

**ZONATING LEAF SPOT CAUSED BY *GONATOPHRAGMIUM* SP.:
A NEWLY REPORTED FOLIAR DISEASE OF MULBERRY IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

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ABSTRACT

This is the first report of a fungus under the genus *Gonatophragmium*, causing zonating leaf spot (ZLS) of mulberry in the Philippines. Disease symptoms consist of localized irregular, zonate, pale brown, large spots on the lamina of infected leaves. Fungal identification was based largely on Ellis' (1976) Dematiaceous Hyphomycetes keys and confirmed by the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Philippines, Los Baños (DPP-UPLB). Pathogenicity test could develop typical symptoms of zonating leafspot disease when inoculated with a spray of newly prepared spore suspension consisting of conidia or ascospores on the lower leaf surface. Incubation period was about 17-19 days at 24-29 °C under greenhouse (open) condition. Field surveillance revealed susceptibility of 13 mulberry varieties to ZLS caused by *Gonatophragmium* sp. S54 and Batac were severely infected. On the otherhand, ZLS infection on CRR and K2 was moderately severe, while Papua, King and S36 revealed slightly severe condition. Interestingly, J-unlobed, C6, S61, Malba, Hakikkalu and S3 were occasionally infected with the disease whereas, Alfonso, Kosen, Mlocal, MR2, S13 and SRDC2 remained resistant and free from infection.

Key words: *Gonatophragmium* sp., mulberry, zonating leaf spot.