

## Occurrence of *Fusarium moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* on pineapple in Bolivia.

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Pineapple fruits and slips, cultivar Red Spanish, collected in the Region de Tajibos, Departamento de Santa Cruz, Bolivia, were sent for analysis at the Plant Pathology Laboratory of the Institut de Recherches sur les Fruits et Agrumes (IRFA)/Centre de Coopération International en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France, in October 1991. Infection in the slip was represented by a lesion in the stem showing a brown discoloration; the bases of the leaves attached to the infected area of the stem were also infected and a gum like substance exsuded from the infected tissue. The infected fruit showed gum exsudation from the infected fruitlets that were in a lower level in comparison with the surrounding health ones; internally the flesh, in the corresponding area, was full of gum. These symptoms are similar to those incited by *Fusarium moniliforme* Sheld. var. *subglutinans* WR. and RG., the causal agent of the pineapple fusariosis (2). *F. moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* was consistently isolated from diseased tissue obtained whether from infected stem, leaf base or fruit and plated on potato-dextrose-agar. Pathogenicity was tested on tissue culture pineapple plantlets, cultivar Queen, that have been kept under growth chamber conditions, 26 to 28°C and 80% relative humidity, for one month before inoculation (3). Plantlets were wounded at their bases with an apparatus consisting of a 1 mm diameter stainless needle, the blunt end of which protruded 3 mm from a rubber block. Wounded plantlets were dipped, for 3 minutes, in a spore suspension ( $10^5$  conidia/ml) of one of the *F. moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* isolates, and repotted (1). Control plantlets were wounded but not inoculated. All plants were maintained under greenhouse conditions, 25 to 30°C. Two months after inoculation the plantlets were inspected for disease development; lesion was observed in the stem and bases of leaves in all inoculated pineapple plantlets and *F. moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* was reisolated from those plantlets. No symptoms were observed in wounded but not inoculated control plantlets. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of *Fusarium moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* on pineapple in Bolivia.

### REFERENCES

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