

# VARIOUS SPECIES OF *GLOEOSPORIUM* IN STORED APPLES IN FINLAND

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In storage trials on apples carried out in the years 1952—1955 by the Department of Plant Pathology, the most important cause of losses in the stored fruit was apple rot caused by the fungus *Gloeosporium* (8). JAMALAINEN determined the causal agent to be *Gloeosporium album* Osterw. and mentioned that possibly other species of *Gloeosporium* were also involved in causing the disease.

Since 1954 the Department of Plant Pathology has continued its trials on stored apples in order to determine the various species of *Gloeosporium* found in this fruit during storage. Apple growers throughout the country were requested to send diseased apples to the Department for investigation. In the storage period 1954/55 determinations were made on 13 apple varieties from 9 different locations in southern Finland. In the period 1956/57 ten apple varieties from five localities were included in the trials. In the autumn 1957 the Department received for investigation 9 varieties of apples infected with rot from 11 growers throughout the country. In addition, determinations were made during the trial period 1957/58 on the *Gloeosporium* species occurring in apples in the Department's own storage trials. The experimental material in the years 1954—58 included a total of 20 apple varieties from 17 different localities in Finland.

The trial material was stored in a cellar where the temperature averaged 4° C. and the relative humidity approximately 92 %. Determinations of the fungus species in the diseased apples were made during the storage period on the basis of the form and shape of the acervuli as well as on the size and form of the conidia.

Table 1 shows results of determinations made in the period 1954—58 on the occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species in apples from various localities in Finland. *G. perennans* Zeller & Childs was found in apples from all of the localities and appears to be the principal species in many areas. The second most widespread species was *G. album*, which, together with *G. perennans*, is the cause of extensive damage to stored apples in Finland. The third species, *G. fructigenum* Berk., is much less important as a cause of apple rot in this country.

Table 1. Occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species in diseased apple material from different regions of Finland, 1954–58. Species determinations made on the basis of acervuli and conidial shape and size.

Plant geographical province and locality	No. of apple varieties	No. of examined diseased apples	<i>Gloeosporium</i> species		
			<i>G. album</i> %	<i>G. fructi- genum</i> %	<i>G. peren- nans</i> %
Regio aboensis					
Lohja .....	8	376	19	3	78
Nummi .....	1	7	29	0	71
Piikkiö .....	6	177	38	4	58
Särkisalo .....	1	19	0	0	100
Tenhola .....	1	2054	43	2	55
Nylandia					
Espoo .....	2	64	56	0	44
Helsinki .....	1	18	39	0	61
Tikkurila .....	7	1900	78	1	21
Hyvinkää .....	1	97	17	4	79
Järvenpää .....	4	98	28	0	72
Satakunta					
Karkku .....	1	26	54	0	46
Köyliö .....	1	61	34	3	63
Tavastia australis					
Kangasala .....	1	40	0	0	100
Pälkäne .....	2	48	6	0	91
Tyrväntö .....	3	341	9	0	91
Vanaja .....	2	11	18	0	82
Savonia australis					
Lauritsala .....	1	45	13	0	87

Since the apple samples from several of the localities were limited these results do not give a completely accurate picture of the extent of *Gloeosporium* fungi in Finland.

Investigations made at the Lindö Estate at Tenhola in southwestern Finland upon apples of the Wealthy variety show that the relative proportions of the *Gloeosporium* species can vary considerably in the same apple variety, even in closely located orchards. For example, in one orchard containing trees older than ten years, determinations on 1455 diseased apples showed that *G. perennans* was the causal agent in 72 % and *G. album* in 26 % of the infected fruit. In a second orchard located two kilometers distant and containing trees younger than ten years of age, the proportions of the two species was almost reversed; out of 599 infected apples *G. album* was responsible for 84 % of the diseased fruit and *G. perennans* for only 15 %.

Moisture conditions during the growing season appear to have an effect on the relative occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species in stored apples (10). Determinations of the fungus species infecting Melba-variety apples grown at the Department of Plant Pathology orchard were made in the years 1956 and 1957. These two years differed considerably from one another in terms of precipitation during the growing season. In the year 1956 May, July and especially September (only 7 days of rainfall) were

dryer than normal whereas August was a rainy month. In 1957, on the other hand, precipitation during the early part of the summer was normal whereas August and September were characterized by abundant rainfall (in September there were 22 days of rainfall). In the former year 1956, investigations on 650 Melba apples showed 36.4 % to be diseased, of which 97.5 % were infected by *G. album* and 2.5 % by *G. perennans*. In 1957 a total of 1680 apples were investigated; of these 51.7 % were infected, and the relative amounts of the *Gloeosporium* species were 81.2 % *G. album* and the remainder *G. perennans*.

