

# COMUNICACIONES

## Monilia disease of cocoa in Costa Rica

**Sumario.** La enfermedad llamada Monilia causada por el hongo *Monilia roreri* había sido confinada a la parte Noroeste de Suramérica y a una pequeña área de Panamá. En diciembre de 1978, se descubrió un nuevo foco de infección en una pequeña área de Costa Rica, localizada en un triángulo formado por la desembocadura del Río Estrella y las poblaciones de Cahuita y Pandora en la Provincia de Limón, a 9° 45' de latitud Norte y 83° de longitud Oeste.

The cocoa disease known as Monilia pod rot, "ceniza", "helada", and other common names (*Monilia roreri* C y P) has been restricted to north western South America and Panama (6). In 1970 the geographic distribution was restricted to Colombia, western Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama (5, 7); some authors (7) believed that the disease had reached its ecological geographic distribution limits.

TABLE 1.—The increase of Monilia pod rot in fields infected for the first time.

Year	Farm E E Tulinapa		Farm Cacaoteros El Dique	
	Age of trees	% of Monilia	Age of trees	% of Monilia
1971	—	—	3	0.8
1972	1/2	—	4	3.8
1973	1-1/2	0	5	5.0
1974	2-1/2	0	6	40.5
1975	3-1/2	7.3	7	51.5
1976	4-1/2	44.5	8	63.5

Adapted from Barros. (2)

The typical disease symptoms, after the causal organism has made intercellular penetration (8) and mycelia has initiated cellular penetration, appear as a brown spot that enlarges to cover the entire pod, especially if infection occurs during the first months of pod development. A felt-like white mycelia, stroma, grows over the spot under appropriate temperature and humidity conditions. Numerous spores produced over the stroma surface are ash grey or sometimes light brown or cream, occasionally appearing frosty.

Epidemiology data from affected countries (Table 1) indicate that sporadic incidence is followed by low level infection and then an abrupt increase to epidemic levels (2). This process requires one to several years, especially in new plantations distant from infection centers.

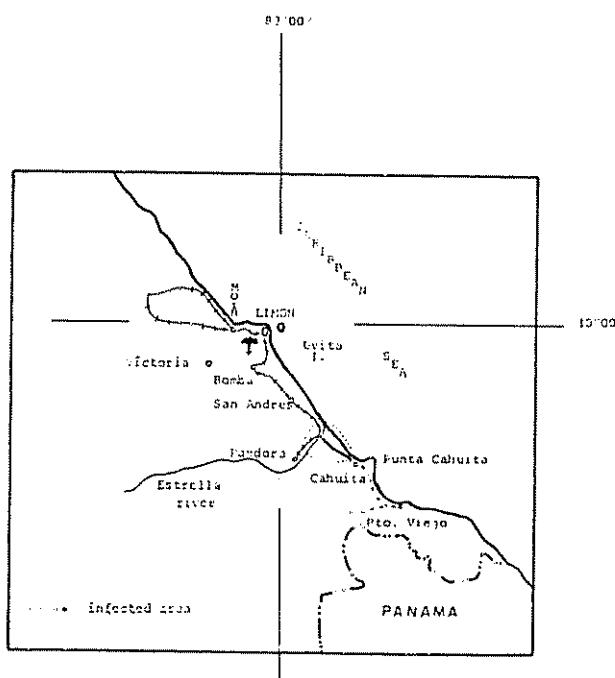


Fig. 1.—First estimate of the area in Costa Rica infected with *Monilia roreri*.

In Costa Rica, cacao production has been important economically and as a source of employment in Limon Province. National production in 1976-1977 was estimated at 7,855,000 kilograms. Internal consumption was 2,135,000 kg and 5,719,200 kg were exported at an average price of US\$2.00 per kilogram provided a national external income of US\$ 11,438,400.

An infected pod with *Monilia* symptoms was brought to CATIE in December of 1978 and a immediate visit to the farm where the pod was found revealed numerous others with signs of mycelia and sporulation characteristic of *Monilia*. Laboratory isolations were made and Koch's postulates have been followed. Final results are pending.

The Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIAP) of Ecuador, where most research related to the disease has been carried out (1, 3, 4), assisted CATIE scientists to confirm their suspicion based on visual and microscopic examination of infected pods, that the disease was indeed *Monilia* pod rot. Cultures have been sent for specific identification.

The area where infection has been detected (Fig. 1) is located in a triangle formed by the Estrella River mouth, the town of Cahuita and the town of Pandora at 9° 45' N latitude and 83° west longitude in the Costa Rican Atlantic zone. An estimated 30 per cent of the fruit is damaged on some of the farms along the Estrella River.

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#### Hereditariedade do teor de prolina em folhas turgidas e desidratadas de feijoeiro (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)

**Abstract** To determine the inheritance of free proline accumulation in the leaves of beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), the cv 'Manteigão Fosco 11' (with a high content of proline) was crossed with the cv. 'Rico 23' (with a low content). Tests were conducted on parental,  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ , and backcross progenies. Data obtained from turgid leaves indicated that low content of free proline is partially dominant, and that approximately 4 genes are involved in the determination of this character. Broad sense heritability was estimated as 65.9% and heritability in the narrow sense as 51.7%. Data obtained from dehydrated leaves also indicated that low content of free proline is partially dominant. In this case, broad sense heritability was estimated as 84.5%.

A resistência à seca é diversamente conceituada e vários métodos são empregados para avaliá-la (6). Sua natureza é muito complexa e envolve uma série de processos fisiológicos e interações com o ambiente (12). Por isso, é dificilmente determinável em condições de campo. Entretanto, suas bases fisiológicas podem ser reconhecidas mediante métodos de laboratório, em diferentes fases do desenvolvimento da planta (5). Alguns desses métodos consistem em provocar desidratação artificial na planta toda, ou em órgãos destacados, e avaliar-lhe o efeito sobre a composição química e sobre os processos bioquímicos, especialmente nos compostos nitrogenados.

Como o deficit hídrico produz mudanças características nos níveis de aminoácidos livres, induzindo principalmente um grande acúmulo de prolina (3, 7), recentemente foi sugerido esse acúmulo como parâmetro para medir resistência à seca (10) e para selecionar cultivares com essa característica (2).

Nas condições de Minas Gerais e Estados vizinhos, no Brasil, há interesse em cultivares de feijão mais resistentes à seca, sobretudo quando se destinam ao plantio de fevereiro ou março, época em que normalmente há alguma escassez de chuvas. Testando 20 cultivares de feijão da referida área, Machado *et al.* (8) verificaram que o 'Manteigão Fosco 11' foi o que mais acumulou e o 'Rico 23' o que menos acumulou prolina em disco foliares, tanto turgidos como desidratados.

Nesta comunicação, apresentam-se os resultados sobre um estudo da hereditariedade do teor de prolina em *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.

#### Material e Métodos

Os cultivares 'Manteigão Fosco 11' e 'Rico 23' foram cruzados para a obtenção do  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$  e progêneres de retrocruzamento.

As sementes dessas gerações, bem como dos progenitores, foram semeadas em vasos de plástico que continham 1,8 kg de solo peneirado e esterilizado com brometo de metila. Os vasos foram deixados na sua capacidade de campo no dia anterior ao plantio.