



Black sigatoka disease model

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Black sigatoka

Common name pathogen: Black sigatoka
Kingdom: Fungi
Division: Ascomycota
Class: Dothideomycetes
Order: Mycosphaerellales
Scientific names: *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*
Host Banana (*Musa sapientum*)

The disease represents a relevant problem in Caribbean region, with a decreasing of the production of about 50% during critical years.
Protection methods can cost about 1500 \$/ha/y.



Distribution

The disease caused by the fungus *Mycosphaerella fijiensis* was first recognized on the South-eastern coast of Viti Levu in Fiji in 1963 (Rhodes 1964).

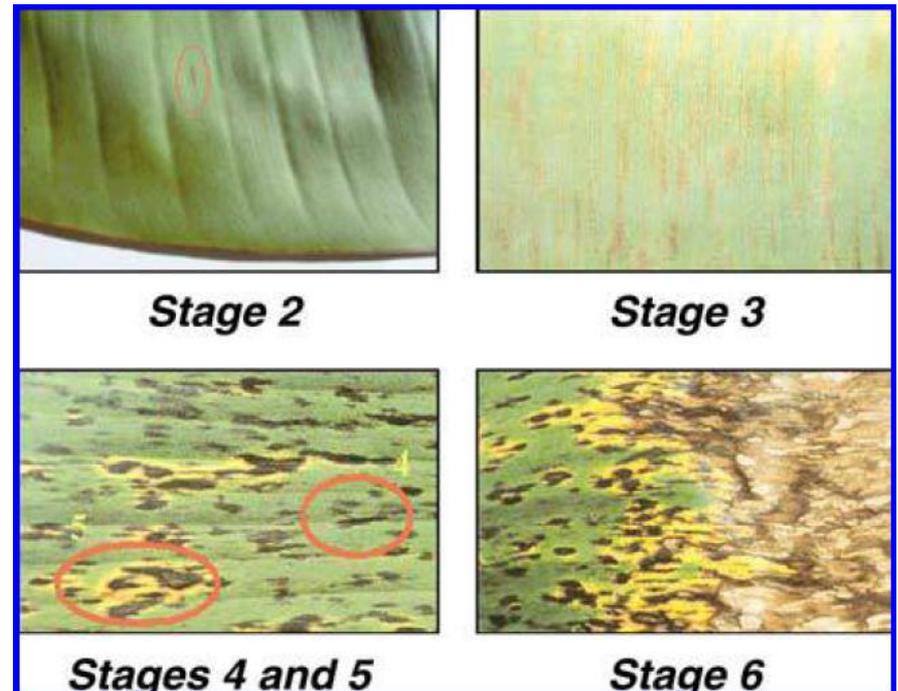
Subsequently, the disease was reported in the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, in Latin America and in La Lima and Honduras in 1972.



A screenshot of a web browser displaying a research article. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.int-res.com/view_abstract.php?id=13202. The article title is "WORLDWIDE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF BLACK SIGATOKA FOR BANANA: PREDICTIONS BASED ON CLIMATE CHANGE MODELS". The authors listed are Jesus WC, de Jesus, Walter Chirra, et al., Valdivia R, Diabatewa, Ramotho, et al., Cecchi RA, Cecchi, Roberto Andrade, Moraes NB, Moraes, William Buckner, de Vito FFR, Ribeiro de Vito, Francisco Xavier, Jesus FR, Alves, Fabio Ramos, Paul Pa, Paul, Pence Anderson. The article is from the journal SCIENTIA AGRICOLA, Volume 55, Special Issue 50, 45-51, published in 2008. The abstract discusses the impact of climate change on the geographical distribution of Black Sigatoka, a major banana disease. The article has 9 citations and 28 references. The funding agency is listed as UFV, with grant number 473992005-4. The browser interface includes a search bar, navigation buttons, and a taskbar at the bottom.

Economic importance

Black Sigatoka is a fungal disease that can cut yields by up to three quarters and reduces the productive activity of banana plants from 30 to only 2 or 3 years. In the last years it has become a global epidemic. The disease spread is an important aspect considering that bananas are a staple food in Latin America and Africa.



Damage

Black Sigatoka is one of the most devastating leaf-destroying diseases. This disease causes significant leaf area reduction, yield losses of 50% or more, and premature ripening.



Control

Black Sigatoka is controlled by frequent applications of fungicides. Usually the banana farms have small dimension and product for local market; the farmers haven't the possibility to afford expensive measures to fight the disease. However, some cultivars of banana are resistant to the disease. The main good practice to contrast the disease spread are: removal of affected leaves and a good drainage.



CAMI project - format for submitting country information

Crop	Economic importance of crop to the nation/community ¹	Production season (Wet/Dry/Year round) ²	# Producers	Crop phenology				# Hectare	Major pest/disease	Economic importance of pest/disease to the crop ³	Availability of meteorological data ⁴
				Growth period	Vegetative period	Reproductive period	Critical period of crop for pest/disease infestation				

Major pest/disease	Year/time of year infestation	Intensity of infestation ⁵	Problem to be solved with weather related model	Previous experience with the use of model ⁶	Contact Person with e-mail id

Life cycle

- The same conditions required for optimum plant growth are also conducive for development of black Sigatoka. The disease does not develop well under cool conditions or areas of high elevations. Shading can reduce symptoms expression.
- Conidia and ascospores are important in its dispersal. The conidia are mainly water-borne to short distances, while ascospores are carried by wind to more remote places (the distances could be limited by their susceptibility to ultraviolet light). Over sixty distinct strains with different pathogenetic potentials have been isolated.

