

Mini data sheet on *Claviceps africana*

Added in 1997 - Deleted in 2006

Reasons for deletion:

The Italian PRA concluded that the risk for the pest *Claviceps africana* was not important for the EPPO region. In 2006, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Claviceps africana (sugary disease or ergot of sorghum)

Why	<i>C. africana</i> came to our attention because of its introduction into new continents and its extremely rapid spread.
Where	Originally present in Asia and Africa. Recently discovered in India but was probably present there for a long time. Introduced in 1995 into Brazil and rapid spread through the central and southern part of the country. By 1996 found in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Venezuela. In April 1996 in Australia (southern Queensland) where it spread over 60,000 km ² in 3 weeks. By February 1997, found in Honduras, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Mexico. By March 1997, found for the first time in Texas, USA, and later in Kansas, Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, Oklahoma.
On which plants	Genetic studies are suggesting that Africa could be a possible origin for the clones introduced into the Americas, and Asia for those introduced into Australia. Cultivated and wild sorghum species. It can probably attack some other grasses; found on pearl millet (<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>)
Damage	Estimated losses of 3 million USD for the seed industry in 1995 in Brazil.
Dissemination	By sorghum seeds contaminated with sclerotia or encrusted by dried honeydew that contain viable macroconidia.
Note	In Japan, ergot of sorghum is caused by <i>Claviceps sorghicola</i> , which has recently been described as a new fungus species presenting some significant differences in morphological and biochemical characters with <i>C. sorghi</i> and <i>C. africana</i> .
Pathway	Sorghum seeds (plants for planting?) from infested countries.
Possible risks	Sorghum is cultivated to a limited but significant extent in Mediterranean and Central European countries. The disease has shown recently a very high potential for spread. Seed transmitted. Losses are reported particularly in the production of hybrids.
Source(s)	Anonymous (1997) Rapid spread of ergot of sorghum monitored in several fronts. Phytopathology News, 31(4), p 59. Bogo, A.; Mantle, P.G. (1999) <i>Claviceps africana</i> discovered in India. Plant Disease, 83(1), p 79. Claflin, L.E.; Ramundo, B.A. (1999) Overwintering survival of <i>Claviceps africana</i> , causal agent of ergot disease of grain sorghum. Phytopathology, 89 (6), Supplement, S16. Odvody, G. (1997) Ergot of sorghum reported in U.S. Phytopathology News, 31(5), p 75. Pazoutová, S.; Badyopadhyay, R.; Frederickson, D.E.; Mantle, P.G.; Frederiksen, R.A. (2000) Relations among sorghum ergot isolates from the Americas, Africa, India and Australia. Plant Disease, 84(4), 437-442. ProMED-mail of 2001-11-24. Ergot, Sorghum - USA (Florida) http://www.promedmail.org Reis, E.M.; Mantle, P.G.; Hassan, H.A.G. (1996) First report in the Americas of Sorghum ergot disease, caused by a pathogen diagnosed as <i>Claviceps africana</i> . Plant Disease, 80(4), 463. Sorghum ergot - Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Australia. ICRISAT (icrisat@cgnet.com) E-mail message of 1997-02 from PROMED (promed-plant@usa.healthnet.org) Tsukiboshi, T.; Shimanuki, T.; Uematsu, T. (1999) <i>Claviceps sorghicola</i> sp. nov., a destructive ergot pathogen of sorghum in Japan. Mycological Research, 103(11), 1403-1408. Vasconcellos, J.H. (1996) Ergot of sorghum. ISPP International Newsletter on Plant Pathology, 26 (6), December 1996, p 1. Velásquez-Valle, R.; Narro-Sánchez, J.; Torres-Montalvo, H. (2001) Initial dissemination of ergot (<i>Claviceps africana</i>) of sorghum in Mexico. Revista Mexicana de Fitopatología, 19(1), 100-103. In Review of Plant Pathology, 82(2) February 2003, abstr. 1157, p 185.
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