First report of *Chamaedorea cataractarum* (Cat palm) wilt caused by *Fusarium solani* in Pakistan

Imran Ul Haq¹ · Siddra Ijaz² · Anjum Faraz¹ · Nabeeha Aslam Khan¹ · M. Zunair Latif¹ · M. Kaleem Sarwar¹ · Bukhtawar Nasir²

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Chlorosis on rachis followed by partial to complete wilting was observed in nurseries and landscape areas on *Chamaedorea cataractarum* Mart., an important perennial ornamental plant (Broschat et al. 2014). Symptomatic leaf samples were disinfected, sliced and plated aseptically onto PDA medium and incubated at 26 °C. A purified culture was obtained using single spore technique and appeared as a white to cream colony with white, sparse, cottony mycelium. Phialides were long, cylindrical, monophialides arising from conidiophore. The size of each micro and macro-conidia was measured based on 30 random selections. Macroconidia were $(48.9 \pm 2.6 \times 5.8 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m})$ falacate, with 3–5 septations while, microconidia $(7.5 \pm 0.4 \times 4.7 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m})$ were oval with 0–2 septations. Based on the morpho-cultural characters the isolated pathogen was identified as *Fusarium solani* (Mart.) Sacc. (Leslie and Summerell 2008). For molecular identification, internal transcribed spacer (ITS)-rDNA region and the transcription elongation factor 1- α were directly sequenced with the primers ITS1-F/ITS4 and EF-1/EF-2, respectively (European Genomic, USA). Consensus sequences (GenBank accession No. MH571420 for ITS and MK301245 for TEF1- α) were queried against FUSARIUM-ID, Fusarium MLST and NCBI databases which showed 100% simi-

larity with the strains of *F. solani* complex (O'Donnell et al. 2015). Koch's postulates were accomplished by applying *F. solani* spore suspension (1×10^6 concentration) to the roots of six-month-old plants while distilled water was applied to the control plants. Yellowing of leaves started three weeks post-inoculation while chlorosis followed by partial or complete plant wilting appeared three months later as observed during survey. The control plants remained healthy. The characterized culture was deposited (strain No. FMB0135) at fungal molecular biology lab-culture collection (FMB-CC-UAF), Pakistan and the details of the strain is available at the global catalogue of microorganisms (<http://gcm.wfcc.info/>). To our knowledge this is the first report of *F. solani* causing wilt of Cat palm in Pakistan.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Declaration of conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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✉ Siddra Ijaz
siddraijazkhan@yahoo.com

¹ Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Pakistan

² Centre of Agricultural Biochemistry and Biotechnology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Pakistan