A study of stem-end rot in Mango caused by *Botriodiplodia theobromae*

Ratnayake R.M.R.N.K.,Wijeratnam R.S., Palipane K.B., 2004, *Control of stem end rot in Mango(Mangifera indica)caused by Botryodiplodia theobromae, , Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of science, Proceedings of the 60th Annual session ,part 1 ,abstracts.*

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Mango is a major crop among the fruit crops grown in the tropics. However, as in other perishables, postharvest diseases represent one of the major sources of postharvest losses. Among these the 'stem end rot' is the most common.

Until recently, immersion of mangoes in hot water, mixed with Benomyl for 5 minutes at 52^0 C controlled the 'stem end rot' effectively. However, the water dipping method is not effective and hence the appearance of the disease has increased rapidly. In order to overcome this problem a study was initiated to examine the possible approaches to control the diseases using eco-friendly cost effective treatment through identification of mode of infection of the pathogen.

Based on the results, following conclusions were made:

- Disease severity and host resistance to the disease vary with the cultivars of mango. eg. Frequency of the occurrence of the disease in Karuthakolomban is greater than Villard and other wild types.

- Pathogen penetrates into the tissue through cut stem-end or through wounds. Hence, minimization of mechanical damages and leave about 1cm of the stalk with the fruit at harvesting are two possible methods to control the disease.

- Postharvest immersion of mangoes for 5 and 10 minutes in 5% $NaHCO_3$ and 5% $CaCl_2$, respectively controlled the disease in similar manner.