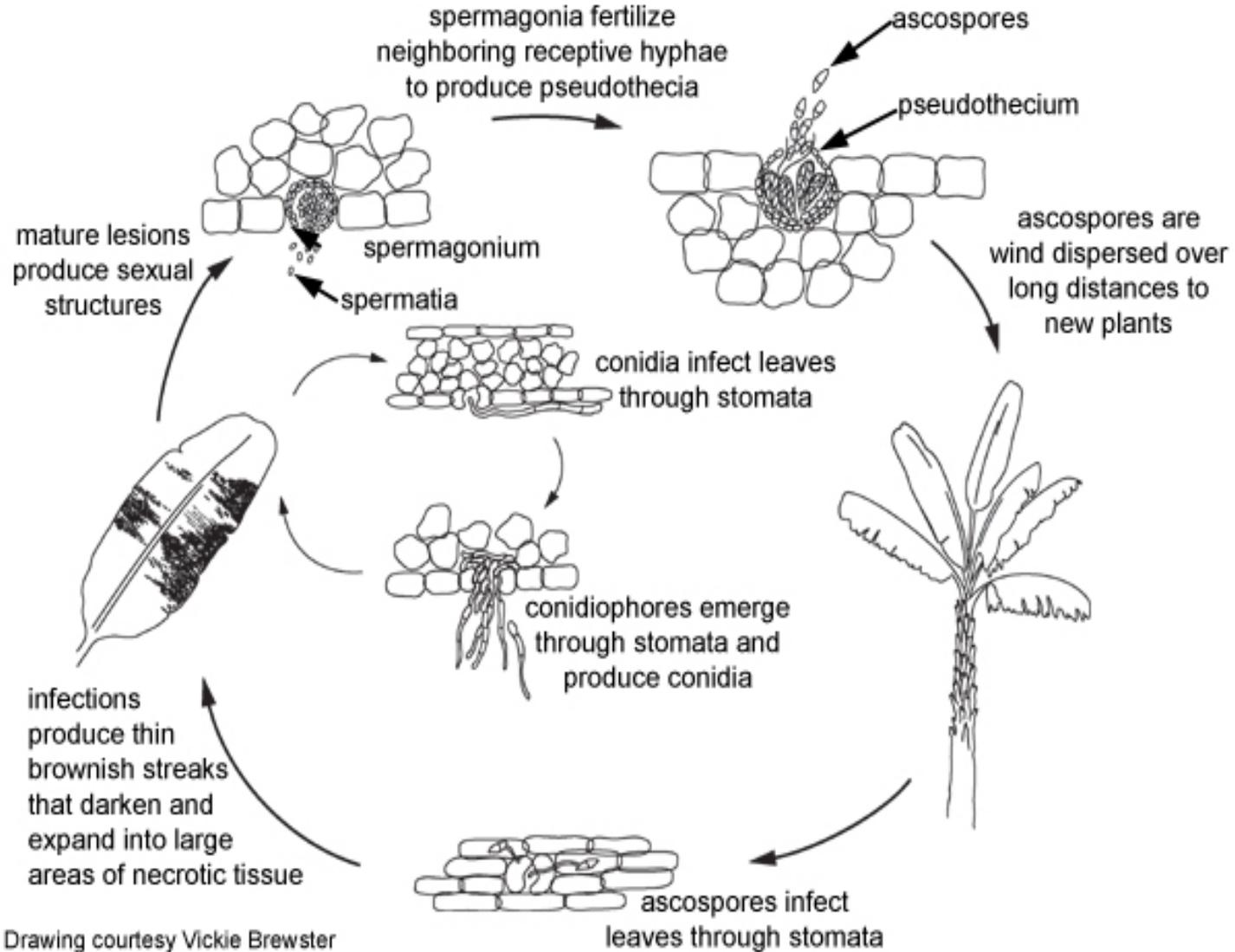
Biological cycle - conidia and ascospores

Because *M. fijiensis* produces relatively few conidia, ascospores are considered to be more important in the spread of black Sigatoka

Conidia become more important during dry periods when disease development is delayed because of the presence of less conducive climatic conditions.

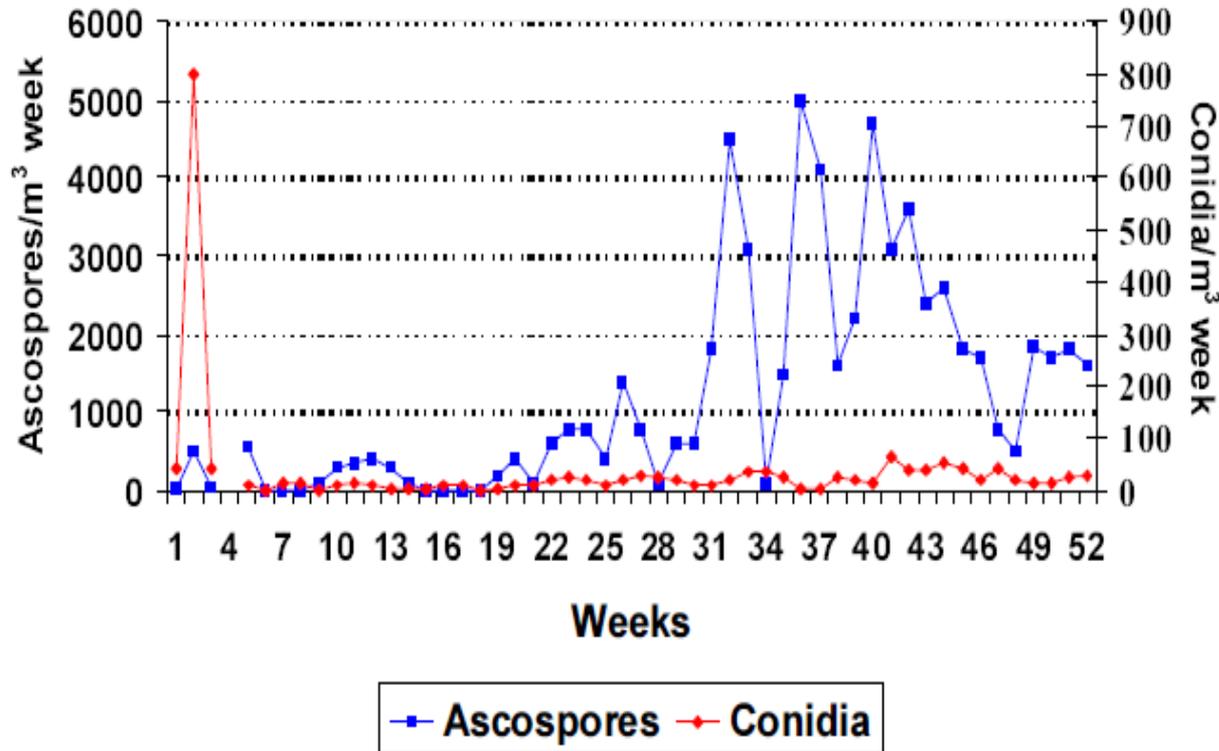
Ascospores are the primary means of dispersal over longer distances within plantations and into new areas, and are the usual means of spread during extended periods of wet weather

