

Fungus diseases of cultivated arctic bramble (*Rubus arcticus* L.) in Finland

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Abstract. During 1975 and 1977-1979 studies were carried out on the fungus diseases of experimentally cultivated arctic bramble (*Rubus arcticus* L.).

The most common pathogenic or weakly pathogenic fungi isolated from the diseased clones were *Cylindrocarpon destructans* (Zins.) Scholten and *Fusarium avenaceum* (Cda ex Fr.) Sacc. Some other *Fusarium* species and *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex Fr. were rather uncommon.

Didymella applanata (Niessl) Sacc. and plenty of pycnidia of *Phoma* spp. were established on nearly withered clones; among the isolates were *P. exigua* Desm. var. *exigua* Maas, *Phoma* spp. and *Coniothyrium fuckelii* Sacc. (con. st. of *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium* (Fuck.) Sacc.).

Isolates of little significance were identified in the whole from 26 fungal genera.

Introduction

The distribution area of arctic bramble (*Rubus arcticus* L.), which comprises the whole of subarctic Eurasia, is bounded in Europe by the Scandinavian countries and Finland. According to RYNNÄNEN (1973), in Finland arctic bramble mainly bears fruit only in the zone which starts in ESE Finland and extends across the central part of the country to North Ostrobothnia. As a result of increasingly mechanized farming, the fruiting of wild *R. arcticus*, has become even more infrequent in Finland. Owing to the fine flavour of its berries, arctic bramble is much in demand, for instance for liqueur manufacturing.

The cultivation of arctic bramble was successfully carried out in Sweden already by LINNÉ (LINNÆUS 1762, ref. RYNNÄNEN 1973). In Finland, Salminen started experimental cultivation of this plant at the North Savo Experimental Station at Maaninka in 1933. Although the studies were interrupted during the second world war, they were continued again in 1960. At the present time, the experimental cultivation of *R. arcticus* has been centralized at the South Savo Experimental Station near Mikkeli and at the Institute of Horticulture at Piikkiö, both belonging to the Agricultural Research Centre. In addition to Piikkiö, the breeding of *R. arcticus* is also carried out at the Plant Breeding Department of Helsinki University, at Viikki. Breeding is based on the selection of wild arctic bramble clones and the

crossing of these clones, and on the crossing of *R. arcticus* with its closely related *R. ideaeus* L. and *R. stellatus* Sm. (HIIRSALMI and SÄKÖ 1980).

Little attention has been paid to the possible contribution of fungal diseases to the problems associated with the cultivation of arctic bramble until now. RAUHALA (1958) has found some rust fungus species on wild *R. arcticus*.

Material and methods

The material used in investigating the healthiness of *R. arcticus* was collected in 1975 and 1977 from the arctic bramble cultivation trials located at the South Savo Experimental Station and from the breeding material of the Plant Breeding Department in 1977 and 1979.

Samples were taken from all vegetative parts of *R. arcticus* clones, from lightly diseased to almost completely damaged ones, in an exceptional case also from the soil around the roots of a withering clone. A total of 190 transfers from 20 clones were made to the nutrient media, mainly from the stem, especially from the base of the stem. The fungi were usually cultivated on potato dextrose (PDA, Difco) and corn meal (CMA, Difco) agars containing 100 or 300 ppm of streptomycin in 1 l agar. Pieces of infected tissue were surface-sterilized of 2 min in 0.5 % NaClO and then rinsed with 94 % ethanol and allowed to dry. The fungal cultures were incubated at a temperature of 23–25 °C. The fungi were photographed on malt extract (MA, Difco) agar.

Results

In the samples collected at Mikkeli in 1975, the highest proportion of pathogenic fungi were found on the base of the stem, *Fusarium* fungi being the most common ones (Table 1). *Cylindrocarpon destructans*, which is known to be a weak root pathogen (DOMSCH and GAMS 1970), was isolated from the base and root samples.

