

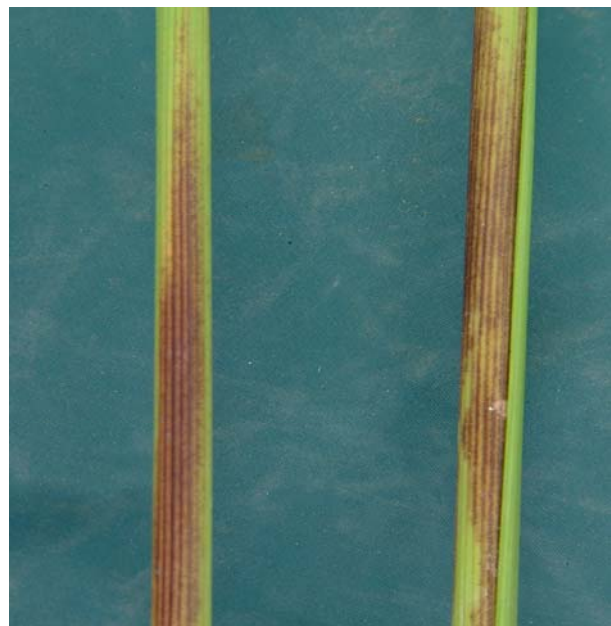


The photograph at left was taken last week. At the time I said the symptoms appeared to be of collar blast, but would be confirmed once we got the sample to a plant pathologist and let them do a “scratch and sniff” test on it. Dr. Don Groth of the Rice Research station as well as Dr. Steve Linscombe both commented that the symptoms did not appear to be quite right for blast. We were not certain either which is why we brought it into Dr. Groth. He placed the sample in a moist chamber. No blast spores were produced. He did say he thought it was probably brown spot, just in an unusual location. It just demonstrates how easily one disease can be mistaken for another if we base the diagnosis strictly on a photograph.

To answer the most common question after the photograph was sent out, “No, you do not have to automatically apply fungicide to Jupiter to control blast.” As of today we have not heard of any major blast problems in any variety.

The photograph at right was also taken in the same field as the one above. The lesions were observed on the flag leaf sheath. A key to the symptom not so easily observed in the photograph is the netted pattern associated with it especially toward the edges of each lesion. The disease is quite common, but rarely causes serious economic injury alone. Most often it contributes to the sum of injury caused by several pathogens present in the field.

We then asked, “What is it?” The correct answer is sheath rot.







Yesterday we were called to a field in St. Martin parish where a field of rice had been planted late to be used primarily as crawfish forage, but also to harvest some grain from it. We found quite a few seedlings exhibiting damage like the one seen above. Some were farther along in that the newest leaf was often dried and shriveled.

There are several clues to the culprit causing the injury shown above. The most obvious symptoms are the nearly dead second leaf and the chlorotic newest leaf. This type of injury points to the leaf origin which at this stage is barely above the soil line at the base of the plant. There is no stem tissue at this point. The apparent stem is actually rolled up leaf sheaths of the first few leaves.

Other symptoms are the two yellowish areas near the base of the leaf sheath facing the front of the image. These again point to something inside of the leaf sheath and near the base or growing point. A more subtle symptom is what appears to be excessive tillering in comparison to normal or unaffected plants. Once again this points to something near the growing point. The series of photographs below reveal the cause.



The South American Rice Miner (SARM) is the pest. At left the maggot can be seen in the leaf sheath, at center excised from the leaf sheath and at right is the pupa. The adult is a very small fly very similar to the leaf miner.