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Short Communication

Reactions of cowpea to infection by *Macrophomina phaseolina* isolates from leguminous plants in Nigeria

Amusa N.A.^{1*} Okechukwu R.U¹ and Akinfenwa B²

¹ Dept of plant science and applied Zoology Olabisi Onabanjo University Ago- Iwoye, Nigeria.

²PHMD IITA Ibadan, Nigeria

*Corresponding author. E-mail: naamusa@softhome.net

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Abstract

The reaction of cowpea to infection by *Macrophomina phaseolina* isolates, from leguminous plants in Nigeria, was investigated at Ibadan, southwestern Nigeria. *M. phaseolina* isolates obtained from six different leguminous species induced necrotic lesions of varying sizes on two cowpea varieties, IT83D-340 and IT84D-488. Isolate 93-295 from winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonoloteus*) leaf tissues was the most virulent, inducing necrotic lesions of 4.8 mm in diameter on cowpea stem tissues while the smallest necrotic lesion size of 3.2 mm was induced on the same cowpea by isolate 93-52-1. This suggests that cowpea varieties are highly susceptible to *M. phaseolina* isolates from six different legumes. Moreover, the reactions of the two-cowpea varieties to *M. phaseolina* isolates from the six legumes differ significantly. This suggests that differences exist in the susceptibility of cowpea varieties to the pathogen.

Key words: *Macrophomina phaseolina*, pathogenicity, leguminous plant, cowpea diseases, southwestern Nigeria.

