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A New Leaf-Spot Disease of Groundnut from Mysore*

During the monsoon season (July-September 1973) an unusual leaf-spot disease was observed on groundnut crop (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) under cultivation at Gadag (District Dharwar, Mysore State) by one of the authors (R. R. M.). The infection spots on the leaves were small, sub-circular to irregular, mostly scattered, but few on blades also, dark-brown with clear margins. Critical examination of sections of such spots in the laboratory revealed the presence of a fungus with brownish acervuli, setae, and unicellular cylindrical hyaline, conidia, characteristic of the form-genus, *Colletotrichum* Cda. Sporulation was profuse on such infection spots. The spotting was observed both on young as well as mature leaves. The fungus morphology was: acervuli scattered, ovoid, dirty-brown to brownish, few per spots; setae short, rigid, septate (2-3), slightly broad at base, tapering and blunt at the apex, unevenly distributed in the acervulus, dark-brown, measure $22.8-38 \times 3.8-4.7 \mu$. Conidia abundant on host, hyaline, cylindrical with rounded ends, one-celled, measure $11.4-15.2 \times 3.8 \mu$.

The fungus on comparison agreed in all respects, of morphological characters and dimensions with *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz¹. A perusal of literature indicated that *C. gloeosporioides* Penz. is a new record on groundnut from India^{2,3}. Saksena *et al.* (1967) reported a blight disease of this crop incited by another species, viz., *Colletotrichum dematium* (Pers. ex Fr.) von Arx. from Kanpur (U.P.). The material is deposited in the Ajrekar Mycological Herbarium of M.A.C.S., Poona-4, under No. AMH. 1907.

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Record of *Chelonus formosanus* Sonan (Hymenoptera : Braconidae), a Parasite of *Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius) from Mysore State

The larvae of the tobacco caterpillar, *Spodoptera litura* (F), feed on a variety of plants and are very injurious to vegetable crops like *Amaranthus*, beet root, brinjal, cabbage, cowpea, sweet potato and tomato in Mysore State. The caterpillars are found in the field almost throughout the year on vegetable and other crops.

During the year 1972 the caterpillars were collected every month from brinjal, cabbage, peas and tomato plants grown around Bangalore and reared on the same host plants in the laboratory to obtain their probable natural enemies.

The larvae collected from July to December 1972 were found parasitised by the Braconid, *Chelonus formosanus* Sonan. The extent of parasitisation varied from 5 to 10%. Maximum number of larvae were parasitised during the month of September.

Chelonus formosanus was first described from Taiwan (Formosa) as an egg-larval parasite of *Prodenia litura* (Sonan, 1932). Patel *et al.* (1971) reared this parasite from the same host in Gujarat. The present reporting of *Chelonus formosanus* as a parasite of *Spodoptera litura* is the first record from Mysore State.

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