



ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF FUNGI RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAF SPOTS DISEASE OF MANGO (*Mangifera indica* LINNEAUS) IN SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

Zainab, M. B.¹ and Shinkafi, S. A.²

Department of Biological Sciences Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria¹

Department of Biological Sciences Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, Nigeria²

Corresponding author:saadatushinkafi@rocketmail.com

ABSTRACT

A survey was carried out to investigate the incidence of fungal leaf spots disease of mango (*Mangifera indica*) in Sokoto metropolis using random sampling methods. Field survey was carried out in six mango growing areas; Arkilla, Dambuwa, Gagi, Illela, More and permanent site of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Diseased plant leaves were identified using disease symptoms. A total of 125 healthy and diseased leaves were collected using detached leaf technique. The diseased plant leaves were taken to the laboratory for culture, isolation, and identification of pathogens. Plant disease incidence was determined using disease index and severity scale of 0-4 rating. Eleven fungal pathogens were isolated and identified. These included; *Alternaria longipes*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Colletotrichum gloesporioides*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium mangifera*, *Pestalotiopsis mangiferae*, *Phoma mangiferae*, *Phomopsis mangiferae*, *Pseudofusicoccum* spp. and *Rhizopus oryzae*. The incidence of leaf blight was high in Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto with percentage frequency of (56.75%), followed by Dambuwa (45.50%), More (44.48%), Illela (37.00%), Gagi (34.15%) and Arkilla (31.65%). Leaf spots intensity was more influenced by environmental conditions and cultural practices rather than climatic factors in the areas. Also, programs aimed at enlightening the farmers on proper cultural practices and boosting mango yield and reducing pathogen invasion are recommended.

Keywords: Incidence, Fungi, Leaf spot, disease, Mango, Sokoto.

INTRODUCTION

Mango (*Mangifera indica*), locally known as Mangoro (Hausa), Mangolo (Igbo) and Mangoro (Yoruba) in Nigeria is an erect, branched, medium to large-sized tree. The leaves are alternately arranged, evergreen or nearly evergreen (Muhammad and Amusa, 2005). It has a wide crown and inflorescence with numerous flowers (Ugese *et al.*, 2012; Shri, 2013). The tree is cultivated in many tropical and sub tropical regions of the world. Mango fruits vary in shape, size, colour, texture and flavor (Nelson, 2008). Mango is known worldwide as "king of fruits". It belongs to the genus *mangifera* consisting of numerous species of tropical fruiting trees in the flowering plant family Anacardiaceae. It is a large branched, perennial tree, which attains great heights with symmetrical rounded canopy, approximately 30-40 feet tall. Flowers appear in large terminal inflorescence producing fruits. The skin of the fruit may be green, yellow, or red, depending upon the variety of the fruit (Nelson, 2008; Fowomola, 2009; Shri, 2013). The name 'Mango' was derived from Tamil word 'mangkay' or 'man-gay' (Shri, 2013; Martins, 2014). The tree is native to Asia particularly eastern India, Burma, and the Andaman Islands where it spread to the East Africa in the 10th century. The Portuguese introduced it to West Africa in the 16th century (Morton, 1987). Mango came to Nigeria in the 20th century through itinerant merchant missionaries and colonialist and is currently the

integral part of indigenous cropping system (Ugese *et al.*, 2012). The guinea and Sudan zones of Nigeria are credited with producing greater percentage of the fruit in the country. Earlier studies indicated that Agricultural Research Institute in Zaria was the centre where improved mangoes varieties were obtained (Avav and Uza, 2002). Mangoes are grown in eighty-five countries worldwide. Sixty-three of such countries provided more than 1000 metric tons in 1999. Developing countries account for about 98% of the total world production (Yusuf and Salau, 2007). Despite lack of encouragement to large scale production of tropical fruits, Nigeria occupies 8th position in world ranking of mango producing countries as at 2002. This suggests the potential of tropical fruits in the country. Sokoto state occupies 10th position among the main mango producing states in the country which included Jigawa, Plateau, Yobe, Kebbi, Niger, kaduna, Kano, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba, and FCT Abuja (Yusuf and Salau, 2007; FAOSTAT, 2007).

Mango tree vegetation in Sokoto metropolis is under threat by unidentified pathogens. Diseases has rendered its production non attractive to both farmers and home gardeners in the region. So far many works were made by researchers on mango fruits collected from different parts of Sokoto metropolis, but little or no attention is paid to its foliar diseases.

