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FIRST REPORT OF *Pestalotiopsis adusta* CAUSING DISEASE IN GUARIROBA (*Syagrus oleracea*) IN BRAZIL. J.K.B. CARDOSO¹; W. M. C. NUNES²; C.A. ZANUTTO²; J. B. VIDA²; ¹Agronomic Science - State University of São Paulo "Julio de Mesquita Filho"; ²University of Maringa, Maringa, Parana – Brazil. Email: jessicakarine8@hotmail.com

Guariroba (*Syagrus oleracea* (Mart.) Bec.) is a native palm in central Brazil that is increasingly cultivated for the production of bitter palm heart. Seedlings of guariroba with leaf spots of unknown etiology were found in Patos de Minas, in the state of Minas Gerais. The leaf spots were manifest lesion type consisted of necrotic spots with a rounded to elongate shape, with a light color and dark edges. The objective of this study was to elucidate the etiology of this disease. The likely causal agent was isolated and Koch's postulate fulfilled. Symptomatic leaves were collected and direct isolations from the leaf material were made onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) in Petri dishes. After five days, the mycelial growth was dense with a white color and bore black fruiting bodies. Microscopic examination revealed conidia with septa and 4 appendices typical of *Pestalotiopsis*. These isolates were morphologically characterized by conidiophores and conidias. Confirmation of the species was by internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequencing of four isolates. DNA of the fungus was extracted from pure cultures and PCR performed using primers ITS 4 and 5 (as described in White et al., Academic Press. 315 p. 1990). The resulting sequence from the four isolates (Genbank accession nos. KU726830, KU726831, KU726832 and KU726833) showed 99% homology with the Genbank accessions KR056293.1 and AF409955.1, both being sequence data from *Pestalotiopsis adusta*. Thus, based on pathogenicity testing, morphological characteristics and molecular characterization we deduce that *P. adusta* is the causal agent of a *Pestalotiopsis* spot disease of *S. oleracea* in Brazil.

Key words: Etiology; Pathogenicity; Koch's postulate.