



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

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### Coconut thread blight (167)



Photo 1. Coconuts growing in the high rainfall interior of Malaita, Solomon Islands, showing early infection of thread blight, *Corticium penicillatum*, on older leaves, mostly at the ends.



Photo 2. Severe infection of thread blight, *Corticium penicillatum*, over most leaves of a group of coconuts in a high rainfall area of Malaita, Solomon Islands. Cloud cover is high, as is rainfall, and the coconuts are growing at the bottom of a valley, with a river to the right.



Photo 3. Threads of the fungus *Corticium penicillatum* along the midrib of a coconut leaf causing rots at the base of the leaflets.



Photo 4. Extensive damage along the entire leaf of a coconut frond by thread blight, *Corticium penicillatum*, as seen from the underside.



Photo 5. The central part of this coconut leaf is damaged by thread blight, *Corticium penicillatum*. The leaflets appear dead near the midrib, but parts beyond this, towards the tips, are still green.

### Summary

- Narrow. Southeast Asia, Oceania. On coconut. Usually, a minor disease. More severe in wet areas of the interior of some Pacific islands.
- Threads of the fungus in patches on the underside of leaflets of older fronds, often at the ends, causing rots near the mid-rib.

- Spread is thought to be by spores; also, by contact between leaflets.
- Cultural control: avoid shade, or planting in forests; use wide spacing (normal is 7.5x7.5 m) or intercrops; if planting on slopes, make sure they face the morning sun so that leaves dry rapidly; cut out rots and burn.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

## Common Name

Coconut thread blight

## Scientific Name

*Corticium penicillatum*

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Photos 3&4 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

