

Collar Rot Caused by *Phytophthora citrophthora* on Pear Trees in Greece

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A severe crown rot of pear trees of cultivar 'Kondoula' grafted on quince rootstock was observed in Greece. Isolations from the affected tissues repeatedly yielded a *Phytophthora* sp. that was determined by morphological and physiological characteristics to be *P. citrophthora*. The pathogenicity of two of the *P. citrophthora* isolates was tested by inoculating trunks of 2-year-old pear trees by mycelial agar disks. Thirty-two days after inoculation all inoculated trees were infected. Although the pear isolates could not be differentiated from isolates of *P. palmivora* or *P. nicotianae* based on isozyme profiles of α -esterase or lactate dehydrogenase, RAPD profiles with one selected primer differentiated the pear isolates from the other species and revealed an electrophoretic banding pattern similar to that of a *P. citrophthora* standard. This is the first report of *P. citrophthora* on pear trees in Greece.

KEY WORDS: Collar rot; *Phytophthora citrophthora*; pear.

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