**Title** First report of botrytis gray mold on red bayberry in China

**Authors** Z. F. Zhang, H. Y. Li and Z. H. Shi

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**Abstract**

Red bayberry (*Myrica rubra* Sieb. et Zucc) is a special fruit produced in southeastern China. Heavy losses due to postharvest rot and short shelf-life have negatively affected farmers' incomes. In June 2007, a survey was conducted to determine the causal agents of red bayberry (cv. Dongkui) rot in Linhai City, Zhejiang Province. Only a few soft rot fruits with typical gray mold of *Botrytis cinerea* were found on trees, but 74% (266 of 360) of the fruits that appeared disease free during harvest showed a mass of gray mold after 5 days in storage at 22°C. Brown conidiophores bore botryose heads of hyaline, ellipsoid, unicellular conidia, measuring 9.1 to 16.1 × 8.6 to 11.0 μm. Mycelia were initially whitish and turned gray with age. Black, irregular sclerotia were formed in potato dextrose agar medium. Such features suggested *B. cinerea* infection (1). Pathogenicity was confirmed by inoculation of 20 healthy red bayberries with a conidial suspension ($10^6$/ml); 100% were infected and masses of gray mold were formed 4 days after inoculation. No mock-inoculated fruits were infected. To confirm involvement of *B. cinerea*, the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region was amplified with primers ITS4/ITS6 (2). The sequence (Accession No. AM884742) matched 100% to *B. cinerea* sequences deposited in Genbank (Accession Nos. EF207415, EF207414, and EF207413). To our knowledge, this is the first report of red bayberry rot caused by *B. cinerea* in China.