Solanum lycocarpum: A Natural Host of *Stemphylium solani.*

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Circular, light-gray lesions caused by *Stemphylium solani* G.F. Weber were found on leaves of *fruta-de-lobo* (*Solanum lycocarpum* St. Hill.) plants growing near tomato germ plasm lines heavily infected with the fungus. Identification of the pathogen was based on morphology of conidia and conidiophores (1). Plants (15 days old) of *S. lycocarpum* and tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill. 'Rutgers') were inoculated under greenhouse conditions (22–26 C) with 20 ml of a spore suspension adjusted to 10^4 conidia per milliliter of *S. solani.* Light-gray spots appeared on the leaves of both species 6–8 days after inoculation. *S. solani* was reisolated from those lesions. *S. lycocarpum* is a perennial native plant quite common in the *cerrado* (savannah) area of central Brazil where processing tomatoes are becoming a major crop. Our finding indicates that this plant species may play an important role as a source of inoculum for tomatoes in Brazil by keeping *S. solani* viable from season to season.

Reference: (1) G. F. Weber. Mycologia 20:516, 1930.