

PHYTOPHTHORA CINNAMOMI ON AVOCADO IN HONDURAS

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Phytophthora cinnamomi Rands was recently isolated from feeder roots from diseased avocado trees in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The roots were shipped under quarantine permit to Riverside, California, in September, 1950.

The roots were taken from two Atlixco hybrid trees growing on West Indian rootstock, in an avocado nursery at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Tegucigalpa. These trees were showing severe disease symptoms, similar to those of avocado root rot occurring in Peru (1), Puerto Rico (2), and California (3, 4). The soil contains considerable clay and is very difficult to drain; many of the nursery trees, as well as all trees in a five acre planting on similar soil, have died in the past few years. The majority of the trees succumb to the disease between two and five years of age. The trees from which *P. cinnamomi* was isolated were grown from seed on the property, indicating that the fungus is native in the soils of that region.

The roots were packed in sphagnum and wrapped in Goodyear Vinyl film; they arrived in California in good condition after being in transit nearly two weeks. The fungus was isolated by the usual method employed in this laboratory, which involves washing entire 1 cm. long pieces of small roots in water, washing briefly in 70 per cent alcohol, blotting, and planting on cornmeal agar. *P. cinnamomi* appeared on six of thirty root pieces cultured.

This is apparently the first record of this fungus in Honduras.

LITERATURE CITED

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