

LEAF SPOT OF COCONUTS

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ABSTRACT

In trial sowings in the Markham Valley, the variety Karkar was found to be much more susceptible, as assessed by amount of leaf affected, to Drechslera incurvata, than the Markham and Rennell Island varieties and several dwarf by tall hybrids.

During recordings on a coconut variety trial at the Agricultural Research Centre, Bubia, damage due to *Drechslera incurvata* was noted and damage was assessed on the various varieties.

The four youngest fully emerged fronds were rated as below and their individual ratings totalled to constitute the reading for each seedling. The ratings in *Tables 1* and *2* are the means of the individual seedling ratings.

- 0 = no obvious infection
- 1 = less than 20% leaf area affected
- 2 = 20-40% leaf area affected
- 3 = 40-60% "
- 4 = 60-80% "
- 5 = 80-100% "

Additional recordings were carried out on blocks of Karkar and Markham coconuts established at Bubia as potential pollen sources. Twenty seedlings at random were selected for each sample (type x planting time) and the results are given in *Table 2*.

It can be seen from *Tables 1* and *2* that the Karkar variety proved more susceptible than the other varieties under observation. Therefore, plantings of Karkar seedlings can be expected to show more disease than many other varieties, particularly in areas of higher rainfall, which favours the development of this disease.

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Table 1.—Drechslera incurvata ratings recorded 5th and 6th August, 1975

Variety	Approximate age of transplanting	Date transplanted	Rating*	
			Rep. 1	Rep. 2
Karkar†	6 months	Feb., 1975	12.42	9.72
Markham	7 "	"	4.25	1.75
Dwarf x Gazelle Tall	12 "	"	3.08	2.25
Rennell Island	14 "	"	3.00	1.75
Dwarf x Solomons Tall	14 "	"	2.67(6)*	1.43(7)*
Dwarf x Fed. Malayan Tall	14 "	"	2.00(5)*	1.00(3)*
Dwarf x Rennell Island	14 "	"	1.08	0.92

* There were 12 seedlings in each plot except where figures in brackets represent the number recorded.

† In the Karkar variety, three seedlings in Rep. 1 and one in Rep. 2 had been killed by the disease, and some others in Rep. 2 were in poor condition.

Table 2.—D. incurvata ratings recorded 3rd September, 1975

Variety	Approximate age at transplanting	Date transplanted	Rating
Karkar	7 months	June, 1974	5.10
"	6 "	March, 1975	4.35
"	10 "	July, 1975	3.95
Markham	6 "	June, 1974	1.75
"	9 "	July, 1975	1.67*

* Only 15 seedlings used in assessment.