter), brownish-black specks with concentric circles on the lower leaves. The specks then coalesced and developed into greyish-brown, necrotic lesions, which also appeared on the upper leaves. Eventually, the leaves senesced and were shed. Fungal colonies were greyish green to light brown, and produced a yellow pigment. Single, muriform, brown, oblong conidia formed at the terminal end of each conidiophore. The conidiophores were tan to light brown and ≤ 220 μm long. Based on these morphological criteria, 25 isolates of the fungus were identified as *Stemphylium solani*. Further confirmation of the identification was obtained by molecular characterization. A BLAST search in the NCBI database revealed that the sequence was 99% identical with published ITS sequences for two isolates of *Stemphylium solani* (Accession Nos. AF203451 and HQ840713). This is thought to be the first report of *Stemphylium solani* on aubergine in Malaysia.

Keyword: Leaf spot; *Stemphylium solani*; Eggplant; Malaysia.