



Distribution of *Mycosphaerella* spp. diseases on banana in Côte d'Ivoire

Traoré S.^{1*}, Kobenan K.¹, Koné D.², Gnonhourri P.¹, Yao N. T. and Aké S²

¹Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA) station de recherche de Bimbresso 01 BP 1536 Abidjan 01 ; ²Université de Cocody UFR Biosciences Laboratoire de Physiologie Végétale 22 BP 582 Abidjan 22

*Corresponding author email: traore_isaac@yahoo.fr

ABSTRACT

Introduction and objective: Bananas and plantains are attacked by several fungi belonging to the genus *Mycosphaerella*. The most virulent *M. fijiensis*, was observed in east of Côte d'Ivoire in 1985. It moved westward into bananas cultivation areas, giving the impression of a replacement of yellow Sigatoka but their distribution is not stable. The objective of this study was to actualize *Mycosphaerella* diseases distribution in Côte d'Ivoire. Methodology and Results: Field visits and observations of Sigatoka damage ratings were conducted from August to October 2006. The Horn 1 cultivar was selected for evaluating the BLSD effect. Yellow and black Sigatoka diseases were identified throughout the forest zone of Côte d'Ivoire, from Aboisso (East) near the Ghana border to San Pedro (West) and running into Liberia. The 2 diseases coexist on the banana with the prevalence of black Sigatoka. For a banana variety susceptible to the two diseases, symptoms of the BLSD were very visible because of a faster development. Therefore, the



yellow leaf spot has been identified on leaves of the cultivar Figue Sucrée which is partially resistant to BLSD. The severity of the disease decreased from the East (Aboisso) to West (San Pedro). In Aboisso, the infection index was 38%, as compared to only 30% for the rest of the country. These observations were made in parallel with the duration of the disease in the area and the use of fungicides in industrial banana plantations.

Key words

Banana, Plantain, *Mycosphaerella*, Côte d'Ivoire