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**DETECTION OF *SUBRAMANIANOSPORA VESICULOSA* 'BLISTER BARK'
PATHOGEN OF *CASUARINA EQUISETIFOLIA* THROUGH AMPLIFICATION
OF REPETITIVE SEQUENCES AND INTERNAL TRANSCRIBED SPACER
REGIONS OF rRNA GENE CLUSTER.**

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ABSTRACT : *Subramanianospora vesiculosa* 'blister bark' (or wilt) is a serious disease of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, which is an important nitrogen-fixing multipurpose tree of social, economic and environmental significance in tropical and subtropical littoral zones of Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Central America. Identification and management of the disease is often difficult since only few affected trees display typical symptoms. Besides, the fungus does not readily sporulate in culture, which causes further difficulty in accurate identification and timely implementation of effective disease management strategy. In this study, we tested two DNA fingerprinting methods, viz., SSR-PCR (Simple Sequence Repeats - PCR) and ITS-PCR (Internal Transcribed Spacer - PCR) to identify non-sporulating isolates of the pathogen. Both DNA methods successfully generated DNA fingerprints, which can be used for rapid and accurate identification of the pathogen in the absence of sporulation.

Keywords : Blister-bark, *Casuarina*, identification, ITS-PCR, SSR-PCR, *Subramanianospora vesiculosa*