Biological cycle



Black sigatoka - Disease Cycle (Drawing courtesy of Vickie Brewster)

Seasonal variation of ascospores and conidi in the Caribbean zone of Costa Rica



Biological cycle

Ascospores are produced in pseudothecia in mature lesions, which are common on both sides of the leaf surface.

The ascospore release requires the presence of a film of water from rain or dew that imbibes the pseudothecia and results in the forcible ejection of the ascospores through the leaf boundary layer, where they are disseminated by air currents.

During infection the Germ tubes take approximately 48 to 72 h to penetrate the stomata.

Successful infection is promoted by extended periods of high humidity and the presence of free water on the leaves; Maximum germination occurs when there is **free water present**.

THE MODEL

Black sigatoka model

The model describes the infection caused by ascospores produced by pathogen.

MODEL INPUT: hourly mean temperature, hourly relative humidity and daily or hourly precipitation data.

The model considers different phases

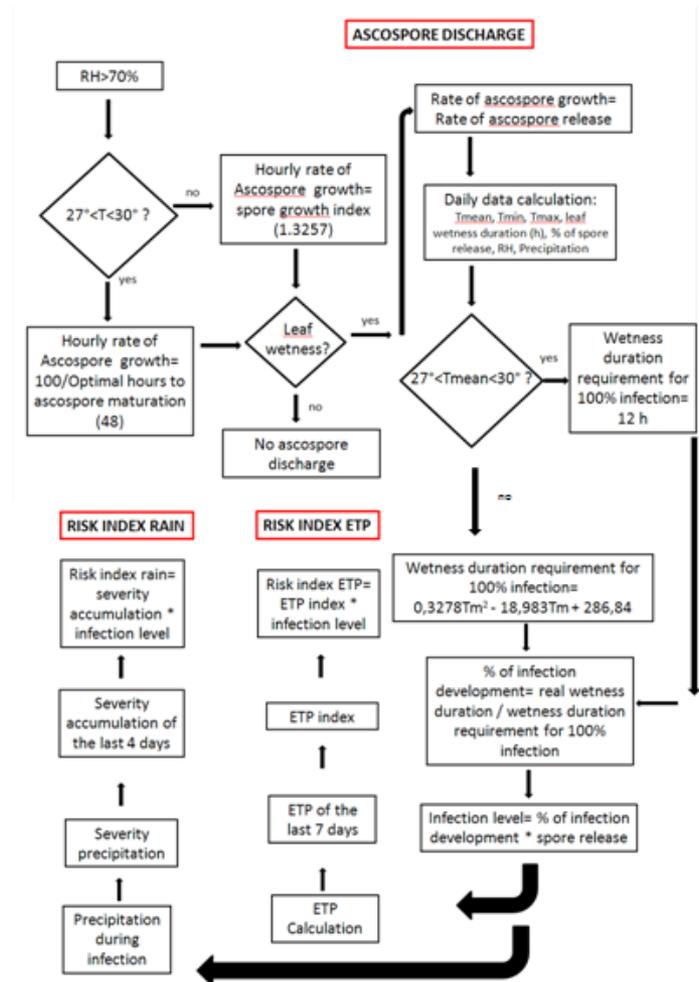
1. ASCOSPORES FORMATION

2. ASCOSPORE DISCHARGE

3. INFECTION

4. THE RISK INDEX

MODEL OUTPUT: risk index of disease



1. Ascospore formation

The model for ascospore formation uses temperature and relative humidity.

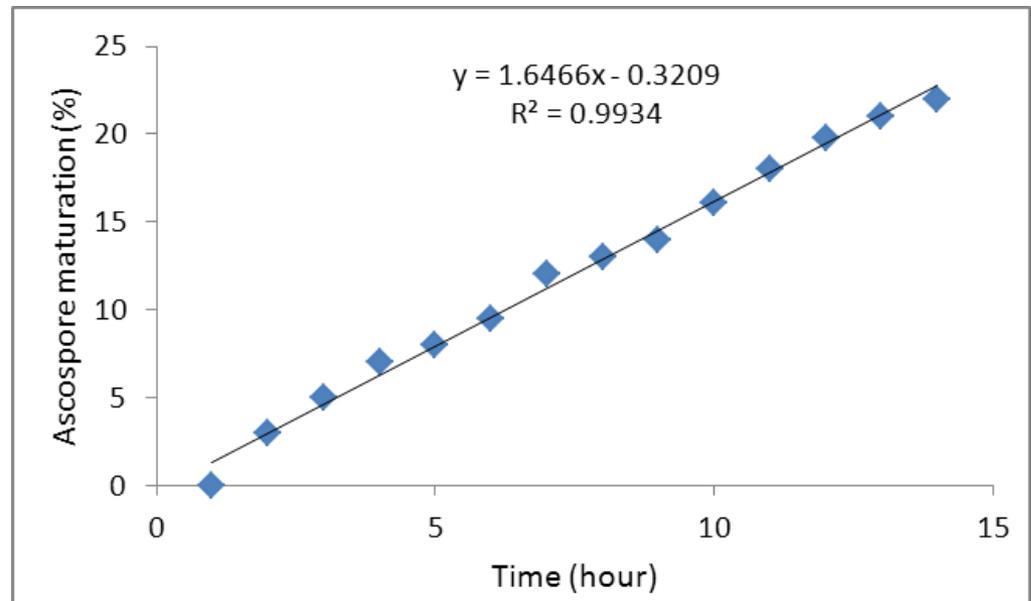
Ascospore formation takes place if:

- Relative Humidity $\geq 70\%$
- Optimum temperature is between 27 - 30 °C.

