

# Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

## Capsicum (chilli) anthracnose (177)

### Summary

- Widespread distribution. On capsicum and chilli, and other kinds of vegetables (e.g., tomato), root crops (e.g. yam), and fruit trees (e.g., papaya, mango). There are three common species on capsicum with similar symptoms. An important disease.
- Fungal spots mostly occur on fruits about to ripen. Sunken yellow spots, darkening in wet weather with pink spore masses in rings; later, turning black.
- Spread is in wind-driven rain, and water splash; survival is in crop debris, weeds, 'volunteers', seed, other crops.
- Cultural control: treat seed in hot water at 52°C for 30 mins; remove seedlings in nursery with spots; weed; plough in or collect and burn plant debris after harvest; 3-year crop rotation, avoiding related crops; tolerant varieties.
- Chemical control: use sprays of copper or mancozeb, from time of flowering.

### Common Name

Capsicum anthracnose

### Scientific Name

*Colletotrichum* species, most often *Colletotrichum acutatum*, *Colletotrichum capsici* (possibly the same as *Colletotrichum dematium*) and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (the sexual state is *Glomerella cingulata*).



Photo 1. Large spots on capsicum caused by *Colletotrichum* species. Note the rings inside the spot giving it a 'target-like' appearance. The tiny whitish dots in the spot are the spore masses of the fungus.



Photo 2. Large lesion of anthracnose, *Colletotrichum* species distorting shape of fruit.



Photo 4. Dark, merging spots on the surface of chillies caused by *Colletotrichum* sp. The fruit in the foreground (left) has completely shriveled due to infection.



Photo 5. Multiple infections of *Colletotrichum* species. on a chilli fruit.



Photo 3. Multiple spots on capsicum caused by *Colletotrichum* species, typical of infection by this fungus.



Photo 6. Sunken spots on chillies caused by *Colletotrichum* sp. Note that on the

fruit, second from left, the spot has turned black as the dark hairs of the fungus develop



Photo 7. Multiple infections of anthracnose, *Colletotrichum* species, showing light pink areas on the spots where spore masses have developed.



Photo 8. Spores masses of *Colletotrichum acutatum* on avocado.



Photo 9. *Colletotrichum capsici* rot on eggplant.



Photo 10. Large *Colletotrichum capsici* rot on eggplant showing fruiting bodies in concentric rings.



Photo 11. Dark spots, many enlarging and joining together, of mango anthracnose, *Glomerella cingulata*. The fungus infects the skins and later develops in storage. Orange-pink spore masses develop in the centres of these areas (**see Fact Sheet no. 09**).

AUTHORS Zhong-Ming Sheu, Jaw-Fen Wang & Grahame Jackson

Information from *Diseases of fruit crops in Australia* (2009), Editors, Tony Cooke, et al. CSIRO Publishing; and from Eric McKenzie (2013) *Colletotrichum acutatum* (Photo 8), *Colletotrichum capsici* (Photos 9&10) and *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Photo 11): PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photos 1&2 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji. Photos 3-5 AVRDC, The World Vegetable Centre. Photos 6 Than PP, et al. (2008) Chili anthracnose disease caused by *Colletotrichum* species. *J Zhejiang Univ Sci B*. 9(10): 764Ð778. Photo 8 *Colletotrichum acutatum*, Photos 9&10 *Colletotrichum capsici*.

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