#### *Gloeosporium perennans* Zeller & Childs

*G. perennans* is known as an important causal agent of apple rot, especially in fruit preserved in cold storage (5, 6, 12). In addition to infecting the fruit, this fungus also forms small cankers or areas of bark blight in the branches of the tree. In such infected areas watery, greyish-coloured, stroma-like acervuli are formed which, during warm temperature conditions, produce abundant conidia. The conidia then infect the fruit via the stomata. Later during the period of storage, round decaying spots appear on the apple. These spots contain acervuli which develop first under the epidermis and after break through to the surface. Numerous conidia are formed in these acervuli at low temperatures (2°—4° C.).

In Sweden (11) and in Denmark (15) *G. perennans*, together with *G. album*, is the most important cause of apple rot. In Norway (16) the species has been known since 1950 but is of small significance in that country. In England (6), Holland (12), New Zealand (5), and in North America (1) *G. perennans* is an important causal agent of rot in stored apples.

*Gloeosporium perennans* cannot be distinguished morphologically from *G. malicorticis* Cordl. (3). The ascospore stage of *G. perennans* is known by the names *Pezicula malicorticis* (Jacks.) Nannf. and *Neofabrea malicorticis* (Cord.) Jacks. It has been found in North America, in Holland and in England (4, 7, 9), but only in winter cankers of *Pyrus* species.

The infection caused by *G. perennans* appears generally on the surface of the apple but sometimes it occurs also on the stipe. The infection spots are brown in colour, and are usually surrounded by a darker border. The acervuli are forced through the epidermis to the surface where they expand and become filled with a grey mass of conidia. In apples stored in moist conditions the infection spots with their acervuli are often watery in appearance. The infection spreads rapidly to the interior of the apple and the entire fruit becomes shrivelled.

The conidia are one-celled, elongate, and are straight or slightly curved (Fig. 1a). A light-coloured vacuole-like area is often visible in the center of the conidium. The length of the conidium varies on the average, from 11.6 to 17.6  $\mu$  (5.8—25.3  $\mu$ ). The average value of conidium length as determined by 480 measurements on conidia from 12 apple varieties was 14.96  $\mu$ .

The width of the conidia varied from 2.8 to 4.9  $\mu$  (1.0—5.9  $\mu$ ) with an average value of 3.95  $\mu$ . According to OORT (12) the size of the conidia of *G. perennans*

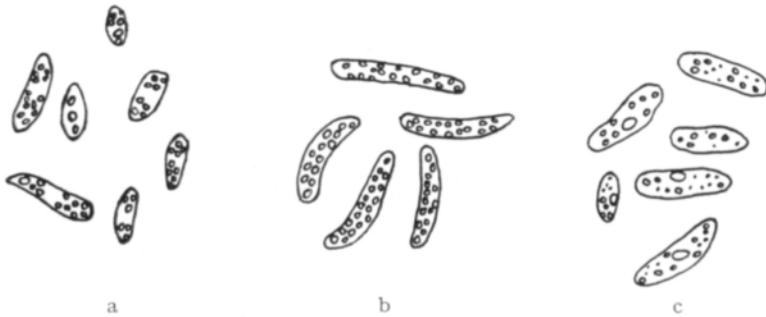


Fig. 1. a) *G. perennans*, b) *G. album*, c) *G. fructigenum*.  $\times 760$ .

varies with the ranges  $7.2\text{--}20.0\ \mu \times 3.0\text{--}6.4\ \mu$  (average  $13.6 \times 4.0\ \mu$ ). Microconidia are also generally produced by this fungus.

Conidia isolated from infected apples have been cultured on 5% oat-agar and on 3% glucose-agar. The mycelium is lightcoloured and abundant conidia are formed.

#### *Gloeosporium album* Osterw.

*G. album*, which has many synonyms, is, together with *G. perennans*, an important cause of apple rot. It is responsible for great losses of fruit in cold storage in many countries, such as Sweden, Norway, Holland, England, Switzerland and New Zealand (5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18). Conidia are formed on the dead branches of the fruit tree and subsequently infect the apples principally via the stomata. At the site of infection brown-coloured spots surrounded by a dark border appear. These spots are often lighter in colour than those of *G. perennans* and are found usually on the surface of the apple but sometimes also at the base of the stipe. Round, light-coloured clusters of conidiophores develop in the infection spots and often assume the form of a ring in the surface of the spot. Under moist conditions white, ray-like aerial hyphae grow out from the infected area. According to GUTHRIE (7) the perfect stage of *G. album* is *Pezicula alba* Guthrie.