At this temperature the total production of ascospores is reached after 48 hours.

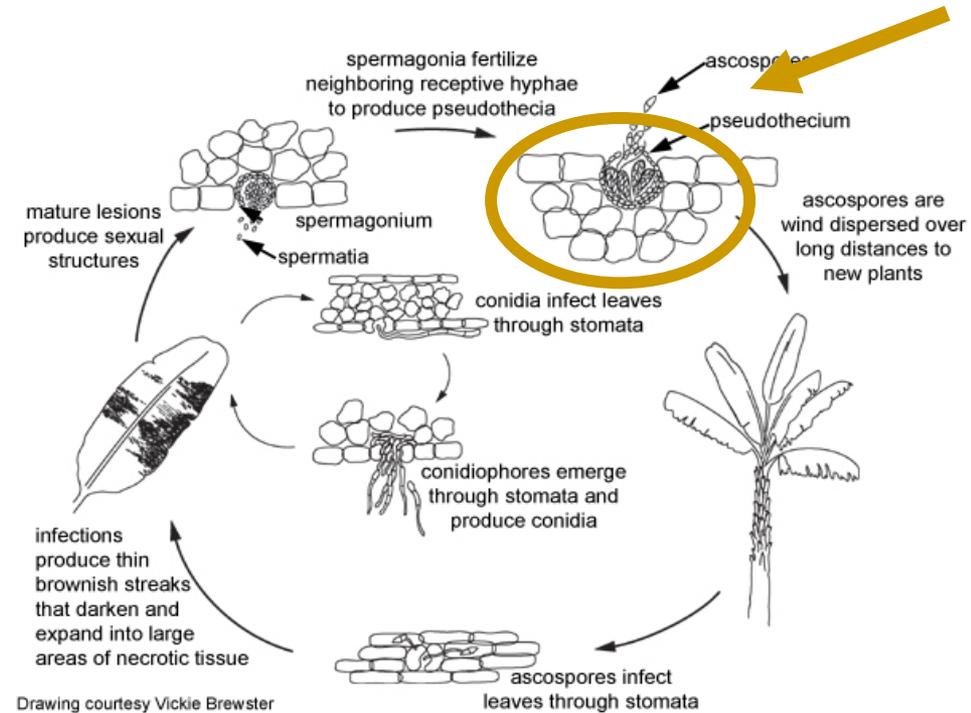
At lower or higher temperature the % of ascospore maturation changes following the function presented in Figure below.

Trend of ascospore maturation for $T < 27^\circ$



2. Ascospore discharge

This phase requires leaf wetness condition. Due to the lack of leaf wetness duration (LWD) data, an empirical threshold of UR >85% can be considered to estimate LWD



Drawing courtesy Vickie Brewster

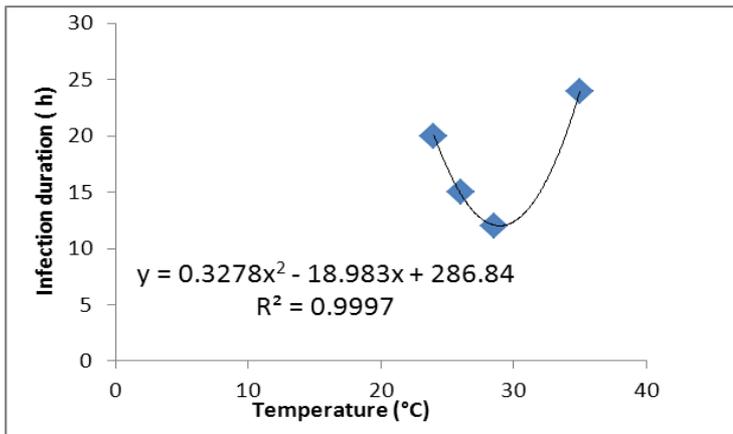
Black sigatoka - Disease Cycle (Drawing courtesy of Vickie Brewster)

3. Infection

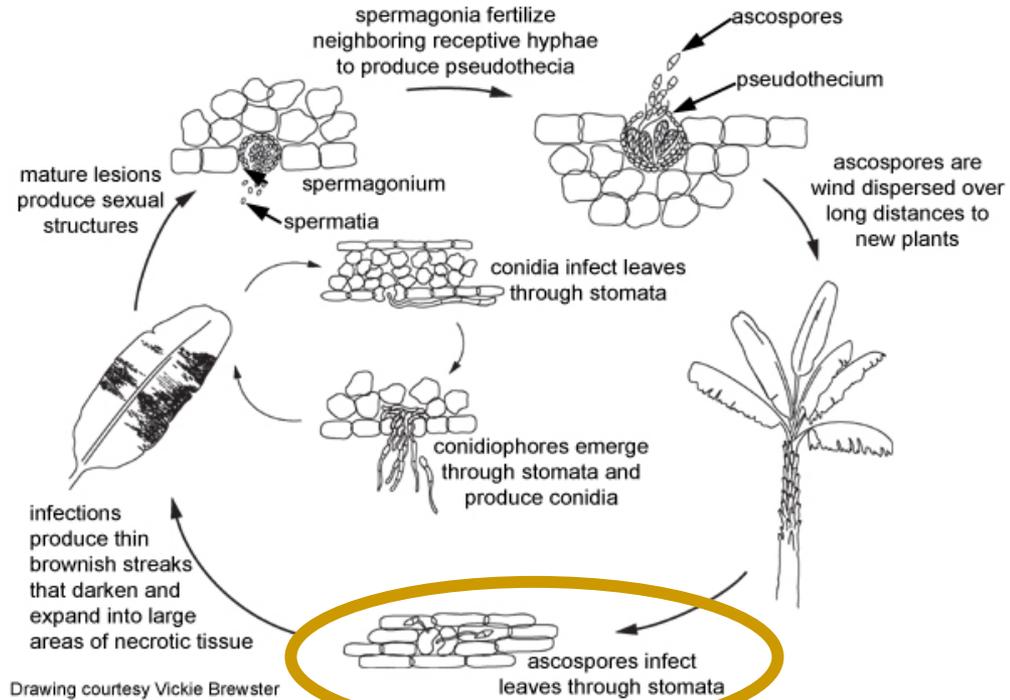
The Infection takes place during periods of leaf wetness.