Fungi isolated from *R. arcticus* in 1975, 1977 and 1979, which occurred in more than 2 % of the transfers, are shown in Table 2. *C. destructans* was the most

Table 1. The most important fungi isolated in 1975 from *R. arcticus* samples and the number of isolates. ()=no. of samples

Fungus	Cane (8)	Base of cane (10)	Root (9)
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	1	1	0
<i>Coniothyrium fuckelii</i>	1	0	0
<i>Cylindrocarpon destructans</i>	0	3	3
<i>Fusarium avenaceum</i>	2	6	2
<i>F. oxysporum</i>	0	2	2
<i>F. spp.</i>	3	4	1
<i>Phoma</i> sp.	0	0	1
Total	7	16	9

Table 2. The commonest fungal species, found in stands of *R. arcticus*, the number of isolates and the percentage of transfers in which the fungus occurred

Fungus	No.	%
<i>Alternaria alternata</i> (Fr.) Keissl.	47	24.7
<i>Botrytis cinerea</i> Pers. ex Fr.	4	2.1
<i>Cladosporium</i> spp.	11	5.7
<i>Coniophyrium fuckelii</i> Sacc. (st.con. of <i>Leptosphaeria coniothyrium</i> (Fuck.) Sacc.	*)6	3.1
<i>Cylindrocarpon destructans</i> (Zins.) Scholten	25	13.2
<i>Fusarium</i> spp.	32	16.8
<i>Gliocladium</i> spp.	7	3.6
<i>Mucor</i> spp.	**)44	23.1
<i>Penicillium</i> spp.	13	6.8
<i>Phialophora</i> sp.	13	6.8
<i>Phoma</i> spp.	17	8.9
<i>Trichoderma viride</i> Pers. ex Fr.	13	6.8
<i>Ulocladium consortiale</i> (Thüm.) Simm.	25	13.1
Total	257	

*) one isolate from soil associated with roots

**) 3 isolates from soil associated with roots

common of the pathogenic fungi; it occurred in 33.3 % of the root samples, representing 15.8 % of all the transfers. The second most common were *Fusarium* species, of which *F. avenaceum* (Cda ex Fr.) Sacc. was found as frequently as the combined number of other *Fusarium* species, such as *F. oxysporum* Schl. emend Sn. & Hans., *F. culmorum* (W. G. Sm.) Sacc., *F. poae* (Peck) Wollenw. and *Fusarium* spp. *Phoma* fungi (Fig. 1) were isolated, for instance, from one diseased bud and from one almost completely withered clone, the epidermis of which was slightly loose. In both of these cases, pseudothecia and ascospores of *Didymella applanata* (Niessl)

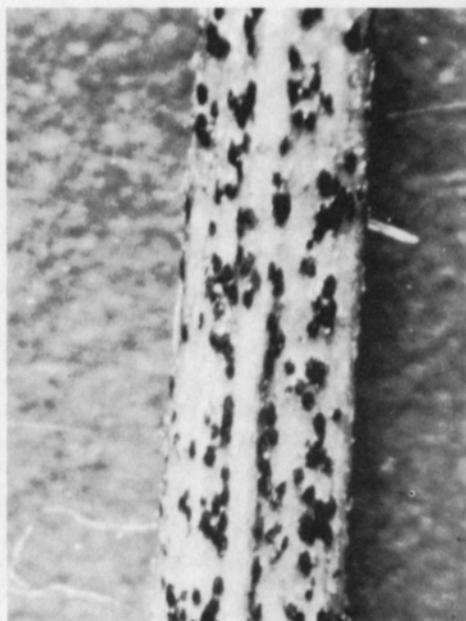


Fig. 1. *Phoma* spp. Pycnidia on the cane of *R. arcticus*. 10 x.

