Gooseberry – a new host of *Phytophthora cactorum*

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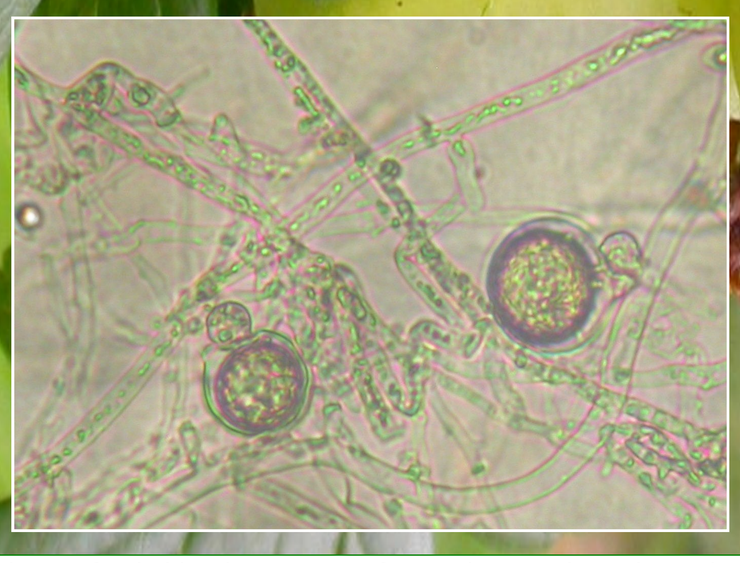
Phytophthora spp. are common, widely distributed, soil-borne pathogens with a very wide host range. In Poland, *P. cactorum* is well known as apple and strawberry pathogen. Also other species like *P. citricola, P. cinnamomi* and *P. cryptogea* were occasionally isolated from some fruit plants.

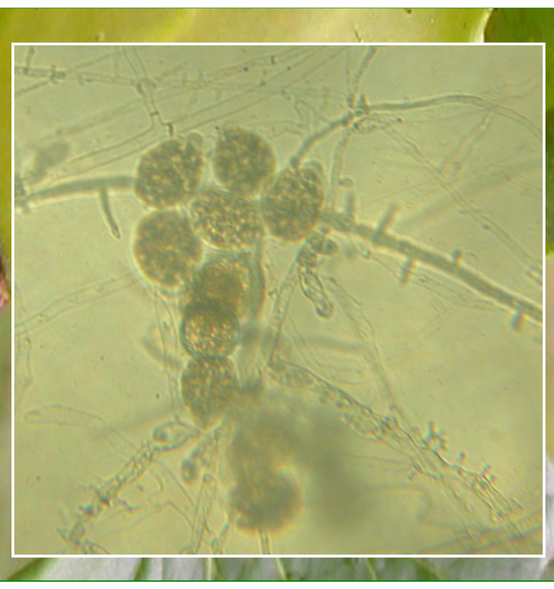
Collar rot of gooseberry, caused by *P. cactorum* (Leb. &Cohn) Schroet., was first time recorded in Poland in 2008 on 'Pax' cultivar on plastic covered plantation.

'Pax' is relatively new English cultivar, which has virtually spineless bushes, high yielding and some resistance to powdery mildew. It produces flavorful red berries for fresh use. In spring, on one year old gooseberries, grown on own roots, wilting and dying of some bushes was observed. Such symptoms were not observed on gooseberry plants of 'Pax' cv. grafted on *Ribes aureum* rootstock planted on the same plantation. The affected plants showed brown, water-soaked lesions situated mostly at the base of stem, typical for collar rot. Rotted lesions developed also down under and up to 10-20 cm above soil level.

Pathogen isolated from symptomatic plants was identified as *P. cactorum*. On LBA (Difco) medium it produced culture, homothallic mycelium with dominantly paragynous antheridia and markedly papillate, caducous sporangia, typical for this species.

This pathogen may have been distributed on new plantation with infected plants or it can existed on the site before and infected a very susceptible tissue of 'Pax' cv. gooseberries. Resistant *Ribes aureum* rootstock seems to be a good solution because it keeps susceptible tissue away from infected soil. Good results in disease control were obtained after use of metalaxyl and fosetyl-aluminium several times during the season. These products drastically reduced new infections of gooseberries.





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