Most of the research carried out on pest and diseases associated with mango in Nigeria were mainly concentrated/limited to humid regions; the southern part of the country with little or no work done in the

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Sokoto State is within the Sudan savanna zone. It is located between latitudes 13^o.35'N to 14^o 0'N and longitudes 4^o E to 6^oE 40". It has the total population of 3,696,999 million (NPC, 2006). The state has borders with the Niger Republic to the north, Zamfara State to the east, and Kebbi State to the south. The research was conducted at Usmanu Danfodiyo University permanent site, Arkilla, Dambuwa, Gagi, Illela and More all within Sokoto metropolis. A Purposive and randomized sampling methods of Okigbo and Osuinde (2003) were used in the survey and isolation of leaf pathogens. Survey of mango tree diseases were carried out at the Usmanu Danfodiyo

Collection of Diseased Mango Samples

Diseased samples were collected into closed paper envelopes and not plastic bags to avoid creating a micro climate condition for the specimen according to Delhove *et al.* (2013). Diseased leaves collected were sorted into envelopes according to different varieties as identified by the local farmers. The envelopes were identified (i.e., numbered serially 1-25) and the varieties were also stated on each envelop. A minimum of four mango varieties were obtained from each location with the exception of More area (along

Assessment of Incidence and Severity of *Mangifera indica* in the study area.

A systemic field survey of foliar disease of mango was carried out in the six selected mango-growing areas (Usmanu Danfodiyo University permanent site, Arkilla, Dambuwa, Gagi, illela and More) to determine foliar fungal disease frequency of occurrence and severity. Following Awa *et al.* (2012) and Abubakar (2009) methods with slight modification, twenty (20) mango trees in each sampling location were randomly selected. On each tree, five on-tree mango leaves were plucked, examined, and scored. Leaf spots were assessed by modifying the standards that has been in used for the assessment of leaf anthracnose of mango proposed by Awa *et al.* (2012). Scale 0 to 4 was used instead of 1 to 5 where scale 0 represents no leaf lesions/spots 1 represents 1 to 3 lesions, 2 represents 4 to 6 lesions, 3 represents 7 to 15 lesions and 4 where more than 70 per cent of leaf surface is covered with lesions. Disease incidence (percentage of diseased leaves), and disease severity (percentage of area affected on the leaf on average) were then obtained by the following formula:

1. No disease symptoms on leaves (rated zero) .
2. 1-25% of leaf area covered with spots (scored as 1) .
3. 26-50% of leaf area covered with spots (scored as 2) .
4. 51-75% of leaf area covered with spots (scored as 3).
5. 76% or more (scored as 4).

Disease Incidence (D I %) = $x/N \times 100$

OR

D.I (%) = $\frac{\text{No. of infected trees}}{\text{Total number of trees}} \times 100$

northern parts. Anthracnose is presently the most important field and post harvest disease of mango widely distributed in all mango-growing regions of the world (Okigbo and Osuinde, 2003; Stovolt, 2004; Nelson, 2008; Uliwa, 2008; Awa *et al.*, 2012).

University permanent site, Arkilla, Dambuwa, Gagi, More and Illela all within Sokoto metropolis. To determine the frequency of occurrence of diseased mango trees at the study area, at each site, 20 mango trees were randomly selected and inspected. The frequency of occurrence was taken as the number of mango trees affected by the disease expressed as percentage of the total number of mango trees at a location. A visual assessment technique was used with which many plantations were evaluated in a relatively short time as put forward by Okigbo and Osuinde, (2003). Both healthy and diseased leaves were collected randomly without favour for the disease assessment.

Sample collection

Tashan illela /bakin gada) where five varieties were collected. In each envelop, five leaves were randomly plucked and identified (i.e. numbered serially 1-5 and scored/rated based on appearance of spots/lesions on leaf) using a masking tape. A total of 125 leaves were collected from the six locations and were taken to Usmanu Danfodiyo University of Sokoto Herbarium for verification of samples varieties then later to Mycology laboratory of same institution for isolation and identification of the fungal pathogen(s) Delhove *et al.* (2013).