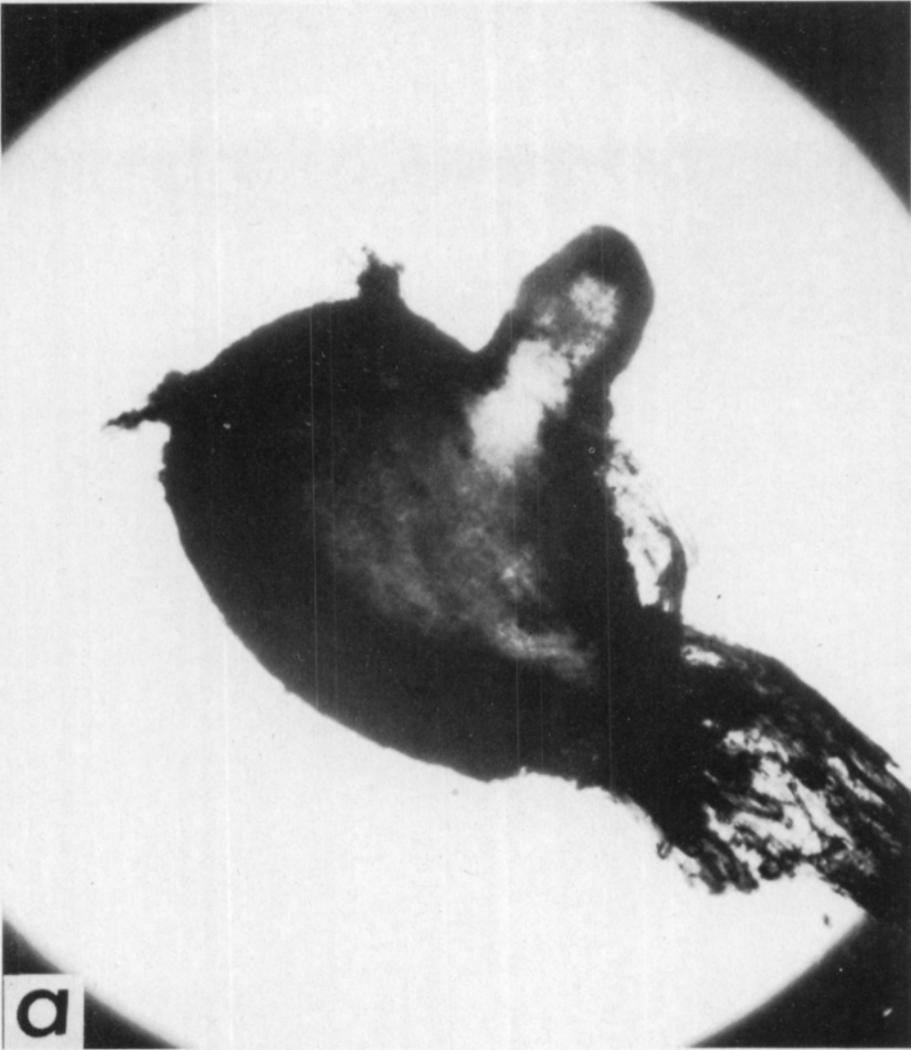


Fig. 2 a. *Didymella applanata*. Pseudothecium. 60 x.

Sacc. (Fig. 2 a, b) (cf. KOCH 1931), the causal agent of spur blight of raspberry, were evident. The perfect stage of the fungus did not grow on the nutrient medium. *P. exigua* Desm. var. *exigua* Maas was identified among the *Phoma* isolates. In addition to microscopic examinations (BOEREMA 1976), identification was also carried out by the colour reaction method recommended by BOEREMA and HÖWELER (1967).

Other fungi, mainly saprophytic ones, whose frequency was below 2 %, were also isolated from the stands of *R. arcticus*: *Absidia* sp., *Acremonium* sp., *Aspergillus niger* v. Tiegh., *Chaetomium globosum* Kunze ex Fr., *Epicoccum nigrum* Link, *Fusidium* sp., *Helminthosporium sativum* Pamm., King & Bakke, *Mortierella* sp., *Myrothecium verrucaria* Ditmar ex Fr., *Papulaspora* sp., *Phoma eupyrena* Sacc., *Podospora minuta* (Fuck.) Winter, *Sclerotinia* sp., *Septonema* sp., *Sordaria inaequalis* Cain (CAIN and

