

Kangkong leaf spot (206)

Common Name

Kangkong leaf spot

Scientific Name

Cercospora ipomoeae; also recorded as *Cercospora bataticola*.

Distribution

Unknown. It is recorded from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, Samoa, and Solomon Islands (on beach morning-glory, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*). It is also recorded from French Polynesia and Palau on kangkong, *Ipomoea aquatica*.

Hosts

Ipomoea aquatica, and common on *Ipomoeae pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis* (a morning glory common on the sea shore). Other hosts are sweetpotato (reported from India), and species of *Convolvulus* and *Merremia*.



Photo 1. Leaf spot on kangkong (*Ipomoea aquatica*) caused by *Cercospora ipomoeae*.

Symptoms & Life Cycle

Circular to irregular leaf spots, up to 5 mm diameter, light brown with dark brown or black borders on the upper surface, grey on the lower surface, with yellow haloes (Photo 1). The centres of the spots sometimes fall out.

The spores occur mostly on the spots on the underside of the leaf, and are spread by wind or splashing rain.

Impact

The fungus that causes the leaf spots mainly damages old leaves, so it is unlikely that it is of economic importance.

Detection & inspection

Look for small spots with dark margins and broad yellow haloes on the older leaves. Look for the characteristic pale-brown to whitish-grey centres of the spots as they age.

Management

It is unlikely that this disease is of economic importance, especially as the fungus infects the older leaves, and it is the younger ones that are used as a vegetable.

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Information from O'Sullivan J et al. (undated) Sweetpotato DiagNotes: A diagnostic key and information tool for sweetpotato problems.

(<https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/sweetpotato/key/Sweetpotato%20DiagNotes/Media/Html/TheProblems/DiseasesFungal/CercosporaLeafSpot/Cercospora%20leaf%20spot.htm>). Photo 1 Kohler F, et al. (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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