First report of Japanese plum anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum fioriniae* in China

Yiping Cui¹ · Aitian Peng¹ · Xiaobin Song¹ · Xia Chen¹ · Jinfeng Ling¹

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Japanese plum (*Prunus salicina* Lindl.) is widely cultivated in southern China. In September 2019, anthracnose-like lesions were observed on tender leaves on 60% of trees in a Japanese plum farm of 4 ha in Shaoguan city, Guangdong province of China. At first, lesions were brown and point-sized on leaf tip and margins, then enlarged to light sunken brown spots. Then, the lesions enlarged to irregular lesions to the center of leaves, and finally the diseased leaves became distorted, wrinkled, and wilt. Symptomatic tissues were surface-disinfected with 70% ethanol for 30 s, 2% NaClO for 30 s, dried, and plated onto potato dextrose agar (PDA). The colonies on PDA were light pink to pink on the upper side and cottony at first, then thin with aerial mycelium containing slimy masses of orange conidia. Conidia were hyaline, smooth-walled, aseptate, straight, cylindrical with both ends acute, one round and one slightly acute, and ranged from 8.2 to 18.5 μm ($n=30$) in length and 3.2 to 6.9 μm ($n=30$) in width. Based on morphology and cultural characteristics, the fungus was initially identified as *Colletotrichum fioriniae* (Marcelino & Gouli) Pennycook (Damm et al. 2012). The ITS and β -tubulin 2 (TUB2) regions of rDNA of a representative isolate 1-1 were amplified using the primers ITS1/ITS4 and T1/Bt2b, respectively, and sequenced (GenBank accession Nos: ITS, MW159694; TUB2, MW172219) (White et al. 1990; O'Donnell and Cigelnik 1997). BLAST analyses showed 99% sequence identity with *C. fioriniae* in NCBI database (MN842794 for ITS, MN520490 for TUB2). To verify the pathogenicity of this fungus, an inoculation experiment was carried out in a greenhouse at 28 °C. Five

young Japanese plum plants were sprayed with a conidial suspension (10^6 conidia/ml) from the representative isolate 1-1. Control plants were sprayed with sterile water. The symptoms of the disease were observed 12 days after the inoculation. All of the inoculated plants showed typical anthracnose symptoms described above, while control plants were symptomless. Fungal cultures isolated from inoculated plants were identified as *C. fioriniae*. To our knowledge, this is the first report of Japanese plum anthracnose caused by *C. fioriniae* in China (Farr and Rossman 2020).

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✉ Aitian Peng
pengait@163.com

¹ Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of High Technology for Plant Protection, Plant Protection Research Institute Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Guangzhou, China