

Simplified key to foliar, filamentous, pathogens of Guam

Robert L. Schlub, Ph.D., Extension Plant Pathologist, Julia Hudson, Extension Associate, Elizabeth Hahn, Extension Associate, Ethan So, Research Assistant



This is a simplified or practical key to Guam's principle foliar, filamentous pathogens. It is intended as a tool to assist current and future plant diagnosticians. The key uses a few structures and other descriptors to place a possible unknow fungus like organism into one of eighteen possible type specimen categories. Some structures can be seen with the unaided eye, while others require a 14X Coddington hand lens, a dissecting microscope 5-50X, or a compound scope 50-500X. To increase the chances of finding key structures, samples should be observed fresh and after incubation in a moisture chamber (such as a closed container with a moist paper towel) for 12, 24, and 48 hours

Glossary: Simplified key to foliar, filamentous, pathogens of Guam

^aType specimen: groups of organisms with morphological and developmental similarities.

^bMorphological characters: shapes, size, and arrangement of the parts that make up the body of a Type Specimen.

^cSpore: the small reproductive body most commonly associated with the designated fungus. It is a unit of dispersal and germinates to produce new threads of the fungus (mycelium). Examples include conidia, sporangia, oospore, and ascospore.

^{c1}Spore formation: Single: typically exists as a single spore at apex of spore support structure (if occasionally in chains, indicated in parenthesis); Chain: typically exists as a chain of spores; (...): number of spores within a chain.

^{c2}Spore cells: number of cells or partitions within a spore resulting from the formation of transverse cross walls (septa). A single spore with no cross-walls is indicated by "1." Muriform refers to multicellular spores with both transverse and longitudinal cross-walls.

^{c3}Spore shade: Light: commonly reported as colorless or lightly pigmented; Dark: commonly reported as colorful or darkly pigmented.

^{c4}Spore shape: Globose: spore has roughly the same length and width (ex: round, lemon-shape, pear shaped, ovide and ovate); Oblong: spore has a length that is 2-6 times its width (ex: ovate, cylindrical, and elliptical). Slender: Length over 6 times its width (ex: fusiform, filiform, filamentous, straight, curved and slender)

^{c5}Spore dimension: dimensions of a spore are given in micrometers (µm) as width times length (W x L).

^dRelative size: E: structures visible with the unaided eye; L: structures visible with a 14X Coddington hand lens; D: structures visible with a dissection microscope; C: structures that require a compound microscope for clear visibility.

^eSpecialized hypha: a specialized single modified thread of fungal tissue (hypha, pl. hyphae), which give rise to one or more spores. Examples include conidiophore, sporangiophore, sporodochium, and synnemata. Length of the hypha structure indicated. Structure may be branched (tree like), or unbranched (not tree like). Spore bearing hypha spacing on the leaf surface may be dispersed or in clusters or clumps.

^fFruiting body: a fruiting body is a multicellular structure, of variable shape and size, embedded in leaf tissue or on its surface, containing or bearing spores.

- Closed fruiting body: a fruiting body with a closed spore chamber. Generally spherical or flask-shaped, may contain one spore but generally contains hundreds. Examples include cleistothecium, chasmothecia, perithecium, pycnidium, and sporangium.
- Open fruiting body: a fruiting body with an open face on which spores are formed. Consisting of a saucer-shaped cushion of hyphae, which may be obscured by an aggregation of hundreds of spores which form on its surface.
 Small eruptions on the leaf surface result if the cushion forms beneath the outer surface of the leaf. Examples include acervulus, apothecium, and basidium. Setae: refers to bristle-like, sharp-pointed, and usually thick-walled sterile modified hyphae often associated with fungal fruiting bodies.

^gHyphae matrix: refers to a cushionlike mass of closely interwoven vegetative hypha in or on which fruiting bodies are usually produced. Examples include stroma, ectostroma, endostroma, epistroma, hypostruma, and psedostroma. Hyphae matrix is either present or absent.

^hUnique feature: a commonly occurring feature of the group that helps distinguish it from other genera.

Foliar disease: a term used to classify plant diseases based on symptoms and or an associated pathogen. They are often found on pesticide labels, seed packets, and in popular literature.

