

TEMPERATURE DETERMINATION FOR OPTIMUM *IN VITRO* GROWTH OF *Colletotrichum gloesporioides* Penz. COLLECTED FROM 'HASS' AVOCADO IN MICHOACAN, MEXICO

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Avocado thrives under diverse ecological conditions, being Mexico the world's top producer of this crop. In 1998, Mexico alone contributed with 69.2% of avocado world production, with a total estimate of 2.3 million tons. Among the several threats avocado faces, fruit diseases are to be considered. One of these diseases is anthracnose, caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum gloesporioides*, which attacks fruit at any development stage up to storage and commercialization stages. The objective of this research was to determine optimum temperature for growth of *C. gloesporioides* under *in vitro* conditions. *C. gloesporioides* was exposed to 8°, 14°, 17°, 21°, 24°, 28°, 32°, and 36 °C. At 8 °C, *C. gloesporioides* did not grow, but it did not die, either. Optimum and fastest growth of *C. gloesporioides* was observed at 21°, 24, and 28°C, followed by 32°, 17°, and 14°C; slowest growth was observed at 36 °C. *C. gloesporioides* was isolated in order to inoculate healthy avocado fruits; dark spots of pink-like spores were observed on fruit 16 days after inoculation.