Under optimum temperature ($27^{\circ} < T < 30^{\circ}C$) infection is completed in 12 hours of wet conditions.

If temperature is not optimal, this phase needs more time following the equation shown in figure



Infection duration with different levels of temperature



Drawing courtesy Vickie Brewster

Black sigatoka - Disease Cycle (Drawing courtesy of Vickie Brewster)

By multiplying the daily infection development per the % of ascospore release, daily level of infection risk was estimated.

Source: Stover, 1983; Chuang and Jeger, 1987; Jacome et al., 1991; Jacome and Aschuh, 1992; 1993

Final Risk Index

The risk index was obtained by combining the infection level obtained with the described method and the risk level due to meteorological conditions. Two methods can be used, the first based on evapotranspiration and the second considering rainfall.

The first method considers **Potential Evapotranspiration**. Hargreaves-Samani formula (1982) was used.

The **risk ETP index** is based on accumulated ETP during the last 7 days

ETP	Risk ETP index
>40 mm	No risk : 0
$30 \leq x \leq 40$ mm	Low risk : 1
$22 < x < 30$ mm	Average risk: 2
≤ 22 mm	High risk: 3

The **final risk index** is calculated with the following equation:
infection level * risk ETP index

Final Risk Index

The second risk evaluation model uses the **amount of precipitation** during the infection events:

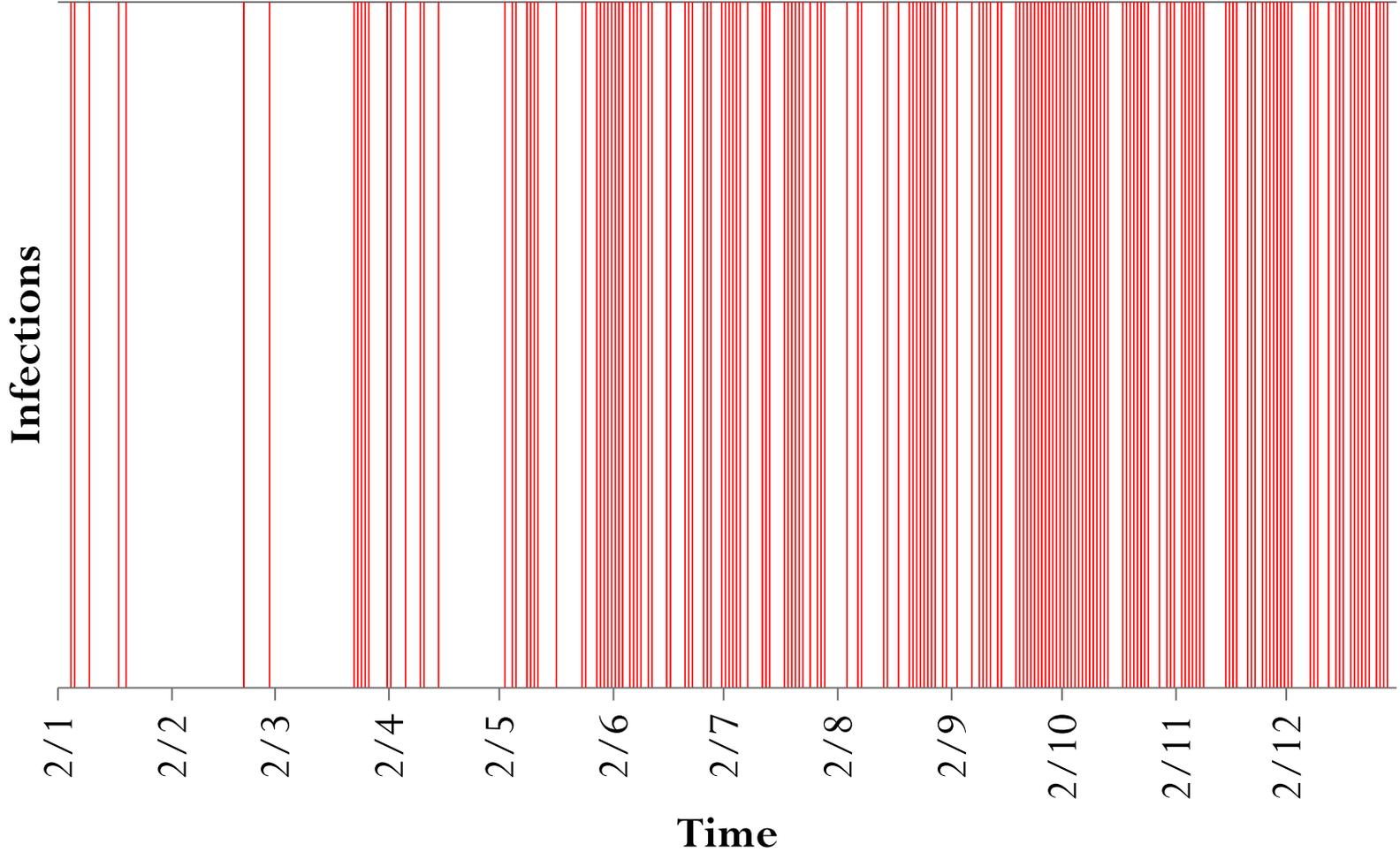
Rainfall	Severity
0 mm	1
$0 < x < 2,5$ mm	2
$2,5 \leq x \leq 5$ mm	3
$5 < x < 10$ mm	4
≥ 10 mm	5

