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Disease Notes

**First Report of Root Rot of Soybeans Caused by *Corynespora cassiicola* in Wisconsin**

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*Corynespora cassiicola* (Berk. & M. A. Curtis) C. T. Wei was isolated from diseased soybean plants (*Glycine max*) collected in two fields near Racine and Arlington, WI. Plants sampled at seedling emergence (VC), late vegetative (V5), and mid-reproductive (R5) stages exhibited reddish to dark brown longitudinal lesions on the exterior of the tap root extending vertically on the hypocotyl to the soil line, and extensive necrosis of lateral roots. Sample size at each growth stage was 144 plants per site. Roots were surface sterilized in 0.5% sodium hypochlorite for 2 min and sections of symptomatic tissue placed on water agar (12 g/liter) containing 100 μg of streptomycin per ml. Sporulation occurred on lesions and on mycelium that had grown out from the plant tissue onto the water agar following a 2-week incubation at 24°C under fluorescent light (280 μmol s-1 m-2). Incidence of isolation of *C. cassiicola* at both sites was 40% of plants sampled at growth stage VC, 67% at V5, and 78% at R5. Conidia characteristic of *C. cassiicola* were particularly abundant on the surface of necrotic lateral root tissue. Elongated conidia produced on water agar were 151 ± 5 μm × 15 ± 0.5 μm with an average of 13 ± 0.4 cells separated by hyaline pseudosepta (1). To confirm pathogenicity, a 1-cm lateral slice into each of four 5-day-old soybean seedling roots was made and a plug of agar taken from the margin of a colony of *C. cassiicola* grown on potato dextrose agar was placed in each wound and incubated for 14 days at 24°C in a growth chamber. Symptoms similar to those of diseased field plants were observed and *C. cassiicola* was reisolated from all plants inoculated with *C. cassiicola;* all controls treated with agar alone had no symptoms and *C. cassiicola* was recovered from none of the noninoculated controls. This is the first report of root rot caused by *C. cassiicola* on soybean in Wisconsin.

*Reference*: (1) W. L. Seaman and R. A. Shoemaker. Can. J. Bot. 43:1461, 1965.