

I. INTRODUCTION.

Mangoes (Mangifera indica) are widely grown in Trinidad, the better varieties, such as Julie, possessing considerable commercial value. One of the chief difficulties in marketing is that the fruit is subject to a storage rot - anthracnose, caused by Colletotrichum gloeosporioides, Penz. This fungus is also responsible for a blossom blight and for the spotting, distortion and death of young leaves and twigs of the mango tree. In practice the blossom blight and the fruit rot are the most important, the leaf spotting rarely doing much direct damage to the tree. The losses in storage can be very severe and must be reduced before export becomes a feasible proposition.

A study of the biology of a disease is always useful in that it may disclose some link in the life history of the fungus which can be broken, thus indicating an economical control measure. Of course, such a study very often fails to produce any recommendations for the practical man but the results have always a certain intrinsic scientific value. In this work, various phases of the life history and physiology of the fungus have been investigated, giving a picture, which, though rather devoid of detail owing to the limited time available, outlines the more essential features. A spraying trial was carried out in order to determine the benefit given by this method of control.

As well as its purely practical importance, this disease has considerable theoretical interest, especially as one in which "latent infections" are involved.