

SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Diplodia Die Back of Nutmeg

Twigs and branches of nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt) trees growing in the Gokul Estate at Vithura, Trivandrum District, were found drying during January, 1972. The leaves of affected shoots became brown, rolled and dried. The drying and death of leaves and shoots extended back, involving larger branches. The fruits on affected branches also became brown, shrunken and dried.

Laboratory examination of dried twigs placed in moist chamber revealed the presence of numerous pycnidia of *Diplodia* sp., which was subsequently identified as *Diplodia natalensis* Evans. The pathogen was isolated and brought to pure culture on oat agar medium on which it sporulated well. The unicellular, hyaline pycnidiospores measured 16.30 to 22.82 μ \times 11.43 to 14.67 μ , while the two-celled, dark brown spores measured 14.30 to 20.16 μ \times 9.78 to 13.00 μ in size. Pathogenicity of the fungus was tested and proved by artificial inoculation. The pathogen could infect fruits of nutmeg, orange and snake gourd, when inoculated in the laboratory. Abundant pycnidia and spores were produced on nutmeg and snake gourd fruits.

Ramakrishnan and Sarojini Damodaran¹ reported a fruit rot of nutmeg caused by *D. natalensis* from Burliar, Tamil Nadu. There is no record of this fungus causing die back of nutmeg trees in India.

Based on the studies on *Diplodia* dry rot of guava fruits², 0.3% ziride was sprayed on affected trees after pruning the shoots showing die back, well below the infected region and was found to be effective in controlling the disease.

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Some Additions to Indian Fungi: Some New *Acremonia*

In an earlier communication¹, as many as eight species of imperfect fungi, isolated from the rhizosphere of some medicinal plants of this area, were reported as new records from this country. The list included a single species of *Acremonium*, viz., *A. killiense* Grutz. Further studies have yielded three other *Acremonium* spp. A scrutiny of the list of Indian fungi in recorded literature indicated that all the three species isolated by the author were new records from the country. Method of isolation^{2,3} and culture media employed were the same as indicated earlier¹. The fungi along with the name of the plants from which isolated are tabulated below:

Name of fungi	Plant from which isolated
1. <i>Acremonium strictum</i> W. Gams (IMI No. 168807)	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.
2. <i>A. sclerotigenum</i> (F. and R. Moreau ex Valenta) W. Gams (IMI No. 168854)	<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i> (L.) Benth. ex Kurz.
3. <i>A. potronii</i> Vuill (IMI No. 168847)	<i>Evolvulus nummularius</i> L.
*4. <i>A. killiense</i> Grutz (IMI No. 163122)	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.

* Reported in the earlier communication also.

All these fungi have been deposited in the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England.

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