

Recent Investigation on Coffee Tracheomycosis, *Gibberella xylarioides* (*Fusarium xylarioides*) in Ethiopia

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SUMMARY

Tracheomycosis is a typical vascular wilt disease of coffee incited by *Gibberella xylarioides* (*Fusarium xylarioides*). The fungus was earlier reported to be a well-known pathogen of *Coffea excelsa* and *C. canephora* in West and Central Africa (Central African Republic, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Zaire and Guinea) in the 1950s. The disease was observed again in Zaire in the early 1980s and noticed for the first time in Uganda in 1993, it is now causing economic losses to Robusta coffee in both countries.

In Ethiopia, the occurrence of the pathogen on Arabica coffee was established in the 1970s although its presence was speculated earlier. It has been considered as a minor coffee disease, but so far documented surveys emphasize that tracheomycosis develops to an important disease on Arabica coffee, too. The recent investigations indicated the existence of variations both in resistance levels of the host genotypes and in aggressiveness of the fungal isolates in the country.