



Introduction: Bacterial blight of coffee (BBC) and coffee thread blight which is caused by *Pseudomonas syringae pv garcae van Hall* and *Corticium koleroga* which were considered as minor coffee disease becomes an emerging constraint in major coffee growing areas of Ethiopia. Currently the spread of BBC was reported at Gedeo, Sidama, Wolita and Kembata-Tembaro Zones. Coffee thread blight is also becoming an important disease in all coffee production systems at different coffee producing areas of Ethiopia. This paper discuss reaction of commercially grown coffee cultivars against BBC under field conditions and status of thread blight in southwestern Ethiopia.

Materials/Methods: Coffee bacterial blight was studied in the field of Dale, Aleta wondo, Aleta chuko, Dara and Wonago, Dilla Zuria and yirgachefe districts and Survey of coffee thread blight was conducted in major plantation coffee farms of southwest and south Ethiopia. Disease severity for BBC was scored using a 1-9 scale and for thread blight disease incidence was determined by counting the number of diseased trees over total observed trees and disease severity on trees, leaves or berries was estimate based on percent area covered by lesions of the disease over total area observed.

Conclusion/Perspectives: The study makes clear the existence of variation in terms of tolerance to BBC among land races and released coffee cultivars. The disease epidemics of thread blight found to be favored by prolonged rainfall and high relative humidity and prevalence of wet and humid conditions, that perhaps reflects one of the climate change scenarios.

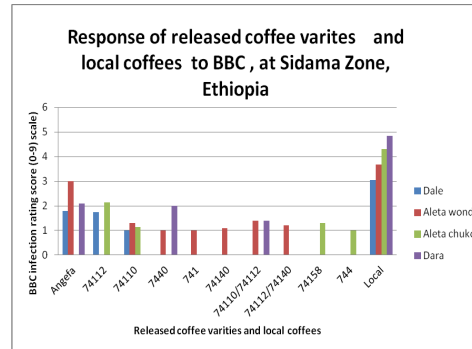


Figure 1: Reaction coffee varieties against BBC



Figure 2: Symptom coffee thread blight.

Results/Discussion: Bacterial blight of coffee was found in all districts to varying extents of damage among surveyed coffee districts. The disease attacks young coffee seedlings, matured and stumped coffee trees. Relatively high severity of BBC was observed on old and neglected coffee farms than well managed and having good raw planting pattern. At Agriceft coffee plantation of *Duwina* farm thread blight disease incidence ranged from 32.08 to 92.0 percent per sample plot with average severity 55.71 percent was recorded. The disease outbreak was further noted in Limmu Sintu and Gumer with mean incidence and severity of 66.48 and 32.25%, respectively. Besides the same symptom was reported from Metu, Gera, Haru, Mugi and Awada Reserch subcenters and experimental sites in South west, West and southern coffee growing areas of the country (Kifle *et al.*, 2015).

References:

Demelash Teferi and Ashenafi Ayano 2016. Assessment of commercially grown coffee types for their tolerance to bacterial blight of coffee (BBC) at Sidama and Gedeo Zones, Southern Ethiopia. Sky Journal of Agricultural Research Vol. 6(1)

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