

BUGTOK DISEASE



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"Adoption of Control Strategies and Rehabilitation of Areas
Affected by Banana Bunchy Top."



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(Photo courtesy of L.V. Magnaye)

BUGTOK DISEASE

I. Introduction

"Saba" or "Cardaba" and to some extent "Latundan" have been observed to be infected with the disease called "Bugtok" or "Tibagnol", a term used to describe the infected fruits which are discolored and hard even when ripe. It is caused by the bacterium Pseudomonas solanacearum, a strain which is less virulent compared to that causing the Moko disease.

II. Transmission

The ingress of the bacterium is believed to be above ground and carried by insects since even if the mother plant is infected, the suckers are not.

III. Symptom

A. Internally, brown vascular streak are observed in the fruit peduncle, fruit stem, and the pseudostem at extreme cases. Discoloration sometimes extends to the corm.

B. No wilting or death of plant can be observed, however, the fruit is hard even when ripe or cooked.

C. Bracts of the male bud fail to detach or fall off even if these were already dried.

IV. Control Measures

A. Regular stem sanitation and deleafing.

B. Early debudding or removal of male bud when the "false hand" appears.

C. When bagging is possible, bag the inflorescence at bending stage with about 0.75 x 1.5 m bagging material (plastic bags, cement bags, sacks or any suitable material) with an open end. Remove the bag and debud when the "false hand" appears.

V. References

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