SHORT COMMUNICATION

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New leaf spot disease of bael (*Aegle marmelos* Correa) caused by *Alternaria alternata* (Fr.) Keissler from Uttar Pradesh

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Bael (*Aegle marmelos* Correa) is one of the most utilitarian medicinal plants of India, it grows under adverse agro-climatic conditions. In the ancient medical Aurvedic treatise Charaka Samhita every part of this tree, stem, bark, root, leaves and fruits at all stage of maturity have medicinal merits and have been used as remedy for a long time.

Alternaria alternate species is responsible for causing leaf spot disease in bael (*Aegle marmelos)*. Symptoms initially started from leaf margin and tip of leaves which are irregular and light brown in colour, later converted into dark brown to grey. In severe condition several spots coalepsce to form large necrotic spots and covers large area.

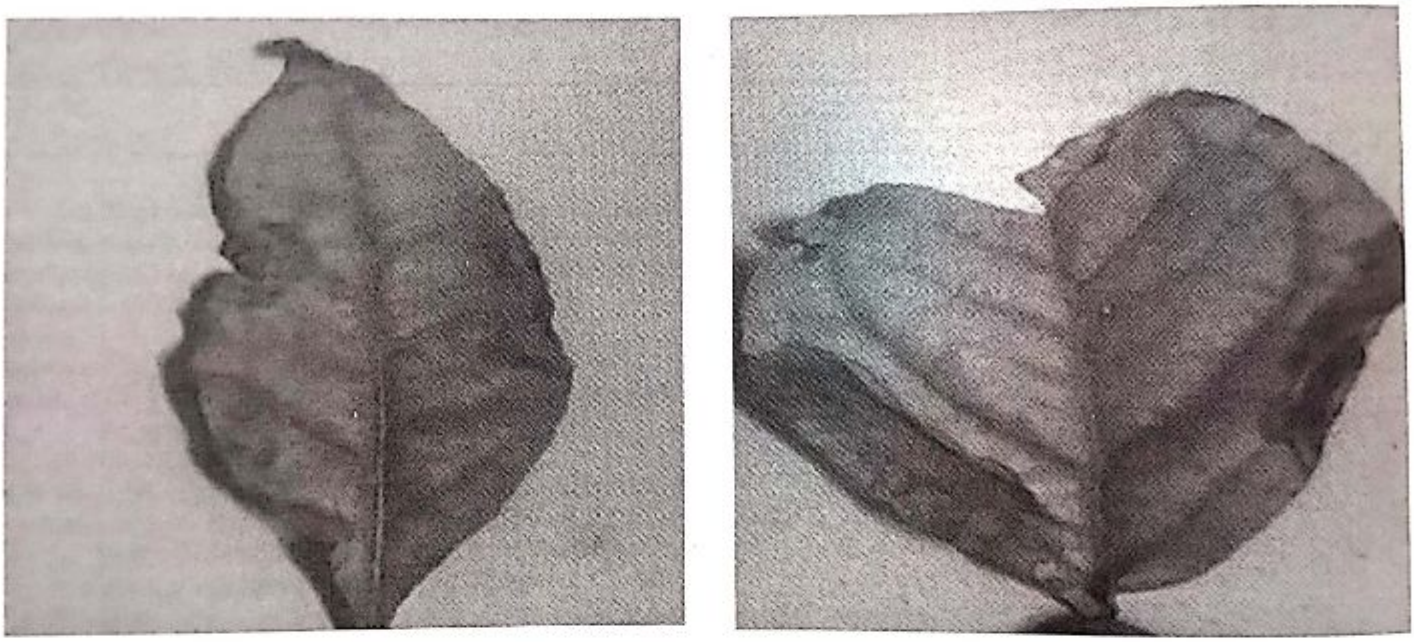

Fig. 1: Bael leaves infected with *Alternaria alternata*

Alternaria alternata

The conidia are dark brown or olive brown in colour, short beaked, borne in chain, oval shaped with 3-5 transverse septa. The pathogen isolated on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) media. The fungus produced branched septate, brownish mycelia. Conidiophores simple, olive brown, septate, variable in length with terminal conidia, which were solitary or in short chains. Conidial characteristics from culture were similar to the conidia isolated from infected plants. The organism was isolated, purified, tested their pathogenicity and identified as A. alternata and the identification was conformed by the ITCC (Indian Type Culture Collection), Divison of Plant Pathology, IARI New Delhi with Id No. 9558.14

Review of literature shows that very little work have been done on this crop. Few fungal foliar diseases caused by *Myrothecium roridum* and *A. alternata* at nursery stage (Harsh *et al.*, 1989). This is the first report of *A. alternata* on *Aegle marmelos* Correa from U.P., India.

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Corrigendum

The paper entitled, "Example varieties for DUS testing in muskmelon (Cucumics melo L)" by B.R. Choudhary, S.Pandey, E.S. Rao, S. Kumar and S. K. Sharma published in Vol. 9 pages 71-76 has been withdrawn due to technical reasons.