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***Poster Presentation***

**MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATIONS IN *PHYTOPHTHORA COLOCASIAE* ISOLATES CAUSING TARO LEAF BLIGHT IN THE SEMI-DECIDUOUS AGRO ECOLOGICAL ZONE OF GHANA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Taro leaf blight caused by *Phytophthora colocasiae* is the most devastating disease of taro. Morphological and cultural characteristics were used to differentiate 50 isolates of *P. colocasiae* obtained from different taro farms in the Semi-deciduous Agro Ecological Zone of Ghana. Considerable differences in morphological parameters were observed in the colony growth habit, sporangia shapes and colony growth diameter. This study confirms that a considerable degree of diversity exists among isolates of *P. colocasiae* causing leaf blight of taro. Knowledge of the variations in *P. colocasiae* as observed in the study have significant implications on the development of sustainable disease management strategies such as breeding for resistant genotypes and the deployment of taro genotypes across the country.

**Key words:** *Colocasia esculenta*, genetic diversity, oomycete