The risk is determined considering the accumulation of this severity values for the last 4 days:

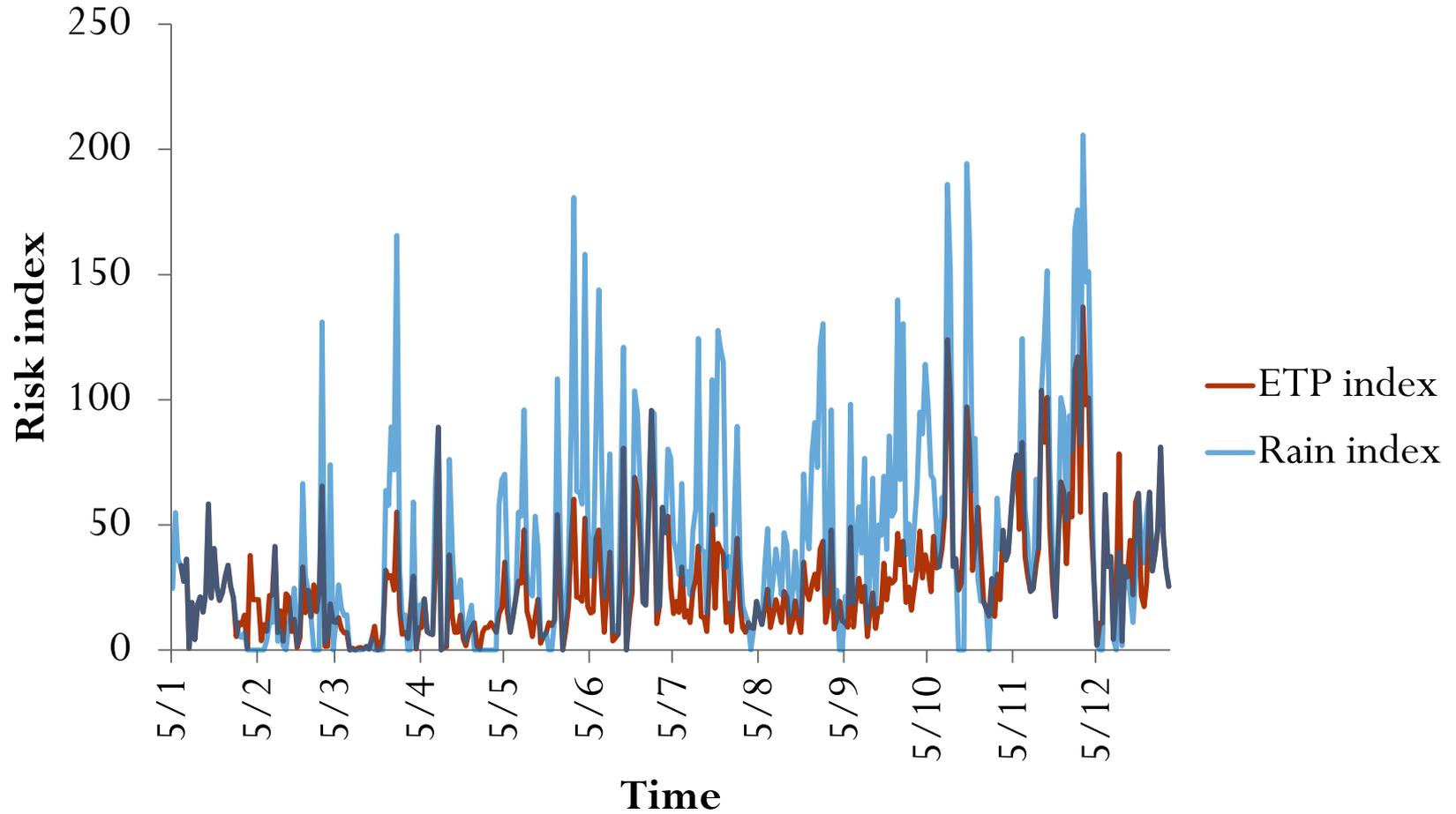
Severity accumulation	Risk rain index
0	No risk: 1
$0 < x < 4$	Low risk: 2
$4 \leq x \leq 12$	Moderate risk: 3
> 12	High risk: 4

The **final risk index** is calculated with the following equation:
infection level * risk RAIN index.

Outputs – Annual infection events



Outputs - Trend of the risk index



MODEL VERIFICATION

Jamaica

Station	Risk index	Mean Temperature (°C)	Rainfall (mm)
Montego Bay	41,39	26,64	1950
Kingston	5,24	26,25	831