Total number (healthy and infected) trees assessed

x 100

Disease Severity (D S %) = $\frac{\sum (a+b)}{N.Z} \times 100$ (Awa *et al.*, 2012)

OR

D.S (%) = $\frac{\text{Sum of all diseased leaves ratings or scores}}{\text{Total number of leaves examined} \times \text{maximum score}}$

X 100

Where;

$\sum (a+b)$ = Sum of infected/diseased leaves and their corresponding score scale.

N = Total number of sampled trees

Z = Highest/maximum score scale/rating

X = Number of infected/diseased trees (Abubakar, 2009; Awa *et al.*, 2012)

Isolation of fungal Pathogens

At the laboratory, all the eight varieties of mango obtained from the field were sorted separately. Isolation was carried out according to variety and location obtained. Leaves samples collected from Dambuwa and Gagi were not isolated because the varieties obtained from these locations are well represented in all the major mango growing regions surveyed in this research. Leaves with highest score scale from each variety were used for inoculation. Two centimetres of the infected mango leaf tissue were excised with a sterilized razor blade at the point of progression of disease symptom; then surface sterilized by dipping into 70 per cent ethanol solution for 2 minutes. The tissues were then rinsed in three changes of sterilized distilled water and were dropped on sterile paper towels,

allowed to dry before plating them onto PDA (potato dextrose agar) in Petri dishes. A total of 17 petri dishes of PDA media were plated for mango leaf tissue (i.e. the five varieties obtained from More, four varieties each from UDUS permanent site, Arkilla and Illela respectively). These were incubated for 6 days at room temperature (25-28 °C) under light to enhance fungal growth following Okigbo and Osuinde (2003).

Purification

After some days, the plates were inspected to observe the growth of pathogens on the media. Some young mycelium emerging from the tissues were sub cultured on fresh PDA media with the help of a sterile loop to obtain pure isolates of the pathogens. They are checked and transferred on to new PDA media weekly and kept at room temperature (21-25 °C) to maintain pure cultures at all times for correct identification of fungal pathogens. Isolated colonies were sub-cultured into fresh plates until pure cultures were obtained. Pure cultures obtained were identified from each variety by visual examinations and viewing under electronic microscopes.

Identification of foliar fungal pathogens

After three consecutive times of purifying the plates following the method of Saeed (2012). The Plates were inspected again for growth and purity. Some of the pure cultures obtained, on Potato dextrose agar had colonies that were whitish to dark grey with thick to sparse lawns of aerial mycelium when viewed from the top of Petri dishes similar to Awa *et al.* (2012) description and were greenish to orange or dark brown centre bordered by creamy surrounding when viewed from the reverse side of the Petri dish. When viewed under the microscope, conidia were observed to be hyaline; single celled and cylindrical with obtuse ends. The fungus was, identified to be *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. A total of 48 pure cultures were obtained out of which *C. gloeosporioides* had the highest occurrence of 12 plates. Some plates exhibited similarities in morphological growth and were therefore divided into groups. Eleven different groups with similar growth morphologies of isolates within each group were identified and three distinct and morphologically different from any isolate were also identified as *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Pestalotiopsis mangiferae* and *Phomopsis mangiferae*.

A maximum of three pure isolates that have similar morphology were carefully selected from each group of eleven isolates and assumed that they were all the same. They were grouped according to the growth shown (colony characteristics). Purification was done for the various groups to ensure pure isolates were obtained at all the times. Temporary slides from each group of mango leaf isolates were made after carefully selecting the purest and observed under light/electronic microscope. Some unidentified spores were observed to be similar to *Pseudofusicoccum spp.* and were identified as such. A total of eleven pathogens (*Alternaria longipes*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium mangifera*, *Pestalotiopsis mangiferae*, *Phoma mangiferae*, *Phomopsis mangiferae*, *Pseudofusicoccum spp.*, and *Rhizopus oryzae*) were identified and were then described and classified based on conidia and colony

morphology as described by Barnett and Hunter (1998), Ellis and Hermanis (2003), Palvic *et al.* (2008), Guo-yin *et al.* (2013), Nyongesa *et al.* (2015), and Gagkaeva (2008). Stock cultures of all the isolates were maintained on PDA slopes in McCartney bottles at 4°C in the dark.

