# Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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# Coconut seedling basal stem break (069)

Photo 1. Toadstools of *Marasmiellus cocophillus* growing from the junction of petiole and coconut husk.

Photo 2. Little-leaf symptom on a seedling planted out in the field, associated with infection by *Marasmiellus cocophillus* in the nursery.

## Summary


- Narrow distribution. East Africa, Solomon Islands. Hosts are coconuts and grasses.
- In the nursery: older leaves die early, white fungal threads and toadstools grow between leaves and seednut. Root decay. In the field: root decay causes little-leaf but, later, palms recover (Solomon Islands). In East Africa, bole rots and death occurs.
- Spread by spores; East Africa, root-to-root contact, wounds.
- Impact uncertain: only one outbreak in Solomon Islands. In East Africa, the situation became confused when a lethal phytoplasma disease was reported from the same area, challenging the fungal nature of the disease.
- Cultural control: in nursery: weed; spacing (>1m).
- Chemical control: trim nuts, drench in tridemorph.


## Common Name

Coconut seedling basal stem break (Solomon Islands), lethal bole rot (the name given to the disease caused by *Marasmiellus cocophilus* in Kenya and Tanzania).

## Scientific Name

*Marasmiellus cocophilus*


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