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A serious blight disease of tendu in Amarkantak forest beds of south Shahdol

(blight/tendu/*Diospyros melanoxydon*)

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ABSTRACT A severe blight disease of tendu (*Diospyros melanoxydon* Roxb.) caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Sacc. has been reported here in. The disease is characterised by dark brown necrotic lesions which increased rapidly during rainy season causing decay and death of entire growing tips and newly formed leaves. The disease accounts for considerable losses in the regeneration of tendu trees. A brief account of the histopathology of the disease has also been discussed.

Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxydon* Roxb.) is one of the most important plants found growing abundantly in the forests of Madhya Pradesh including south Shahdol region. The leaves are used to make 'Bidi' and 'Hokka' for smoking. During the survey of south Shahdol forest region a severe blight disease was observed in August - September 1990 causing considerable losses in the regeneration of tendu plants. The infection started from the margin and tips of the leaves extending rapidly downwards. In early stages spots were developed, small and brown in colour on the upper surface of the leaves which spread rapidly and finally turned dark associated with wrinkling or curling and

cracking of leaves. During high humidity the entire growing tips (off shoots) rotted and several minute, pin head-like acervuli of the fungus appeared in the central necrotic region. Microscopic examination of the diseased samples of tendu leaves collected from various forest beds of Amarkantak region (south Shahdol) as well as isolation indicated association of *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz.) Sacc¹. Conidia were harvested by flooding petridishes having 5 to 7 days old culture with sterile distilled water containing Tween 80 (0.05 ml/50 ml). Pathogenicity of the fungus was confirmed using detached leaf technique².

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Reference

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