

A New Anthracnose Disease of Lucky Bamboo

The discovery of
Colletotrichum dracaenophilum
in North America

The host - Lucky bamboo

- Aka 'Belgian evergreen'; Host name : *Dracaena sanderiana*
- Extremely popular in Asian theme interior decorating
- Plant is very hardy for interiorscaping applications
- Large volume imported from China over last several years
- Pathogen probably introduced in this time frame

The pathogen

- Fungal pathogen - *Colletotrichum dracaenophilum*
- Water-splashed conidial inoculum
- Recently segregated out of the complex of *Colletotrichum* spp. that infect Agavaceae; *Mycol. Res*, 110: 1395-1408 (2006).
- Geographic range - China, Bulgaria-2007 (PD 92:173), Dominican Republic and Florida-2008.

*Colletotrichum
dracaenophilum* on stem of
Lucky Bamboo



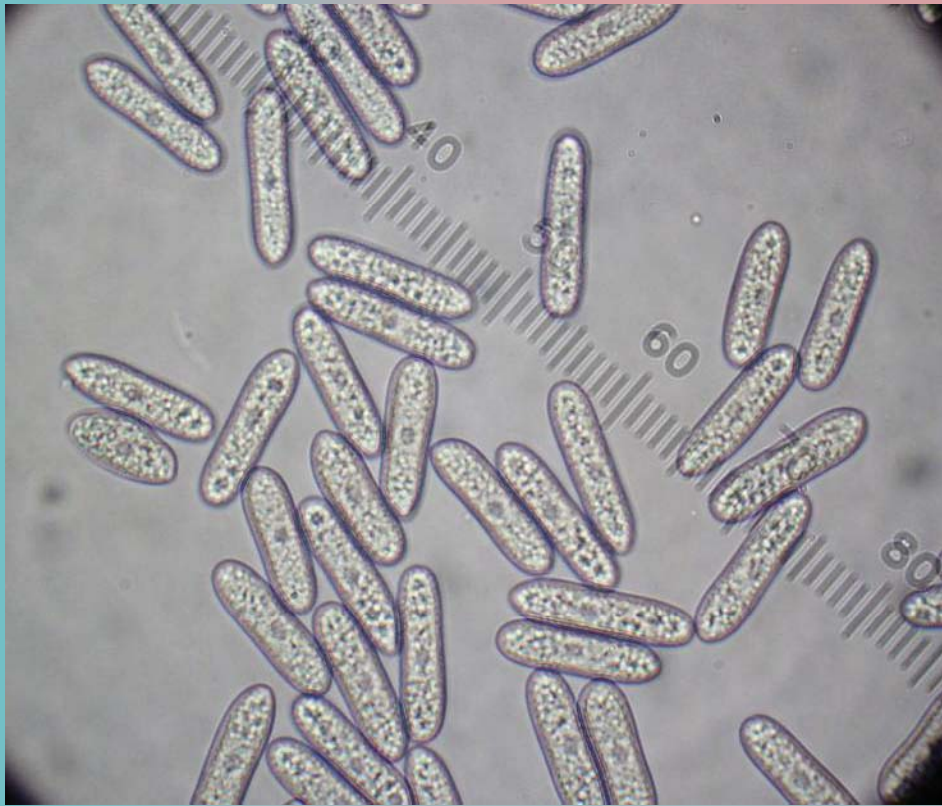
Symptoms are relatively mild at first and apparently can remain static for some time. Look for slightly raised brown patches on the stem, surrounded by a maroon-colored border.



Advanced Symptoms of *C. dracaenophilum*



Comparison of the conidia of two
Colletotrichum spp. found on
Dracaena sanderiana



C. dracaenophilum



C. gloeosporioides

Consequences - Significance

- Another example of the international phytosanitary system being overwhelmed by volume
- Commodity is treated much like a product for consumption; a potted plant, not outplanted into environment much
- What is host range of *C. dracaenophilum*?
- Probably much too late for any meaningful regulatory response
- Maintain vigilance to avoid any more introductions, stop further spread