MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF
*COLLETOTRICHUM* ASSOCIATED WITH ANTHRACNOSE ON *CAPSICUM CHINENSE* IN THE STATE OF AMAZONAS

Clara Victória Souza de Oliveira¹; Diego Mavignieur Cajueiro de Albuquerque¹, Nelcimar Reis Sousa¹; Rogério E. Hanada², Gilvan Ferreira da Silva¹*¹

¹Laboratory of Molecular Biology Embrapa Western Amazon, Manaus, Brazil. ²INPA- National Institute of Amazonian Research

*E-mail: gilvan.silva@embrapa.br*

**Key-words:** *Colletotrichum*, anthracnose, molecular markers, GS RFLP, ERIC-PCR.

The genus *Colletotrichum* includes a number of plant pathogens species of major importance, causing anthracnose diseases of a wide variety of plants mainly in tropical and subtropical region. These fungal pathogens are a huge problem on perennial crops and also frequently causes significant economic losses in annual crops. Different species of *Colletotrichum* can be jointly associated with anthracnose on a single host. Currently there are four described species of Colletotrichum associated with anthracnose of chilli pepper *Capsicum chinense*, the *C. capsici* and *C. gloeosporioides* (India, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand), *C. acutatum* in Australia and *C. coccodes* in New Zealand. In Brazil few studies have been conducted with the aim of characterize the species responsible for anthracnose in *C. chinense*, despite the importance of the accurate taxonomic identification for plant breeding purposes and disease management. The goal of this study was to compare different isolates of *Colletotrichum* from anthracnose lesion on *C. chinense* collected in the state of Amazonas, using molecular markers. The monosporic culture and molecular analysis (ERIC-PCR, ISSR and Glutamine syntetase (GS) RFLP-PCR) of five isolates (2403, 2286, 2629, 2066, 1858) from the chili and three species previously identified (*C. fragariae*, *C. gloeosporioides* and *C. fruticola*), was carried out at the Molecular Biology Laboratory of Embrapa Western Amazon. The amplification was positive using specific primers to ERIC-PCR (ERIC1 5' ATGTTAAG TCCCTGGGGATTCAC-3' and ERIC2 5'-AGTAAGTGACTGGGGTGAGCG-3'), GS (GSF1 5'-ATGGCCGAGTACATCTGG-3' and GSR1 5'-AACCGT CGAAGTTCCAC-3') and ISSR (UBC 885 BHBBAGAGAGAGAGAGA). The ERIC-PCR and ISSR showed a unique and different band profiles for each of the three species of *Colletotrichum*, indicating the ability to differentiate the species of this genus. These molecular marker also were able to distinguish two of the five isolates from *Capsicum chinense* with unique band profiles The RFLP of the 1-kb GS intron based on PstI enzyme digestion, which is able to separate *C. acutatum* from *C. gloeosporioides*, showed that three left isolates can possibly be *C. acutatum*. Another isolate had a restriction profile similar to *C. gloeosporioides* and the last one is completely different from the others confirming the data from ERIC and ISSR. The specie identification of isolate from *C. chinense* will be performed subsequently, by sequence of specific regions and phylogenetic analysis.