

Proceedings of American Peanut Research and Education Association 16:19 (1984)

Resistance to Early Leafspot in Peanuts. P. Subrahmanyam*, ICRISAT, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh 502324, India; S.N. Nigam, ICRISAT Regional Groundnut Program for Southern Africa, P. Ngwira and A.J. Chiyembekeza, Chitedze Agricultural Research Station, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Early leafspot caused by Cercospora arachidicola Hori. is a serious disease of peanuts in Malawi. Disease surveys in the 1982/83 crop season showed that early leafspot was causing severe damage to peanuts throughout Malawi and was especially severe in the Central region where the bulk of the crop is grown. Preliminary field screening of 1975 germplasm and breeding lines for resistance to this disease was carried out at Chitedze Agricultural Research Station, Lilongwe, using the 9-point disease scale (1 = no disease, and 9 = extensive damage to the foliage). Most entries showed extensive defoliation (70-100%) due to early leafspot. However, some entries had little defoliation [(TG3 x NC Ac 17090) F2-B2-B1-B2-B1-B1], low infection frequency [(NC Ac 17133-RF x TMV2) F2-B-B1], and small lesions with poor sporulation (ICG 5216, ICG 8528 and ICG 8529). None of the entries combined all these factors for resistance. It is interesting that the genotypes NC 3033, P1 270806, P1 259747 and P1 350680 reported resistant to early leafspot in the USA were susceptible to this disease in Malawi.