

## NEW DISEASE REPORT

### First report of *Pseudomonas cichorii* on turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) in Brazil

A. C. Maringoni<sup>a\*</sup>, G. F. Theodoro<sup>b</sup>, L. C. Ming<sup>a</sup>, J. C. Cardoso<sup>a</sup> and C. Kurozawa<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Plant Production, Faculdade de Ciências Agronômicas, São Paulo State University, PO Box 237, 18603-970 Botucatu – SP; and <sup>b</sup>EPAGRI/CEPAF, Fitossanitary Laboratory, 89801-970 Chapecó – SC, Brazil

In 2002 a serious leaf blight was observed on turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) plants grown for bulb multiplication in an experimental field at the Faculdade de Ciências Agronômicas, in Botucatu, State of São Paulo, Brazil. Affected leaves had irregular lesions that later enlarged and coalesced, resulting in part or whole leaf desiccation. Microscopic examination of tissue sections through lesion margins in sterile water revealed bacterial streaming. A mucoid, white bacterium was consistently isolated on King's medium B (King *et al.*, 1954). A single pure culture of the bacterium was examined and was found to be a Gram-negative, rod-shaped, aerobic, oxidase- and catalase-positive, fluorescent bacterium, that utilized asparagine and did not produce a hypersensitive reaction on tobacco leaves (Lelliott & Stead, 1987). The strain was analysed with the MicroLog2 System® (Biolog, Hayward, CA, USA) and identified as *Pseudomonas cichorii* with similarity index of 84.2% and a probability of 100%. Leaves of 8-week-old plants of cv. Açafrão do Norte were inoculated using a toothpick dipped in a bacterial suspension ( $10^8$  cfu mL<sup>-1</sup>). Control plants were inoculated with water.

Disease symptoms were observed on leaves 5 days after inoculation and the inoculated bacterium was re-isolated from lesions. Control plants remained disease-free. Turmeric is not reported as host of *P. cichorii* (Bradbury, 1986). In Brazil this bacterium has previously been reported to cause disease on several cultivated plants (Marques *et al.*, 1994) but this is the first report on turmeric.

## References

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\*E-mail: maringoni@fca.unesp.br

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