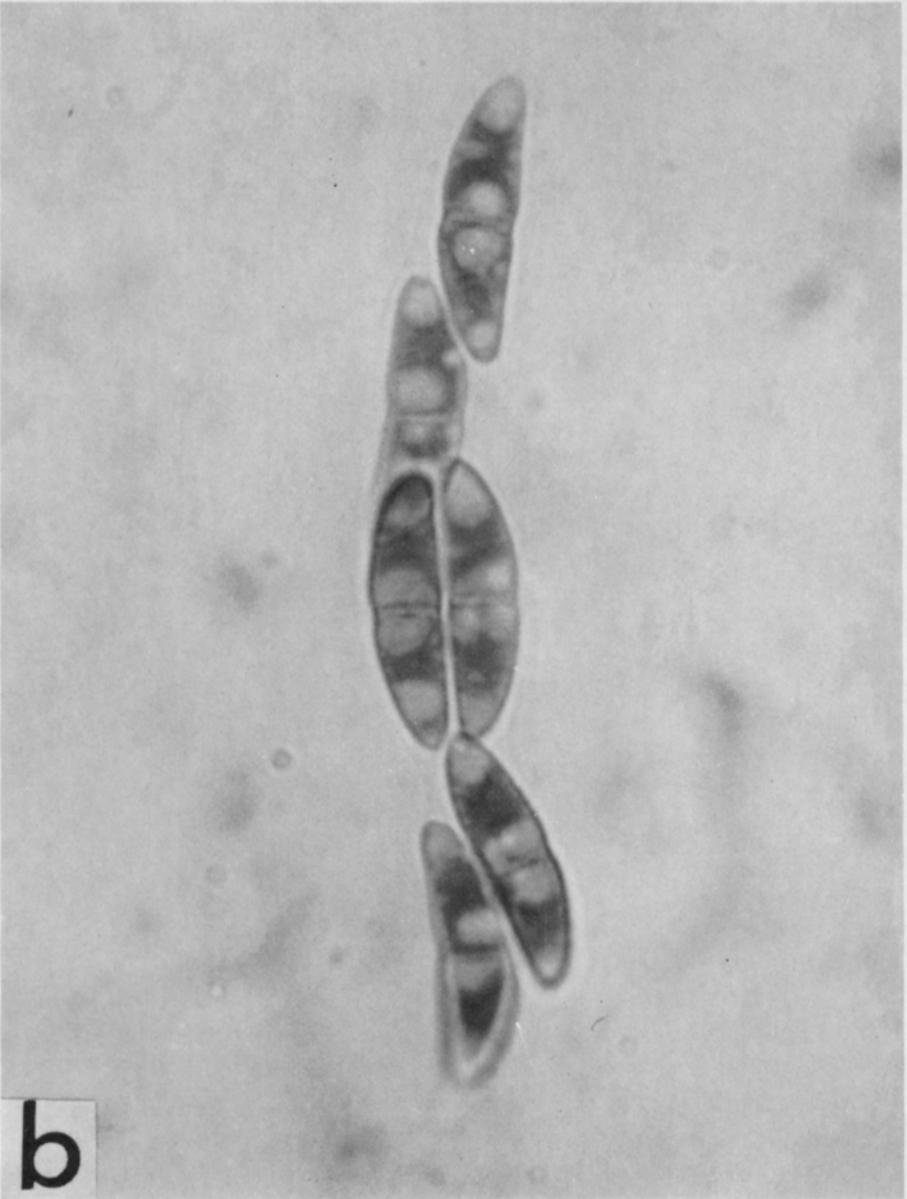


Fig. 2 b. *D. applanata* Ascospores. 650 x.

GROVES 1948), *S. macrospora* Auersw., *Sporormia intermedia* Auersw. (cf. DENNIS 1968) and *Torula* sp.

The following plant pathogens, in addition to the usual saprophytic fungi, were found in the dilution series (cf. NIENHAUS 1969) prepared from the soil, where the heavily infected clone was growing: *Coniothyrium fuckelii* (Fig. 2 b), *F. oxysporum* and *Truncatella truncata* (Lév.) Stey. A heavy infection of powdery mildew, which was not previously identified, was found on one of the *R. arcticus* clones in summer 1980.

