

## Leaf Spot Disease of Mopane in India

N L Vyas

Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Bikaner— 334 002 India

*Colophospermum mopane* [(Kirk Benth) Kirk et J. Le'ou], a drought hardy multipurpose fodder and fuel leguminous tree was introduced into the Indian subcontinent about 15-16 years back from Zimbabwe. This tree thrives well in xeric habitat and can withstand frost. The leaves have characteristic of retaining their nutritional value for fostering agricultural crops and animals even after senescence. It is also very effective in sand dune stabilisation because of its thicker branching and dense foliage. This is very effective in binding the soil particles on account of its rooting pattern and in forming soil crust to check the movement of sand.

A perusal of literature (Bilgrami *et al.* 1979, 1981) reveals that the plant does not suffer from any major fungal diseases. However a study undertaken between December 1991 to February 1992 on 8-10 year old plants growing at the Regional Research Station, CAZRI, Bikaner, reveals that older leaves bear scattered lesions with yellow circular boundary, spots coalesce to form bigger coffee coloured spots and finally the whole leaf becomes dry and drops from the plant. On microscopic examination

as well as repeated isolations of the same fungus from diseased part of leaf on potato dextrose agar medium, it was found that the disease is caused by a fungus, *Cercospora canescens* Ellis and Mart.

The pathogen gave the positive pathogenicity test on the same host. *C. canescens* has been reported to infect *Vigna sinensis* (Singh 1968).

The author is thankful to the Director, CAZRI for providing laboratory facilities and to Curator, Division of Mycology, IARI, New Delhi for identification.

### References

- Bilgrami KS, Jammaluddin & Rizvi MA 1979 *Fungi of India*, Vol. I. Today and Tomorrow Printer and Publisher, New Delhi
- Bilgrami KS, Jammaluddin & Rizvi MA 1981 *Fungi of India*, Vol. II. Today and Tomorrow Printer and Publisher, New Delhi
- Singh RS 1968 *Cercospora canescens* on leaves of *Vigna sinensis* PPH. p. No. 127. August, 8

(Received December 1992 Accepted March 1993)