

**MORPHOLOGICAL AND GROWTH VARIATIONS OF  
COLLETOTRICHUM ISOLATES ASSOCIATED WITH ANTHRACNOSE  
DISEASE OF BANANA**

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Anthrachnose is a highly destructive post-harvest disease of banana caused by the fungal pathogen *Colletotrichum musae*. The present study was conducted to determine the growth and morphological variations among *Colletotrichum* spp. associated with anthracnose disease of banana. Sixteen *Colletotrichum* isolates, including *C. musae* which were isolated from a range of banana cultivars showing typical anthracnose symptoms and collected from different locations were used for the study. Colony characteristics, growth rate, spore dimensions and sensitivity to fungicides (*in vitro*) were used to determine morphological variations of the fungal isolates. Out of the sixteen *Colletotrichum* isolates, four isolates were identified as *C. gleosporioides* and another four were identified as *C. acutatum* based on colony and spore morphology. Colony growth rate was highly variable among the tested isolates of *Colletotrichum* and the highest growth rate was shown by *C. musae*. Recommended dosage of the fungicide Homai (Thiophanate-methyl 50% + Thiram 30% WP) completely inhibited the mycelial growth of all isolates tested *in vitro*. However, the recommended dosage of Daconil (Chlorothalonic 500g/L) did not completely control any of the isolates of *Colletotrichum* tested under *in vitro* conditions. The findings revealed that morphological and growth variations exist among the *Colletotrichum* isolates recovered from anthracnose developed-banana fruits.