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FIRST REPORT OF *Alternaria tenuissima* 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.) Becc.) is a palm species native to central Brazil. Seedlings of guariroba with leaf spots of unknown etiology were found in Patos de Minas, in the state of Minas Gerais. The symptoms were manifested as rounded or irregularly shaped lesions, with dark brown color, often having a clearer halo. To elucidate the etiology of this disease, symptomatic leaves were collected and direct isolation of the fungus was made onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) in Petri dishes. The likely causal agent was isolated, morphologically characterized and inoculated in healthy guariroba leaves from one year-old seedlings. In this way, Koch's postulate was fulfilled. The colonies had grown on plates of PDA for 7 days at 25°C with a photoperiod of 12 h. They had a grayish green color with a cottony morphology. These isolates were morphologically characterized by conidiophores and conidia. 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 five isolates (Genbank 360 accession nos. KX130093, KX130094, KX130095, KX130096 and KX130097) showed 99% homology with accession KP942908.1 (*Alternaria tenuissima*). Thus, based on pathogenicity testing, morphological characteristics and molecular characterization we deduce that *A. tenuissima* is the causal agent of an *Alternaria* spot disease of *S. oleracea*.

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