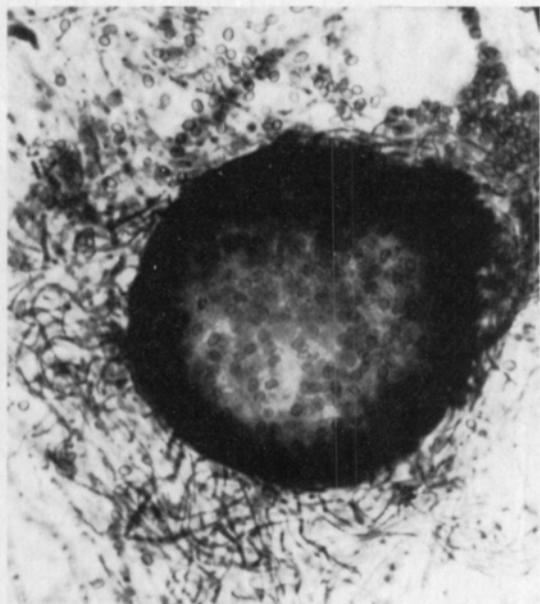


Fig. 3. *Coniothyrium fuckelii*, Pycnidium and pycnospores after 10 days' growth on MA. 100 x.

Inoculation experiments were performed with selected fungal isolates in the greenhouse, but they were not successful since the clones of arctic bramble did not grow well in greenhouse conditions.

Discussion

The results show that cultivated *R. arcticus* is quite clearly susceptible to the same pathogens as its related plant, raspberry (*R. idaeus*). According to SEEMÜLLER (1974), of 14 fungal species tested only *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium* was strongly pathogenic to raspberry, while, for instance, *D. applanata*, *P. exigua* var. *exigua*, *Botrytis cinerea* and *F. avenaceum* were only weakly pathogenic. However, in his study the degree of infection was found to be dependent on the wounding of the canes and on the point of inoculation. *L. coniothyrium* was rather uncommon on the *R. arcticus* samples studied here; it was isolated from the canes, from one injured bud and from the soil around withering clone, where, together with *D. applanata*, it was probably the main reason for the damage to the plant.

According to KOCH (1931), as well as to the observations made in the present study, *D. applanata* is also quite common on wild raspberries. Transfer of this fungus to *R. arcticus* has not been examined. It has been established (JARVIS and HARGREAVES 1972) that *F. avenaceum* is probably the most important causative agent of raspberry lateral wilt in Scotland. In the present study *F. avenaceum* occurred in 7.9 % of the transfers, most of them originating from the stem base.

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SELOSTUS

Viljelyn mesimarjan (*Rubus arcticus* L.) sienitaudit Suomessa

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Vuosina 1975 ja 1977–1979 suoritettiin tutkimuksia koeviljelyssä mesimarjassa (*Rubus arcticus* L.) esiintyvistä sienitaudeista.

Lievästi lakastumis- tai tyvitautisista klooneista eristetyistä sienipatoogeneista olivat yleisimmät *Cylindrocarpon destructans* (Zins.) Scholten ja *Fusarium avenaceum* (Cda ex Fr.) Sacc. Eräät muut *Fusarium*-lajit sekä *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex Fr. olivat harvinaisia.

Lähes kuituneissa klooneissa todettiin *Didymella applanata* (Niessl) Sacc. sekä runsaasti *Phoma*-sienen pyknidioita; isolaattien joukossa oli *P. exigua* Desm. var. *exigua* Maas, *Phoma* spp. sacc. sekä *Coniothyrium fuckelii* (perf. a. *Leptosphaeria coniothyrium* (Fuck.) Sacc.).

Lisäksi eristettiin sieniä, kaikkiaan 26 eri sienisukuun kuuluvia, joiden merkitys ilmeisesti jäi vähäiseksi.