

CERCOSPORA LEAFSPOT OF BOUGAINVILLEA

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*Cercospora bougainvilleae* Muntanola is identified as the causal agent of a disease affecting the leaves of *Bougainvillea glabra* Choisy and *B. spectabilis* Willd. in Florida. The disease was first observed in 1962, but was not considered to be a serious problem until 1963, when 58 specimens were received from 34 locations in the state. More than 100 collections of the disease have been examined to date, and its distribution now includes 53 locations in 17 counties (Fig. 1).

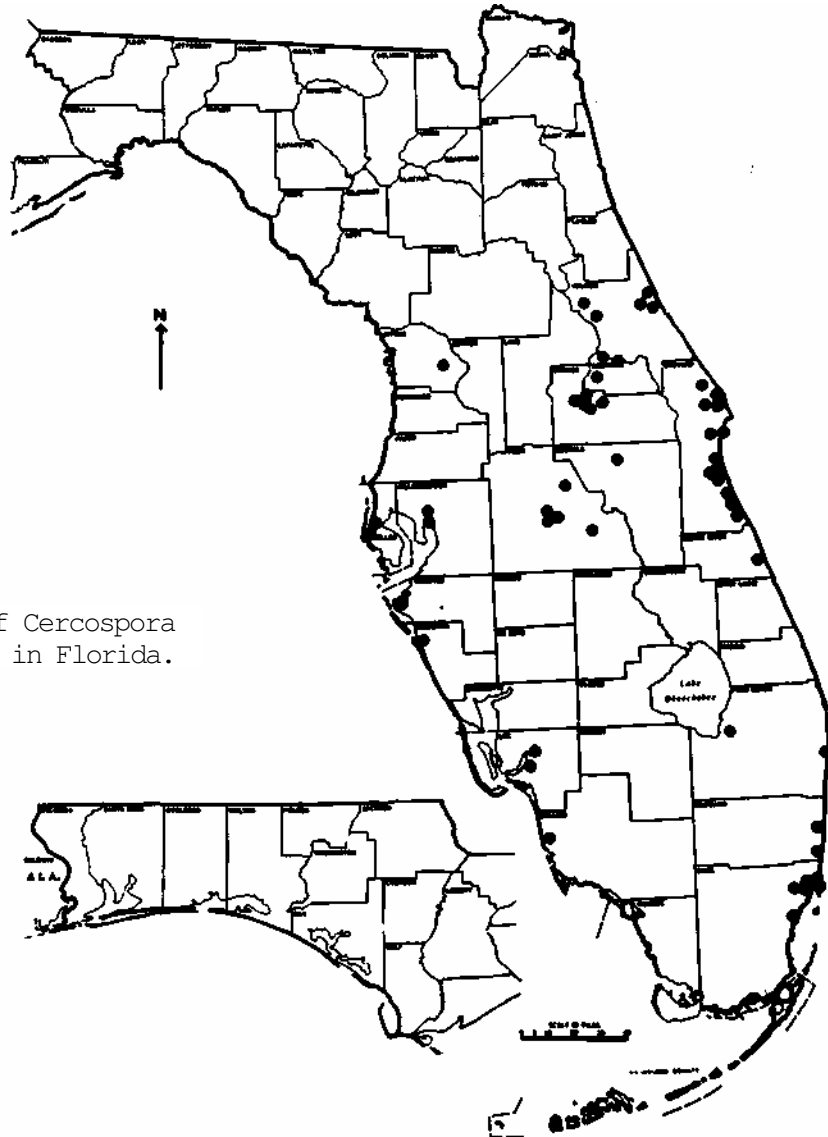


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Cercospora bougainvilleae* in Florida.

SYMPTOMATOLOGY. Lesions circular to subcircular, sometimes confluent, 1-8 mm diam, with depressed tan to brown centers which may be darkened by the fruiting fungus, occasionally zonate, raised reddish brown margins; frequently surrounded by an area of chlorosis (Fig. 2).

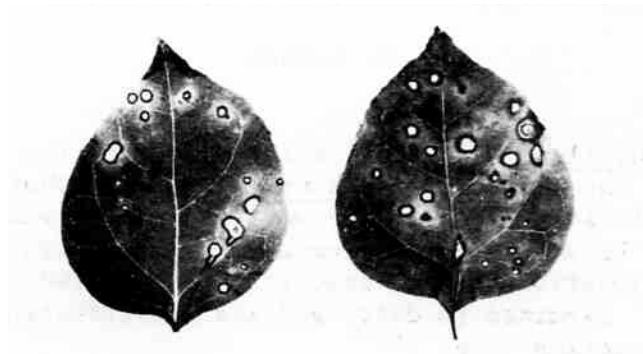


Fig. 2. Lesions on *Bougainvillea glabra* leaves caused by *Cercospora bougainvilleae*.

CONTROL. The initial step in achieving control of this disease is to remove from the plant and destroy by burning as many of the infected leaves as practicability will permit. Leaves which have fallen from the plant should be removed from the ground, containers, and benches, and should be destroyed. Benomyl or basic copper sulfate, starting when disease first appears, will control the fungus.