

ABSTRACT

An account is given of Hibiscus sabdariffa, its taxonomy, cultivation, uses and diseases throughout the world.

Investigations into the etiology of the root and collar rot of H. sabdariffa var. sabdariffa in Trinidad are described. The principal pathogen was shown to be Phytophthora nicotianae var. nicotianae, and the presence of Fusarium decemcellulare increased the severity of attack. Pythium butleri caused damping-off of seedlings, but did not attack mature plants. The strain of P. nicotianae var. nicotianae causing root and collar rot of H. sabdariffa also caused root and collar rot of tomato seedlings and a wet rot of mature green tomato fruits.

Possible methods of control are discussed.