



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coffee thread blight (199)



Photo 1. White thread-like strands of the fungus, *Pellicularia koleroga*, on the underside of coffee leaves.



Photo 2. Threads of the fungus, *Pellicularia koleroga*, attached to the leaves of coffee (centre) having killed the leaves.

Summary

- Worldwide. In the tropics. On coffee, black pepper, capsicum, citrus, mahogany, tea. Sometimes an important and destructive disease.
- Mats of fungus, white at first, on underside of leaves and twigs. Leave blacken, die and fall or held in place by dark threads. Dieback may occur.
- Cultural control: prune branches 30 cm below the affected part, and burn cuttings; reduce shade levels.
- Chemical control: if needed use copper.

Common Name

Thread blight, koleroga disease, black rot.

Scientific Name

Pellicularia koleroga. The fungus is also known as *Corticium koleroga*, which is the name of the sexual state of the fungus. The name *Pellicularia koleroga* probably includes a number of species.

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Photos 1&2 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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