The conidia of *G. album* are one-celled, cylindrical and usually curved (Fig. 1 b). Sometimes they are discharged in white, ribbon-like masses. The length of the conidia was found to vary from  $17.9$  to  $24.9\ \mu$  ( $13.8\text{--}28.0\ \mu$ ) with an average figure of  $20.75\ \mu$  obtained from measurements of 440 conidia on 14 apple varieties. Their width ranged from  $2.3$  to  $3.8\ \mu$  ( $2.1\text{--}4.5\ \mu$ ) with an average of  $2.86\ \mu$ . According to OSTERWALDER (13) the size of *Gloeosporium album* conidia are on the average  $24 \times 3\ \mu$  and according to OORT (12)  $22.5 (16.5\text{--}29.0) \times 3.7\ \mu (3.2\text{--}4.0)$ .

When cultured on oat-agar and on glucose-agar, *G. album* grows very slowly. It forms a white-coloured mycelium but produces very few conidia.

*Gloeosporium fructigenum* Berk.

*G. fructigenum* Berk. is the imperfect stage of *Glomerella cingulata* (Ston.) Spauld. & Schr. and has many synonyms (cf. 2). The imperfect stage of this fungus has been isolated from a wide number of various plants. In 1935 RAINIO (14) determined the fungus as the causal agent of anthracnose in an agave plant growing in a greenhouse in Finland. *G. fructigenum* is widely distributed in both the tropics and in temperate regions. It occurs in Scandinavia and other European countries as well as in North America, but it is not important as a cause of apple rot (1, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18). It is, however, believed to be responsible for fruit rot in cherries, olives and in certain tropical fruit (3).

*G. fructigenum* infects apples usually at sites of injury, but it is also capable of penetrating through the epidermis. Brown-coloured depressed spots are formed at the site of infection and small, dark acervuli gradually develop in these spots. Under pressure from the expanding conidial mass the epidermis breaks and the conidia are released to the exterior. In moist conditions masses of conidia accumulate as reddish-coloured globules on the surface of the acervuli. The disease spreads slowly within the apple, and many weeks may pass before the apple is completely decayed.

The conidia are one-celled, colorless, cylindrical, and straight or slightly curved (Fig. 1 c). The length of the conidia ranges from 15.2 to 18.0  $\mu$  and averages 16.1  $\mu$ .

Table 2. Occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species in apple varieties cultivated in Finland. Species determinations made on apple rot material received in 1954-58 on the basis of acervuli and conidial shape and size.

Apple variety	Areas of cultivation	No. of examined diseased apples	<i>Gloeosporium</i> species		
			<i>G. album</i> %	<i>G. fructigenum</i> %	<i>G. perennans</i> %
Antonovka .....	6	567	17	4	79
Atlas .....	1	18	29	5	66
Cellini .....	2	15	67	0	33
Harlamovski .....	1	53	51	0	49
Harmaa Gylling (= grey Gylling)	1	18	39	0	61
Joyce .....	1	99	39	0	61
Kaikuvuori .....	2	14	79	0	21
Kelt. kaneli (= yellow canel) ..	1	19	0	0	100
Kirkniemi .....	1	54	26	6	68
Lepaan liereä (= leppaa round)	1	156	1	0	99
Linda .....	2	42	64	0	36
Lobo .....	5	183	5	0	95
Melba .....	1	1118	84	0	16
Oranie .....	1	10	10	0	90
Safran-Pohjola .....	1	29	76	0	24
Sariola .....	3	166	20	1	79
Signe Tillish .....	1	76	20	0	80
Slavjanka .....	1	35	40	0	60
Wealthy .....	5	2568	52	2	46
Åkerö .....	5	142	48	0	52

on the basis of 100 measurements from five apple varieties; their width is 4.3 to 5.4  $\mu$  with an average of 4.9  $\mu$ . According to ARX (2) the size of the conidia of *G. fructigenum* averages 12—22  $\times$  4—6  $\mu$ . On oat-agar and glucose-agar the fungus forms a grey mycelium and produces conidia.

*Gloeosporium* species in the material studied

It has been determined in previous investigations in Finland that there are considerable differences in resistance to *Gloeosporium* rot among different apple varieties (8). Table 2 shows the occurrence of the various species of *Gloeosporium* in different apple varieties. None of the apple varieties were found to be completely

Table 3. Occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species at various dates in stored apples at Tikkurila and at Tenhola, 1956/57 and 1957/58.