Simplified key to foliar, filamentous, pathogens of Guam

Type Specimen ^a	Albugo	Alternaria	Ascochyta	Botrytis	Cephaleuros	Cercospora_	Colletotrichum	Corynespora
Descriptors	3		,	,	·			, ,
Morphological								
Characters ^b								
Spore formation ^{c1}	Chain	Single (1-2)	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single (2-6)
Spore cells ^{c2}	1	Muriform	1-2	1	1	5-12	1	4-20
Spore shade ^{c3}	Light	Dark	Light	Light	Dark	Light	Light	Dark
Spore shape ^{c4}	Globose	Slender	Oblong	Globose	Globose	Slender	Oblong	Slender
Spore dimension ^{c5}	12-20 x 12-18 μm	12-20 x 120- 296 μm	3-5 x 6-10 μm	6-9 x 8-14 μm	16-31 x 15-34 μm	1-5 x 50-220 µm	4-6 x 13-19 μm	9-22 x 40-220 μm
Relative sized	D	L	С	С	D	D	С	L
Specialized hypha ^e	Absent	50-90 µm branched dispersed	Absent	750-2,000 µm branched clustered	245-545 µm branched dispersed	50-300 µm branched clustered	Absent	110-850 µm unbranched dispersed
Relative size		L		Е	L	D		L
Fruiting body ^f	Open	Absent	Closed	Absent	Absent	Absent	Open, setae com-	Absent
Relative size	Е		Е				Е	
Hyphae Matrix ⁹	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Absent
Unique feature ^h	Forms while blisters or pustules	Terminal cell of conidium with "tail"	Spores erupt from fruiting budy as "tendril", they may contain oil drops	Tall irregularly branched conidiophores with conidia clusters	Analga, spots velvety, irregularly shaped, and orange	Thickening at point of spore attachment	Fresh spore masses easily visible pink to salmon	Conidia with dark basal scar
Foliar diseases ⁱ								
Algal leaf spot					[X]			
Anthracnose							[X]	
Black leaf streak						[X]		
Bull's eye spot		[X]						[X]
Downy mildew								
Early blight		[X]						
Frogeye spot						[X]		
Gray leaf spot		[X]				[X]		
Gray mold				[X]				
Gummy stem blight			[X]					
Late blight								
Leaf blight		[X]						[X]
Leaf freckle								
Leaf spot		[X]	[X]	[X]		[X]		[X]
Powdery mildew								
Rust								
Scab								
Southern leaf blight								
Target leaf spot								[X]
White blister	[X]							
White rust	[X]							
Wilt								

							·		
Diplodia	Fusarium	Helminthosporium	Oidium	Peronospora	Pestalotia	Phomopsis	Phyllosticta	Phytophthora	Puccinia
Single	Single	Single	Chain (3-5)	Single	Single (1-2)	Single	Single	Single	Chain
1-2	3-5	2 or more	1	1	5	1	1	1	1
Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Light	Dark	Light	Light	Light	Dark
Obong	Slender	Slender	Globose	Globose	Oblong	Oblong	Globose	Oblong	Globose
5-8 x 15-34 μm	3-5 x 15-44 µm	14-18 x 66-102 μm	16-29 x 32-46 μm	14-25 x 20-40 μm	5-8 x 17-25 µm	2-3 x 5-8 μm	8-9 x 13-16 µm	17-28 x 40-70 μm	16-26.5 x 21.5- 30 μm
С	D	L	D	D	D	С	С	L	D
Absent	10-20 µm branched clustered	105-470 µm unbranched dispersed	40-132 μm unbranched dispersed	180-400 µm branched clustered	Absent	Absent	Absent	up to 50 µm unbranched dispersed	Absent
	С	L	L	L				С	
Closed	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Open	Closed	Closed	Absent	Open
Е					Е	Е	Е		Е
Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Present
Pycnidia separate, unequally celled conidia	Macroconidia with "foot- shaped" basal cell	Spores unusually thick-walled and large	Spores produced by superficial hyphae	End of conidium nipple-shaped	One spore end cell pointed, other end with appendages	Small slender condia may accompany rounded conidia which have oil drops	Spore mass often form a "tendril" (tail)	Apical end of spores nipple- shaped, basal end attached	Large spores give lesions a "rusty" appearance
				[X]					
					[X]				
								[X]	
						[X]			
							[X]		
[X]	[X]	[X]				[X]	[X]		
			[X]						
									[X]
					[X]				
		[X]							
	[X]								