RESULTS

From the field survey carried out, More area had the largest number of mango tree population with this research estimating the figure at 1,800 (table 1). There are climatic and socio economic factors explaining this reality. The trees are planted on the northern bank of River Rima, which supplies moisture for the most part of the year. On the southern bank of the river lies the city of Sokoto, a sprawling urban centre providing a huge demand for the mango fruits. As further depicted in figure 1, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS) is the environment home to the second largest concentration of mango trees, with this research estimating a total of 580 mango trees in the area (Table 1). Next in importance is Illela where an estimated total of 280 mango trees thrive (Table 1). The remaining areas of Arkilla, Dambuwa and Gagi are home to an estimated total of 110, 65 and 38 trees respectively.

Table 2, shows the disease incidence by location. From the table, it is evident that judging by the two measures of leaf infection (i.e. leaf score and disease severity) UDUS (56.75%) had the highest, followed by Dambuwa (45.50%), More (44.48%), Illela (37.00%), Gagi (34.15%) and Arkilla (31.65%) in that order. The bar graph shown in Figure 1 is also used to support this fact.

Table 3 indicated the number of Fungi isolated from (8) eight different mango varieties and locations.

Plate I and II shows Five (5) days old *C. gloeosporioides* colony on Potato Dextrose Agar plate isolated from cultivar Binta siga of UDUS and ten (10) days old *C. gloeosporioides* colony on PDA plate isolated from cultivar Binta siga of UDUS. The different isolates selected produced similar morphological and cultural growth for the different mango varieties. The morphological and cultural characters (including colours of the colony and mycelia growth) on PDA were observed after a period of 7 days at room temperature of 21- 25 °C. With similarity to description made by Saeed (2012), most of the mango varieties isolated on PDA plates initially develop grayish to whitish zonate colonies in which some later develops colour and acervuli. The colour gradually becomes darker as fungi grow old with time. Plate III indicated the Surface, reverse, and morphology of conidia (under light microscope) of *C. gloeosporioides* isolated from mango leaf (. Binta siga) from More area. From the experiment conducted, 12 isolates out of 48 were identified to be *C. gloeosporioides*. Base on description by Barnett and Hunter (1998) colonies on PDA were whitish to dark grey with thick to sparse lawns of aerial mycelium when viewed from the top of Petri dishes and were greenish to orange or dark brown centre bordered by creamy surrounding when viewed from the reverse side of the Petri dish. When viewed under the microscope, conidia were observed to be hyaline; single celled and cylindrical with obtuse ends

Table 1: Mango tree population by location in Sokoto metropolis

Location	Estimated Mango tree population	Estimated infected Mango Trees
Arkillla	110	25
Dambuwa	65	16
Gagi	38	11
Illela	224	27
More	1800	182
UDUS	580	72

Key: UDUS = Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto

Table 2: Disease Incidence by sampling size

Location	No spot	1-25	26-50	51-75	75-100	Leaf Score	Disease Severity (%)
Arkillla	4	6	5	3	2	1.65	31.65
Dambuwa	0	2	4	3	1	2.30	45.50
Gagi	4	4	6	5	1	1.75	34.15
Illela	10	4	6	2	8	1.80	37.00
More	1	6	6	10	2	2.24	44.48
UDUS	0	3	5	6	6	2.75	56.75
All Locations	19	25	32	29	20	2.05	41.02

