

## DISCUSSION

*Chairman :*

On behalf of this Symposium I wish to thank Dr. Trujillo. I wish also to open the discussion by remarking that Dr. Trujillo's paper is quite timely in these parts. The aroids, like several other root crops in the Caribbean region, have been frequently referred to as relatively free of disease. However, as we become more conscious of plant pathology as an integral part of agricultural industry, we are recognising the fallacy of this popular conception. Recently, we in the Crop Protection Division have observed foliar infections of tannia and dasheen and, in fact, photographs of some of these are now on display in the laboratory demonstration upstairs. This may well mark the beginning of investigations on these problems.

*E. Tai (Trinidad) :*

I would like to ask Dr. Trujillo whether he has come across a disease known as "saltpetre" this was described about fifty years ago in Jamaica by Ashby. The disease is supposedly caused by a *Sphaerostilbe* sp. It begins like a vascular wilt and develops into a soft rot.

*E. Trujillo (Hawaii) :*

We do not have that type of disease in the Pacific. However, in Japan there is in aroids a type of rot which is similar to black rot of sweet potatoes. In Hawaii we have what is known as "Loli-loli". Affected corms are very light and fibrous. This I consider to be a physiological disease. It is caused by the fact that after the corms have accumulated much starch and are almost mature, foliar infections, for example, by *Phytophthora* occur, killing the leaves. This is followed by the production of new leaves which causes the depletion of the starch stored in the corms and results in the condition described.

There are also nutrient deficiency diseases in aroids in the Pacific area.

*L. Edwards (St. Kitts) :*

Dr. Trujillo, in your penultimate slide you showed us a disease which resulted in water soaked spots on the leaves. I have seen similar symptoms on the leaves of papaya affected by an unidentified disease in Nevis. Dr. Bird of Puerto Rico discovered the pathogen to be *Corynespora*. I should like to know if you ever found *Corynespora* causing a disease of taro.

*E. Trujillo (Hawaii) :*

No, we have not seen any *Corynespora* in taro, but we have seen it in papaw. We must be aware that there are sometimes invalid descriptions in the literature. People sometimes report saprophytic fungi as being pathogens with establishing their pathogenicity.

*B. Williams (Trinidad) :*

I thought I heard Dr. Trujillo say that taro set seed in the Pacific areas. Is that correct?

*E. Trujillo (Hawaii) :*

Yes, they do produce seeds. As a matter of fact, a large number of varieties produce flowers readily and in my paper I referred to literature on work that was done in Hawaii on the production of seeds.