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Taro (Leptosphaerulina) leaf spot (318)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On taro, legumes, and many other vegetables, and weeds. A fungal disease of minor importance.
- Associated with leaf spots or dead areas on a number of hosts, e.g., leaf spots on pepper (capsicum), a target spot on beans, leaf spots and corm rots on taro. On alfalfa, tan leaf spots are surrounded by brown margins, giving an 'eyespot', sometimes with a yellow halo.
- Spread in rain and wind, and possibly seedborne.
- Cultural control: generally no recommendation; however, on alfalfa in the USA, *lepto* leaf spot is managed by early harvests; avoiding leaving cut plants in the field; crop rotations avoiding forage legumes for 2 years; and resistant varieties.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Taro (Leptosphaerulina) leaf spot. CABI gives the preferred common name as soyabean leaf spot. In the USA, it causes alfalfa *lepto* leaf spot. Alfalfa is a forage legume.

Scientific Name

Leptosphaerulina trifolii. Previously known as *Sphaerulina trifolii* and *Leptosphaerulina briosiana*.

Photo 1. Leaf spots on taro, white, some merging, others falling out, caused by *Leptosphaerulina trifolii*.

Photo 2. Leaf spots on taro, caused by *Leptosphaerulina trifolii*.

Photo 3. Leaf spots on taro, on the underside of the leaf, caused by *Leptosphaerulina trifolii*.

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Information from Carmichael A, *et al*. (2008) TaroPest: an illustrated guide to pests and diseases of taro in the South Pacific. ACIAR Monograph No. 132, 76 pp. (https://lrd.spc.int/about-lrd/lrd-project-partners/taropest). Photo 1 Fred Brooks, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Bugwood.org. Photos 2&3 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Leptosphaerulina trifolii*: PaDIL - (http://www.padil.gov.au).

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