Key: UDUS = Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto

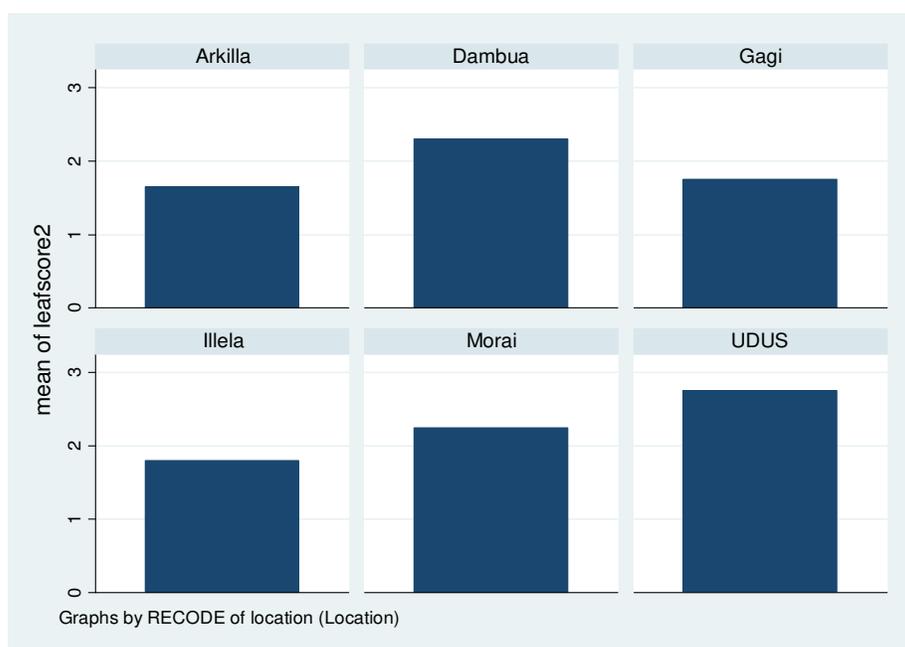


Figure 1: Mean Disease Severity by sampling size.

Table 3: Fungi isolated on the basis of mango varieties and locations

Fungal isolates	Mango variety	Location	Number of Petridishes
<i>Alternaria longipes</i>	Babbar Turmi	Illela	2
	Babbar Turmi	UDUS	1
	Binta siga	UDUS	1
	Binta siga	More	1
	Dankamaru	UDUS	1
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	Dankamaru	Illela	1
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Binta siga	UDUS	1
	Mai bindiga	More	2
	Peter	More	2
<i>Colletotrichum gloeosporioides</i>	Bakin aku	Arkillla	2
	Binta siga	Illela	1
	Binta siga	UDUS	2
	Dan dogo	More	2
	Dankamaru	UDUS	3
	Dankamaru	Illela	2
<i>Fusarium mangiferae</i>	Binta siga	UDUS	2
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Binta siga	More	1
	Mai bindiga	More	3
	Peter	More	2
<i>Pestalotiopsis mangiferae</i>	Dankamaru	More	1
<i>Phoma mangiferae</i>	Bakin aku	UDUS	1
	Binta siga	More	1
	Binta siga	Illela	5
<i>Phomopsis mangiferae</i>	Binta siga	Illela	1
<i>Pseudofusicoccum sp</i>	Binta siga	More	3
<i>Rhizopus oryzae</i>	Dankamaru	Illela	4
			48



Plate I: Five (5) days old *C. gloeosporioides* colony on PDA plate isolated from cultivar Binta siga of UDUS.



Plate II: Ten (10) days old *C. gloesporioides* colony on PDA plate isolated from cultivar Binta siga of UDUS.

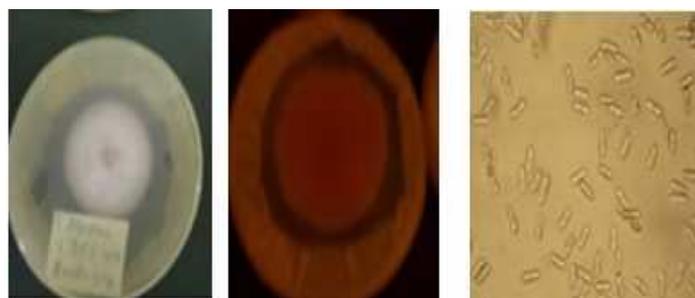


Plate III. Surface, reverse, and morphology of conidia (under light microscope) of *C. gloesporioides* on PDA, isolated from mango leaf (cv. Binta siga) from more.

DISCUSSION

Many studies were made so far on mango fruits collected from different parts of Sokoto metropolis, Nigeria at large including other tropical regions of the world where mango is grown. However, most of the pathogens isolated from this study are known to infest mango fruits. The results of this study however revealed some interesting facts as some pathogens could also infest not only fruits but also leaves. According to Agrios (2005), many pathogens, especially foliar (leaf) pathogens, need a film of water on the plant to begin growth, penetrate the host, and establish infection. This is why wet or humid weather is so important in the development of many fungal and bacterial diseases. The regular water supply from the River Rima to the mango trees at More village seems to explain the observed susceptibility of the trees in that location to these pathogens. Stovolt (2004) similarly stated that conditions favour most diseases especially anthracnose disease.

Mango anthracnose disease caused by *Colletotrichum gloesporioides* had the highest occurrence (Table 1) from the research. *C. gloesporioides* were isolated from all the areas surveyed. Therefore, this could explain why Okigbo and Osuinde (2003), Stovolt (2004), Uliwa (2008), Nelson (2008), and Awa *et al.* (2012), unanimously agreed that anthracnose is presently the most important field and post harvest disease of mango widely distributed in all mango-growing regions of the world.

