

PEST ALERT

FDACS-P-02222

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Pseudocerradoa paullula: Rust of *Epipremnum* and *Monstera*

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INTRODUCTION

The fungal pathogen *Pseudocerradoa* (= *Puccinia*) *paullula* (Pucciniales, Basidiomycota) was first detected in a nursery in Plantation, Broward County, Florida in November 2019. Previously, this rust fungus was only known from Australia, New Caledonia, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, occurring in several Araceae genera: *Alocasia*, *Amorphophallus*, *Monstera*, *Epipremnum*, *Typhonodorum* and *Stenospermation* (experimental inoculation only). In Florida, it has been encountered most often on *Monstera deliciosa* (Swiss cheese plant or split-leaf philodendron) and *Epipremnum pinnatum* (centipede tongavine, taro vine, silver vine, dragon-tail plant).

IDENTIFICATION

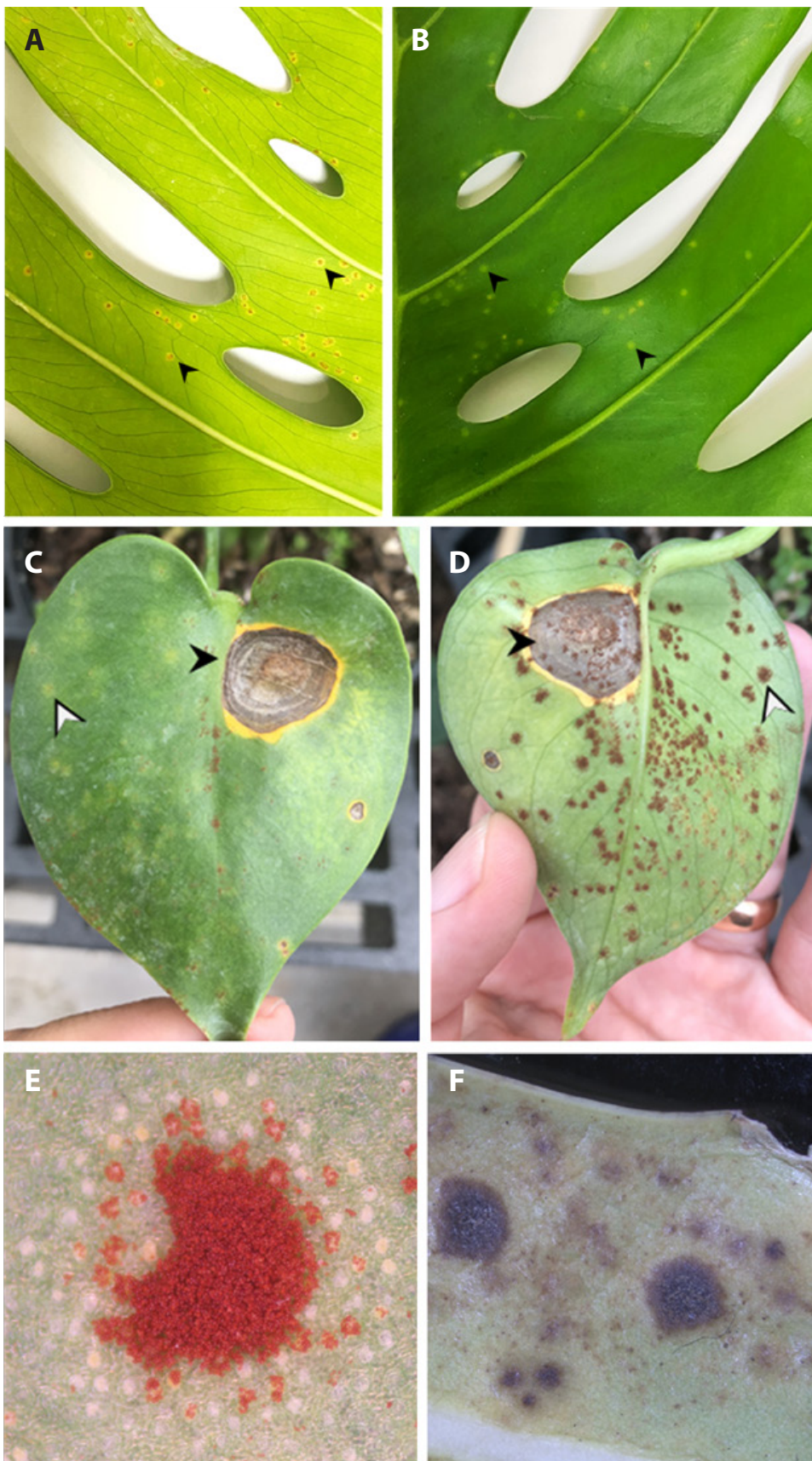
Pseudocerradoa paullula produces lesions up to 1 cm in diameter on the lower leaf surface during high humidity conditions; lesions produce copious amounts of reddish spores (urediniospores and/or teliospores) at maturity, giving a powdery texture. In low humidity conditions, lesions will not develop spores on the lower surface and remain within the host tissue; consequently, leaf lesions appear smooth to the naked eye. Later in the infection, leaf spots are often colonized by secondary pathogens forming enlarged necrotized lesions, significantly diminishing the ornamental aesthetic. Based on observations, *P. paullula* is capable of infection year-round in Florida. Infected leaves and leaf litter, and plants with heavy infestations should be destroyed. Newly purchased aroids should be isolated for 40 days to minimize disease spread to existing collections.

REFERENCES

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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Pseudocercospora paullula leaf spots on *Monstera deliciosa* (black arrows) lower (A) and upper (B) surface; and on *Epipremnum pinnatum* (white arrows) upper (C) and lower (D) surface, enlarged necrotized leaf spot caused by secondary pathogens (black arrows); detail of leaf spot with uredinia (E) and without uredinia (F), plants cultivated under low humidity.

Photos by Romina Gazis, UF-TREC, (C, D) and Hector Urbina, FDACS-DPI, (A, B, E, F)