Risk Index

+

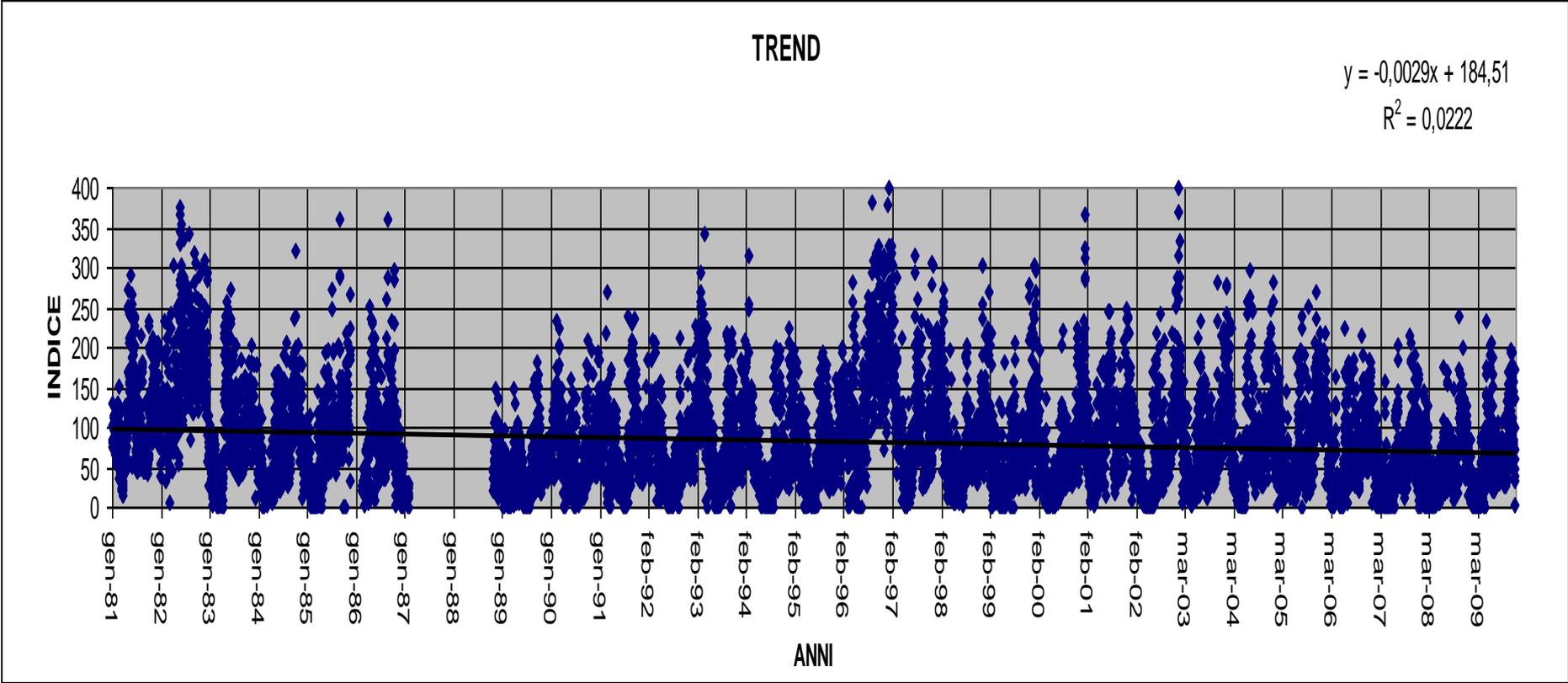


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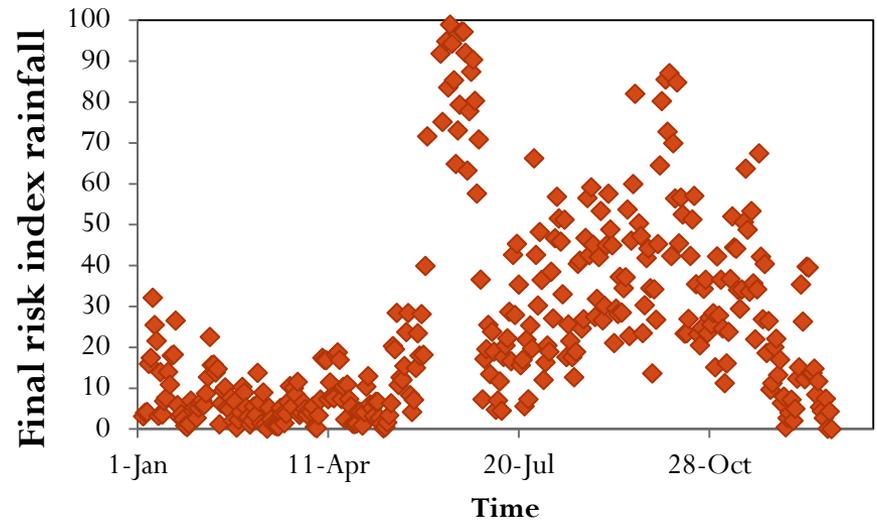
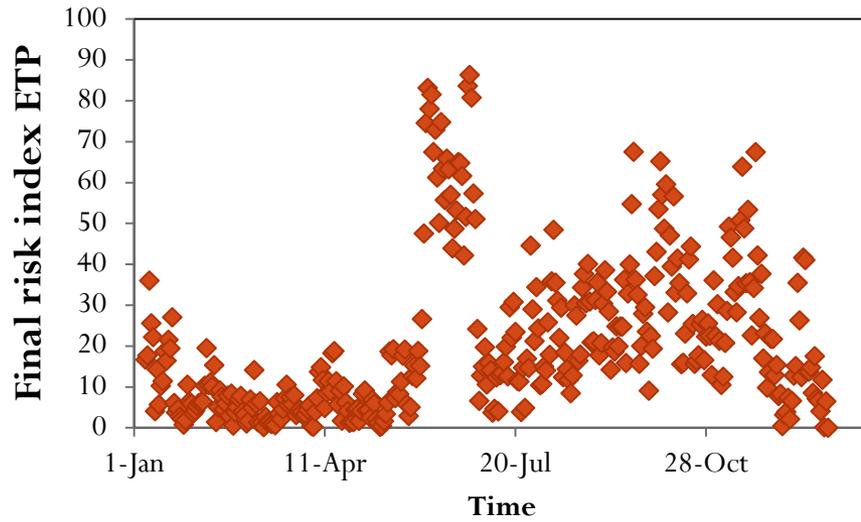
Trinidad e Tobago

Trend of risk index during the climatic series 1981/2009



S. Lucia

Risk index according ETP and Rainfall 2000/2010



NEXT STEPS

**MODEL CALIBRATION,
VALIDATION and
SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS**

Needs of data and information

independent experimental data in several fields or years representing typical climates of the Caribbean regions

