

# *Cylindrocladium pteridis* Leaf Spot of Apricot Tree in The State of Para, Brazil

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## RESUMO

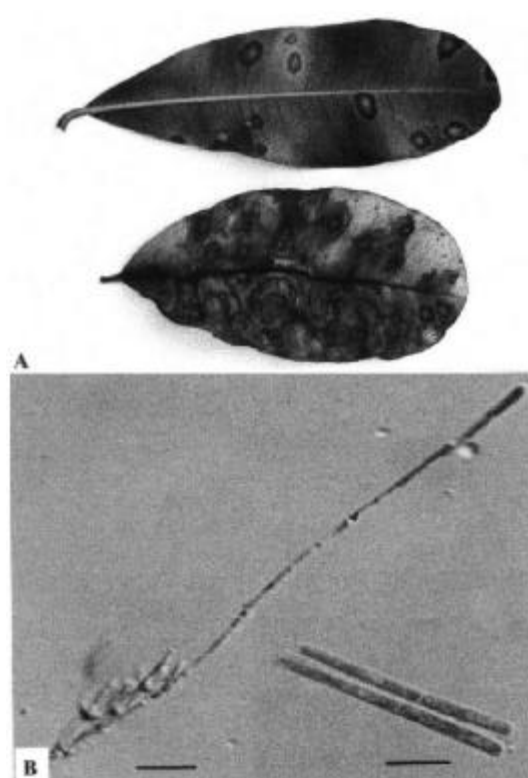
**Mancha foliar em abricó causada por *Cylindrocladium pteridis***  
Uma severa doença causada por *Cylindrocladium pteridis* em abricó

(*Mammea americana*) foi detectada pela primeira vez no estado do Pará, Brasil. O fungo foi isolado em laboratório e sua patogenicidade confirmada

The apricot (*Mammea americana* L.) is a fruit-bearing tree grown throughout the entire Amazon region, especially in the state of Para, hence the name abricó-of-Pará (Cavalcante. Frutas Comestíveis da Amazônia, 1996). The fruits are used in salads, and in the forms of liquor, jelly and compote, all which keep the taste and flavor for long periods of time. The bark latex and the seed powder of apricot are reported to have an insecticidal effect that efficiently control of ticks, other insects, and animal parasites. Its wood tannins are used in the leather industry (Coral. O Abriquiteiro, uma opção de investimento para o Estado do Pará. Boletim Técnico, SAGRI, 1998). In April 2002, during a routine plant pathological inspection of orchards in Marituba, PA, a generalized attack of a leaf spot disease was observed. Small light brown leaf spots, surrounded by a dark brown halo eventually resulted in the blight of the entire leaf (Figure 1 A) and defoliation of the trees.

Isolations were made from the lesions by cutting tissues fragments from the lesion margins, which after disinfections in 2% sodium hypochlorite for 1 min and washing in sterile water, were placed on 2% water agar. After a seven-day incubation at  $26 \pm 2$  °C, the fungal growth showed morphometric characteristics of *Cylindrocladium pteridis* Wolf (telemorph *Calonectrica pteridis* Crous *et al.*). The conidiophores are penicillate, with clavate vesicle and the conidia are cylindrical, hyaline, uniseptate,  $65-76 \times 4.6-5.5 \mu\text{m}$  (mean  $70 \times 4.9 \mu\text{m}$ ) (Figure 1B). For the pathogenicity tests, a 5 mm mycelial disc was placed on healthy apricot seedling leaves, while the PDA discs without the fungus served as control. All seedlings were placed in a moist chamber for 72 h. Symptoms similar to the natural infection appeared on the leaves five days after inoculation while the control seedlings remained healthy. The fungus was reisolated from the lesions. *Cylindrocladium pteridis* has been reported from Brazil causing lesions on aciculae of *Pinus caribea* Morelet var. *hondurensis* (Senecl.) W.H.G. Barret & Golfari (Hodges *et al.* Brasil Florestal 6:8. 1975), in *Coccoloba nucifera* L. (Silva & Souza. Fitopatologia bras. 6:515. 1981;

Ponte & Silveira Filho. Fitopatologia bras. 22:67. 1997; Trindade *et al.* Fitopatologia bras. 23:412. 1998), in *Mauritia flexuosa* L. (Silva. Fitopatologia bras. 21:523. 1996) and in *Eucalyptus* spp. (Ferreira *et al.* Fitopatologia bras. 17:226. 1992). No previous report was found in the literature regarding the occurrence of *C. pteridis* and symptoms of the foliar lesions on apricot; thus this is the first record of the pathogen on apricot in Brazil.



**FIG. 1 - *Cylindrocladium pteridis* on abricó (*Mammea americana*):** A- Leaf spot disease; B- Conidia, and conidiophores, and fungi vesicle. Bar= 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .