

Identification of the new pathogen (*Stemphylium lycopersici*) causing leaf spot on pepino (*Solanum muricatum*)

ABSTRACT

Pepino (*Solanum muricatum* var. *pepino*) plants were found affected by an extensive leaf spot caused by plant pathogenic fungi during a survey in the Cameron highlands, Pahang state, Malaysia. Symptomatic leaf samples were collected from infected pepino plants and cultivated on PDA medium, and the pathogen was isolated and purified; then, consequently, all isolates were identified as *Stemphylium lycopersici* on the basis of their cultural and morphological characteristics and combined sequences of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*gpd*) regions. A pathogenicity assay on detached leaves further confirmed that *S. lycopersici* causes leaf spot disease. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of *S. lycopersici* causing leaf spot on pepino in Malaysia and worldwide.

Keyword: Leaf spot; Pepino; Phylogeny; *Solanum muricatum* var. *pepino*; *Stemphylium lycopersici*