Data request

- **geographical position of the farm (Lat, Long, elevation, etc.)**
- **meteorological data (T, RH, LW, Rain) measured close to the farms, to run the model**
- **biological data (banana growth and development, disease infections and severity, risk index in untreated fields)**
- **any other information useful to explain the data (variety, farm dimension, etc.)**

Model bias

Mean bias error

$$MBE = \sum (y_o - y_s) / n$$

Mean bias percentage error

$$MB\%E = 100 \left[\sum ((y_o - y_s) / y_o) \right] / n$$

Data correspondence

Root mean square error

Mean absolute error

Mean absolute percentage error

$$RMSE = \left\{ \sum (y_o - y_s)^2 / n \right\}^{0.5}$$

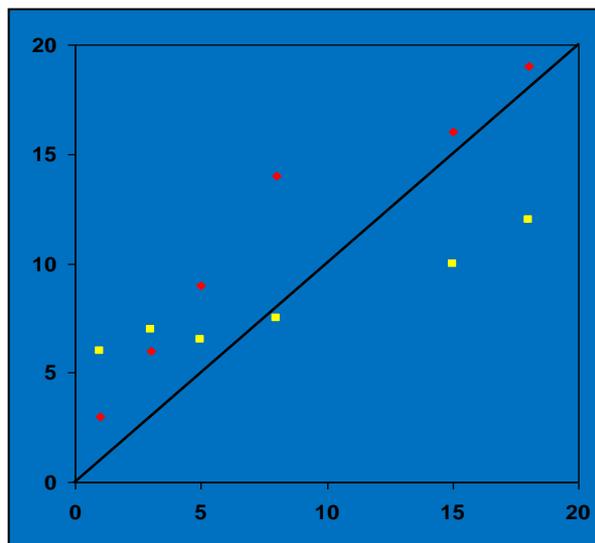
$$MAE = \sum | (y_o - y_s) | / n$$

$$MB\%E = 100 \left[\sum (| (y_o - y_s) | / y_o) \right] / n$$

Statistical analysis

Correlation analysis (determination coefficient)

	MRE	MR%E	MAE	MA%E	Slope	Intercept	R ²	EF
downy mildew	-0.22	-33.03	1.2	92.39	0.85 ^{ns}	0.15 ^{ns}	0.97**	0.92
leaf area	166.14	2.21	456.49	5.26	1.00 ^{ns}	125 ^{ns}	0.99**	0.97



	Change (%)										
Year	Temperature					Relative humidity					
	-10	-5	0	5	10		-10	-5	0	5	10
1995	9.29	12.1	16.85	21.46	13.54		1.61	6.79	16.85	37.04	73.87
1996	1.06	2.36	2.26	2.4	4.66		0.36	0.68	2.26	12.22	56.91
1997	4.47	5.5	3.04	3.4	4.59		0.57	2.64	3.04	7.99	16.51
1998	4.18	5.1	3.6	4.94	5.13		0.34	1.4	3.6	22.09	36.87

NEXT STEPS

**SOFTWARE AND
APPLICATION**

Common name pathogen: Black sigatoka

Kingdom: Fungi

Division: Ascomycota

Class: Dothideomycetes

Order: Mycosphaerellales

Scientific names: *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*

Host: Banana (*Musa sapientum*)

Why Model Black Sigatoka

Black Sigatoka also known as black streak disease is caused by ascomycete fungus. This disease has the ability to reduce fruit yield by as much as fifty percent(50%), reduce leaf area and by extension incites premature ripening of the crop. In the caribbean context the disease is known to have an enormous effect on banana production and jeopardize small farmers livelihood.

Can it be managed?

Mycosphaerella fijiensis can be controlled by frequent applications of fungicides, removal of affected leaves, good drainage, and sufficient spacing of plants.

The Program

The Black Sigatoka Monitoring System was created so as to mitigate the effects of the disease by providing risk indexes based on evapotranspiration (evapoartion and plant transpiration) and rainfall. This was conceptualised through the collboraive efforts between the (CAMI)Caribbean Agricultural and Meteorological Initiativ and the Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Science - University of Florence (Italy)



Station Info:

Station:

Year:

Month:

Date:

Mid Month Risk Assessment

Date	2000-01-05	Rain Risk Index	49.169246673584	ETP RISK Index	
Date	2000-01-06	Rain Risk Index	24.5420703887939	ETP RISK Index	
Date	2000-01-07	Rain Risk Index	29.3338832855225	ETP RISK Index	29.3338832855225
Date	2000-01-08	Rain Risk Index	25.3040904998779	ETP RISK Index	25.3040904998779
Date	2000-01-09	Rain Risk Index	31.4894104003906	ETP RISK Index	31.4894104003906
Date	2000-01-10	Rain Risk Index	0.693901419639587	ETP RISK Index	0.693901419639587
Date	2000-01-11	Rain Risk Index	19.0853385925293	ETP RISK Index	19.0853385925293
Date	2000-01-12	Rain Risk Index	4.21308782730102	ETP RISK Index	4.21308782730102

Station Info:

Station:

Year:

Month:

Date:

Identification of a risk
threshold (index ranges
between 0 and 150)

Mid Month Risk Assessment

Date	2000-01-15	Rain Risk Index	13.613392829895	ETP RISK Index	13.613392829895
Date	2000-01-16	Rain Risk Index	23.1081733703613	ETP RISK Index	23.1081733703613
Date	2000-01-17	Rain Risk Index	52.2321243286133	ETP RISK Index	52.2321243286133
Date	2000-01-18	Rain Risk Index	20.8362560272217	ETP RISK Index	20.8362560272217
Date	2000-01-19	Rain Risk Index	35.5023460388184	ETP RISK Index	35.5023460388184
Date	2000-01-20	Rain Risk Index	25.1354389190674	ETP RISK Index	25.1354389190674
Date	2000-01-21	Rain Risk Index	19.8346500396729	ETP RISK Index	19.8346500396729
Date	2000-01-22	Rain Risk Index	22.8601253662100	ETP RISK Index	22.8601253662100