

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CASHEW OF TANZANIA 2015

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Title: *IN VITRO* STRATEGY TO CONTROL THE FUNGI ISOLATE FROM CASHEW IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

ABSTRACT

Introduced in northern and central Côte d'Ivoire for reforestation problems, cashew is becoming the main crop export of these regions to the benefit of cotton. However, some constraints threaten the production compromising yields. The aim of this work is to identify pathogens involved in cashew diseases and propose different concentrations of mancozeb to control anthracnose. Sections of 4 to 6 mm diameter from the periphery of lesions surface were sterilized in 70 % alcohol, then in 3 % sodium hypochlorite, washed in sterile distilled water and placed on PDA. To test the pathogenicity of strains obtained, leaves twenty-eight days plants were sprayed with a spore concentration of 10^6 / ml of inoculum for each strain. This study revealed that the different pathogenic diseases of cashew in Côte d'Ivoire are *Colletotrichum* spp with (60,52 %), *Pestalotia* spp (28,94 %), *Lasiodiplodia* spp (2,63 %) and other unidentified pathogens *in vivo*. The inoculated pathogens expressed symptoms from which they were isolated and this could comply with pathogenicity as Koch's postulates. This work confirmed the presence of pathogenic fungi on cashew and the fact that some of these fungi can induce symptoms reducing leaf photosynthetic area. Basic pathogenic characterization of fungi strategies need to be developed in order to identify species and integrated disease management approaches.

Keywords: Cashew, pathogens, *Colletotrichum*, *Pestalotia*, *Lasiodiplodia*, Côte d'Ivoire.