

ALTERNARIA ON CARNATIONS

Baker, Kenneth F. and Lily H. Davis have reported in the December 15 issue of the Plant Disease Reporter that a seedling leaf-spot and damping-off disease has attacked seed flats of Chaband's Yellow carnation in California. The disease caused by the fungus Alternaria dianthicola. This is the first time this fungus has been recorded in the United States, although it has been reported previously in Ottawa and in the Montreal Botanical Garden. It may have been brought into North America by seed.

In Denmark A. dianthicola is reported to occur spontaneously on Dianthus caryophyllus, D. barbatus, and D. plumaricus and a successful inoculation has been accomplished on Gypsophila elegans. It causes light colored spots with dark edgings on leaves, stems, and buds. In the United States it is not known whether A. dianthicola will cause branch rot symptoms the way A. dianthi does. It is possible that A. dianthi is in this country as it was in Denmark before a distinction was made between the two. Recent investigations at the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station have indicated that both organisms may be present in Colorado, but were tentatively distinguished as strains. As a result of Baker's and White's paper a recheck of data has revealed that both of these species of Alternaria occur in Colorado, but it is not known which commonly causes branch rot.

--Joseph Zoril