

Resistance of Banana cv. Seeni to Anthracnose disease

D Weerahewa¹ and N K B Adikaram²

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences,
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale

²Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya

Anthracnose (*Colletrotrichum musae*) is the most important disease in almost every banana growing regions and accounts for most of the postharvest losses of banana. However, Artificial inoculation studies indicated that there was a significantly less anthracnose disease development in banana cv. Seeni (R3x5 R4x5) compared to other banana cultivars: kolikuttu, embul and anamalu. The cultivar has also shown resistance to panama and bunchy top diseases. The rate of respiration was also less cv. Seeni (30mgCO₂/Kghr) compared to Embul, which is more susceptible to anthracnose disease.

TLC Cladosporium bioassay studies indicated the presence of two antifungal compounds (Rf Values 0.22 and 0.87) in immature, healthy banana cv. Seeni. The crude extracts of banana were subjected to MPLC and detected two antifungal compounds with different polarity. Further tests should be performed to identify the structure of these antifungal compounds.