1. PaDIL Species Factsheet

Scientific Name:
Pestalotiopsis palmarum (Cooke) Steyaert
(Ascomycota: Sordariomycetes: Xylariales: Amphisphaeriaceae)

Common Name
Pestalotiopsis palmarum
Live link: http://www.padil.gov.au:80/maf-border/Pest/Main/143054

Image Library
New Zealand Biosecurity

Partners for New Zealand Biosecurity image library

Landcare Research — Manaaki Whenua
http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/

MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries)
http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/
2. Species Information

2.1. Details

**Specimen Contact:** Eric McKenzie - mckenziee@landcareresearch.co.nz  
**Author:** McKenzie, E.  
**Citation:** McKenzie, E. (2013) Pestalotiopsis palmarum (*Pestalotiopsis palmarum*) Updated on 4/16/2014  
Available online: PaDIL - http://www.padil.gov.au  
**Image Use:** Free for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence

2.2. URL

Live link: http://www.padil.gov.au:80/maf-border/Pest/Main/143054

2.3. Facets

**Commodity Overview:** Field Crops and Pastures  
**Commodity Type:** 1 Other, Coconut  
**Distribution:** Oceania  
**Groups:** Fungi & Mushrooms  
**Host Family:** Arecaceae, Poaceae  
**Pest Status:** 1 NZ - Non-regulated species  
**Status:** NZ - Exotic

2.4. Other Names

*Pestalotia palmarum* Cooke

2.5. Diagnostic Notes

**Disease**
Grey leaf spot, leaf blight of coconuts and other Arecaceae. On coconut leaf spots oval up to 1.5 cm long, grey with a dark brown border, sometimes coalescing and sometimes surrounded by a chlorotic halo. Pycnidia visible as small black dots within the lesion, especially on upper leaf surface. Also isolated from bole and roots of coconut. Older leaves can be severely blighted.

**Morphology**

_Conidiomata_ acervulus, globose or ellipsoidal, subepidermal in origin. _Conidiophores_ indistinct.  
_Conidiogenous cells_ discrete, simple, short, filiform. _Conidia_ 17–25 × 4.5–7.5 μm, fusiform to ellipsoid, mainly straight, 4-septate; three median cells, concolorous, olivaceous, lower cell of 3 sometimes paler, together 11.5–16.5 μm long; apical and basal cells hyaline; with three appendages, 5–25 μm long, arising from the apex of the apical cell; filiform basal appendage, 2–6 μm long.

**Notes**

Over the years there has been confusion with the names _Pestalotia_ and _Pestalotiopsis_. Guba (1961) accepted over 200 names in _Pestalotia_ , but Sutton reviewed the genera and placed those species with 5-celled conidia into _Pestalotiopsis_ , while retaining _Pestalotia_ for those species with 6-celled conidia. Thus,
the older literature uses the name _Pestalotia_ while the modern literature usually refers to _Pestalotiopsis_ as the most common genus encountered on plant material. Maharachchikumbura et al. (2011) reviewed the genus _Pestalotiopsis_ and pointed out that the assignment of species names based on host association, and the lack of type cultures, has hindered the delimitation of species boundaries and many species are apparently not good biological species. Maharachchikumbura et al. (2012) described several species based on molecular studies and epitypification of species. There is a need to determine the species of _Pestalotiopsis_ present in the Pacific by molecular methods.

Brown (1973) found that this fungus was the cause of the most common leaf spot of coconuts in Solomon Islands and noted distinct differences between lesions associated with _P. palmarum_ and with three other _Pestalotiopsis_ species on coconuts.

2.6. References
3. Diagnostic Images

Results Generated:
Friday, September 27, 2019