Date of examination	Department of Plant Pathology Tikkurila								Lindö, Tenhola			
	Melba		1956—57				1957—58		1956—57		1957—58	
			Anto- novka		Wealthy		Melba		Wealthy			
	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>	<i>G. album</i>	<i>G. perennans</i>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
15.11— 2.12	12	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	0	0	0	0
8.1 —22.1	52	83	0	49	9	46	40	43	2	6	8	5
26.2 — 6.3	36	17	18	29	58	54	50	50	44	43	33	32
22.4 —26.4	—	—	82	22	33	0	—	—	54	51	59	63
Total number of examined diseased apples	231	6	72	66	351	6	809	164	377	1048	402	53

resistant to these fungi (cf. 5, 11). In the varieties Antonovka, Lepaa round and Sariola *G. perennans* was found to occur more than *G. album*, whereas in Melba *G. album* was the more common species. In Wealthy and Åkerö apples both species of *Gloeosporium* occurred in approximately equal amounts.

In Table 3 are presented observations on the occurrence of *Gloeosporium* species at various dates during the storage seasons 1956/57 and 1957/58. These observations were made at Tikkurila on three apple varieties and at Lindö on the one variety Wealthy. Apple rot caused by the two species of *Gloeosporium* appeared in the apples at approximately the same time, during the month of January. The date of first appearance of apple rot varied in the two years, occurring somewhat earlier in the

storage period 1957/58. This earlier appearance of apple rot was correlated with the earlier ripening of the apples, which was caused by the weather conditions during the growing season.

Control of *Gloeosporium* rot in stored apples was attempted in the years 1956 and 1957 by means of fungicidal sprays on the apples during the growing season. From two to nine sprayings were carried out between the dates May 29 and September 15 upon the two apple varieties Melba and Wealthy which are susceptible to *Gloeosporium* rot. Spraying with captane, thiram or thiram + carbamate + asam significantly reduced the occurrence of apple rot during the following storage period (17). The fungicides used appear to have had a more effective control on *G. perennans* than on *G. album*. In general, the relative proportion of *G. perennans* as a cause of apple rot decreased more than *G. album* when the number of treatments was increased.

Studies have also been carried out on the effect of carbon dioxide gas during storage upon the occurrence and relative proportions of *Gloeosporium* species. It was found that carbon dioxide treatment (4.5—7.0 %) reduced the amount of apple rot in practically all of the eight varieties of apples which were included in the trials. In comparison to normal storage conditions, the relative proportion of *G. album* as a cause of apple rot was decreased 10 % by the CO<sub>2</sub> treatment, with the proportion of *G. perennans* correspondingly increasing.

### S u m m a r y

*Gloeosporium perennans* Zeller & Childs and *G. album* Osterw. were determined as the most important causal agents of apple rot in storage among 20 apple varieties from 17 localities in Finland. *G. fructigenum* Berk. was relatively insignificant in causing the disease. Infection spots of both *G. perennans* and *G. album* began to appear in the fruit at approximately the same time during January.

All of the apple varieties investigated were found to be susceptible to *Gloeosporium* rot, although there were distinct differences in the susceptibility of certain varieties to one or another of the two species.

The occurrence of the *Gloeosporium* species varied considerably in the same apple variety between different orchards. External factors such as dry weather in the late summer, fungicidal sprays, and carbon dioxide during storage were found to decrease the occurrence of *Gloeosporium* rot in stored apples as well as to cause changes in the relative proportions of the two species *G. perennans* and *G. album*.

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SELOSTUS:

VARASTOIDUISSA OMENISSA ESIINTYVISTÄ *GLOEOSPORIUM*-LAJEISTA SUOMESSA

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*Gloeosporium perennans* Zeller & Childs ja *G. album* Osterw. todettiin tärkeimmiksi varastolaikun aiheuttajiksi 17:ltä paikkakunnalta saaduista 20 omenalajikkeessa (taulukko 1). *G. fructigenum* Berk. merkitys Suomessa viljeltyjen omenien hedelmämädän aiheuttajana on vähäinen. Sekä *G. perennans*in että *G. album*in aiheuttamat mätäläikut alkoivat ilmetä varastoiduissa hedelmissä tammikuun kuluessa samoihin aikoihin (taulukko 3).

Kaikki tutkitut omenalajikkeet olivat alttiit varastolaikun aiheuttajille, joskin eräissä lajikkeissa huomattiin selvempää alttiutta jommalle kummalle tärkeimmälle hedelmämädän aiheuttajalla (taulukko 2).

*Gloeosporium*-lajien esiintymisrunsaus vaihteli melkoisesti samalla omenalajikkeella läheisissäkin hedelmätarhoissa. Syyskesän kuivuus, fungisiidiruiskutukset ja hiilihapposäilytys vähensivät yleensä varastolaikun esiintymistä sekä aiheuttivat muutoksia tärkeimpien *Gloeosporium*-lajien esiintymis-suhteisiin varastolaikun aiheuttajina.