

Bean (Ascochyta) leaf spot (319)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On wide range of plants, especially beans and other food legumes; also on citrus and capsicum. Minor fungal disease,
- Weak pathogen, requiring wounds from insects or weather to enter leaves and pods.
- Grey to brown spots on leaves, 6-12 mm diameter, with concentric circles; sometimes falling out. Darker spots on pods. Tiny, black, spore-containing sacs on spots, seen with naked eye.
- Spread occurs in wet weather; spores ooze from sacs and blown in wind and rain. Possibly, seed-borne.
- Cultural control: certified seed or treat seed in hot water (50°C for 25-30 minutes); remove volunteers; select well-drained soils; avoid damage by strong winds, and during cultural operations; weed; after harvest, handle beans carefully; collect and burn crop debris; crop rotation.
- Chemical control: probably not needed as wound pathogen; if required, use pyrethrum, or synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Ascochyta spot.

Scientific Name

Boeremia exigua; previously known as *Ascochyta phaseolorum*, and *Phoma exigua*, and many other names. The name now given to the fungus is *Boeremia exigua* var. *exigua*.



Photo 1. Leaf spot of *Ascochyta* spot, *Boeremia exigua* on tobacco.



Photo 2. *Ascochyta* spots on bean leaves, *Boeremia exigua*. The spot on the left shows concentric rings and a dark margin.



Photo 3. Leaf spots of *Ascochyta* spot, *Boeremia exigua*, on common bean. The leaf on the right shows spots with ring patterns.



Photo 4. A spore-containing sac (pycnidia) of *Ascochyta* spot, *Boeremia exigua*.



Photo 5. *Ascochyta* spot, *Boeremia exigua*, on bean pods.

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Information from (including Photos 2&5) *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010), Editors, Denis Persley, et al. CSIRO Publishing; and CABI (2016) *Boeremia exigua* var. *exigua* (leaf spot). Crop Protection Compendium.

(<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/40426>); and from (including Photo 4) McKenzie E (2013) *Boeremia exigua*: PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 1 R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Slide Set R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Howard F. Schwartz Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

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