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Cylindrocladium gracile a potential threat to carrot production in Rio Paranaiba Valley.

(*Cylindrocladium gracile*, uma ameaça potencial para a produção de cenoura no Vale do Rio Paranaíba.)

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Cylindrocladium gracile (=C. clavatum) (*Cg*) is a fungal pathogen commonly found in tropical soils, where it is responsible for crown and root rot in seedlings of a wide host range. It also attacks potato tubers causing lenticels-associated blemishes, but its importance as a potato pathogen has been unusually high in the last summer in Rio Paranaiba Valley due to severe tuber rot. Since the above region is one of the most important carrot and potato production in Brazil, the aim of this study was to determine if *C.gracile* isolated from potato tubers can infect carrot roots. The test was carried out with six isolates obtained from potatoes grown in Serra do Salitre, MG, and Ibicoara, BA. Surface sterilized carrot roots of the hybrid Juliana were inoculated with hyphal tips of four-day old colonies removed from the agar plate with a sterile wood toothpick, which was then introduced into the roots. Inoculated roots and water soaked cotton swabs were placed in a 40x20x15 cm plastic boxes, which were immediately sealed to form a moist chamber for two days. Four days after inoculation, all the isolates formed deep dark rotting on the root. Reisolation from the rotted areas yielded colonies with the same characteristics of the inoculated ones. This is apparently the first association of carrot root with *a Cylindrocladium* species in Brazil and is an alert to carrot growers who share the same areas for potato production.

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