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Title: Investigations on major cashew diseases in Côte d'Ivoire

ABSTRACT

Cashew nut (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) is among the major source of income in the production area in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. Nevertheless, the crop is susceptible to several pests and diseases which can cause substantial yield losses. Surveys were conducted in the main cashew production areas in Côte d'Ivoire in order to identify cashew diseases and to assess their importance. Disease incidence was assessed on the basis of the percentage of infected trees in the fields and severity assessment was based on percentage of infected leaves in one meter square on two opposite sides of each tree. Cashew trees were most infected by *Colletotrichum*, *Pestalotia*, *Phomopsis*, *Alternaria*, *Verticillium*, *Cephaleuros* and Leaf mosaic virus. The symptoms varied from the necrosis of the limb or the brownish spots following the main and secondary nervures to some hurts on twigs, leaves and the necrosis of nuts. Some dots along the secondary nervures. The softwares ArcView GIS 3.2 and MapInfo Professional 6.0 were used to draw the map distribution. The data were analysed with the software of Statistica 7.1. Anthracnose, red rust and nut necrosis had the highest incidence, 90.0%, 60.25% and 50.50% respectively. The highest severity values recorded were 19.0% for anthracnose and 3.21% for red rust. This study shall allow the development of strategies to control these pathogens in order to increase cashew nut production and improve the livelihoods of farmer.

Keywords: cashew, fungi, virus, cashew nut, Côte d'Ivoire