Phoma mangiferae is the second largest reoccurring pathogen (isolated from Illela, More and UDUS). Saeed (2012) reported that *Phoma* sp. causes phoma blight in mango and can only be observed on matured or old leaves because it is a weak pathogen that invades stress plants. It causes spot that are fully developed and are characterized by dark margin and dull necrotic centre. Okigbo and Osuinde (2003), similarly identified and isolated some leaf spot

pathogens from south-eastern part of Nigeria among which are *Macrophoma mangiferae* and *Pestalotiopsis mangiferae*. Diedhiou *et al.* (2007) also identified *Phoma mangiferae*, *Alternaria* sp. and *Aspergillus niger*, among other pathogens as major causes of brown and black spots on mango leaves. Agrios (2005), further reported that *Phoma* spp. cause numerous diseases of vegetables and other annual plants. They are often present with other weak pathogens.

Fusarium mangifera was isolated only from UDUS (along Kofar Mata). The place is usually dry most time of the year. Iqbal *et al.* (2008) reported that *Fusarium mangifera* is one among many fungi responsible for mango malformation diseases resulting from various biotic and abiotic stresses. Malformation is the most important malady causing colossal losses every year. According to Agrios (2005), *Fusarium* generally causes vascular wilts of vegetables and flowers, herbaceous perennial ornamentals and plantation crops. Most of the wilt causing *Fusarium* fungi belongs to the species *Fusarium oxysporum*. All vascular wilts have certain characteristics in common. The leaves of infected plants or of parts of infected plants lose turgidity, become flaccid and lighter green to greenish yellow, droop, and finally wilt, turn yellow, then brown, and die. Wilted leaves may be flat or curled. Young, tender shoots also wilt and die. Dhoro (2010) similarly reported that *F. oxysporum*, are among the most devastating plant diseases in the world.

Phomopsis diseases appear primarily as cankers that kill twigs and small branches of ornamental shrubs and trees (Agrios, 2005; Diedhiou *et al.*, 2007). In a similar study by Saeed (2012), *Phomopsis* sp. (of the family Diapothaceae) have been associated to also cause leaf spots, cankers, root rots, fruit rots, diebacks, blights, decay and wilts on a broad range of plant hosts including a number of economically important *Phomopsis mangifera* is linked to also cause stem-end rot and dieback in mango.

Pestalotiopsis mangiferae is reported to cause gray leaf spot in mangoes (Saeed 2012). This conforms to the report of Kamil *et al.* (2012) and Okigbo and Osuinde (2003).

Although there are no previous reports of *Pseudofusicoccum* sp. and *Alternaria longipes* and *Rhizopus oryzae* isolations from mango, however, it has been isolated and identified from this study. *Alternaria longipes* was identified and isolated by Guo-yin *et al.* (2013) to be the fungal pathogen causing leaf spot on *Atractylodes macrocephala* the reason according to their findings being that both plant pathogenic and saprophytic species of *Alternaria* may cause leaf spot and blight on numerous plant taxa including vegetables, fruit trees and ornamentals. Therefore from this study, we can establish that *Pseudofusicoccum* sp. and *Alternaria longipes* and *Rhizopus oryzae* could also be the cause of fungal leaf spot on mango.

Aspergillus niger was confirmed by various studies such as Nyongesa *et al.* (2015), Awa *et al.* (2012), Diedhiou *et al.* (2007), Khaskheli *et al.* (2008) among

others implicated these fungi species to be the fungi responsible for postharvest diseases of mango associated with fruit rotting during ripening. Mango leaves could also be affected as the dusty charcoal spores of the black mold which could easily be dispersed by air from infected fruits.

CONCLUSION

Anthrachnose was found prevalent in all the mango-growing areas surveyed, the occurrence and severity was more influenced by environmental conditions and cultural practices rather than climatic factors in the areas. Fruit yield drastically reduced in areas with highest anthracnose disease occurrence and severity, an indication that anthracnose disease phenomenon has negative correlation with fruit yield. This phenomenon was largely influenced by environmental conditions and cultural practices. A combination of resistant varieties, soil fumigation, application of fungicides and so on may reduce but do not eliminate the disease.

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