

**Title** Fungicidal activity of compounds extracted from the pericarp of *Areca catechu* against *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* *in vitro* and in mango fruit

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### Abstract

*Areca catechu* L., a member of the Palmaceae family, is one of the most commonly used drugs in the world. Compounds obtained from the hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol extracts of the pericarp of *A. catechu* L. were assessed *in vitro* and in mango fruit for antifungal activity against *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz. *In vitro* studies also indicated that three triterpenes, namely fernenol (fern-9(11)-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol), arundoin (fern-9(11)-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol ME), and a mixture of stigmasterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol, and one fatty acid, lauric acid, could inhibit the mycelial growth of *C. gloeosporioides* with EC<sub>50</sub> values of 36.7, 47.5, 56.7 and 111.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Furthermore, fernenol, arundoin, and the mixture of stigmasterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol highly inhibited spore germination and germ tube elongation. Mango fruit studies suggested that fernenol, arundoin and the mixture of stigmasterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol were significantly more effective than benomyl for controlling postharvest anthracnose disease when used at 100 and 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup>.