

SHORT SCIENTIFIC NOTES

A New Fruit Rot of *Zizyphus jujuba* Lamk.

During the course of surveys for the fungal diseases of certain fruits and vegetables of Rajasthan, the authors observed a severe fruit rot of *Zizyphus jujuba* in the local fruit market of Bharatpur in January, 1973.

In the early stages the diseased fruits showed small, dark-brown spots. In later stages the spots enlarged and became dark ash-gray coloured. Finally infected fruits got slightly depressed and many fruiting pustules were produced on these spots.

On examination, the fruiting pustules were found to be ascervuli of the *Pestalotia versicolor* Speg.

Pathogenicity of the organism was confirmed by inoculating the fruits by Granger and Horne's¹ method and also by spraying the conidial suspension of the organism over the injured and uninjured fruits. Only injured fruits developed typical symptoms. The fungus was reisolated from these artificially inoculated fruits and was found to be similar with the original isolate.

This is the first report of *Pestalotia* rot of *Zizyphus jujuba* from India.

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1. Granger, K. and Horne, A. S., *Ann. Botany*, 1924, 38, 212.

Leaf Spot of *Prunus tomentosa* Caused by *Cladosporium herbarum*

In May 1972 the leaves of *Prunus tomentosa* plants growing at Horticultural Research Station, Simla, to study its potentiality for using as root stock for peach and other stone fruit plants exhibited the leaf spot symptoms.

The primary infection of the disease on the foliage was noticed as minute, oval to irregular, light brown to greyish white with purple spots measuring 1 to 6 mm in length and 1 to 3 mm in breadth. The infections started from the margin and gradually moved down to the base of the leaf blade. The minute spots enlarged and coalesced forming bigger

patches. In the advanced stage of disease development these spots covered the entire leaf and developed blighted areas on the surface of the leaf lamina, which turned necrotic and drop out leaving 'shot holes'.

The fungus was isolated on PDA and identified as *Cladosporium herbarum* (Pers.) Link ex S.F. Gray and its identity was confirmed by CMI, Kew, Surrey, England. The culture of the pathogen as well as leaf specimens have been deposited at CMI under succession No. IMI 173564.

Pathogenicity test of *Cladosporium herbarum* on the newly formed leaves were also studied. *Prunus tomentosa* plants in pots were inoculated with the suspension of 7 days old culture of pathogen consisting of both mycelium and spores. The inoculated plants were covered with moist polythene bags for 48 hours. The uninoculated plants were maintained as control. The minute purple necrotic spots developed after 7 days of inoculation. The control plants did not show any symptoms. Reisolation from infected parts yielded the same pathogen which was similar to original isolate.

Cladosporium herbarum (Pers.) Link ex S. F. Gray, occurring on *Prunus tomentosa* has shown to be first record from India. Similar fungus has been recorded on citrus¹ and *Prunus persica*² from India.

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June 29, 1974.

1. Chowdhuri, S., *Sci. and Cult.*, 1956, 21 (3), 164.
2. Sud, V. K. and Agrawala, R. K., *Ind. Phytopath.*, 1972, 25, 580.

A New Host Record for *Erysiphe polygoni*

During the month of September-October 1973, a weed plant *Tephrosia purpurea* Pers. was observed to be infected with powdery mildew. The mildew attacked the lower leaves and later developed on younger leaves, covering the entire leaf surface with the dense coating of powdery mass. Till