Inoculations with fragmented mycelium or zoospores on the host seedlings raised in sterile sand, developed disease symptoms in 7–11 days, identical to those in the field. Similar inoculations were made on other crucifers such as mustard (*Brassica campestris* L.), turnip (*B. napus* L.), knol khol (*B. oleracea* L. var. *caulorapa*) and radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.) in which mustard became infected, a mild infection appeared in turnip and radish while *knol khol* was not susceptible at all. Cultural characters and morphology of the pathogen indicated its identity with *Pythium butleri* Subramaniam, to which it is referred (IMI 173180). Root and stalk rot and damping off diseases incited by this pathogen have been recorded on several economic crop plants[1-10], but not in cabbage and cauliflower and other crucifers, thus extending its host range from India.

The first author (SLS) expresses his gratitude to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the award of a Senior Research Fellowship. Thanks are due to the Director, Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England, for identifying the species.

Faculty of Agriculture, S. L. Singh.
Banaras Hindu University, M. S. Pavgi.
Varanasi-5, *May* 2, 1975.

1. Drechsler, C., *Sydowia, Ann. Mycol.*, 1965, 9, 451.
2. Elliot, C., *J. Agr. Res.*, 1943, 56, 21.
3 Hall, C. J. J. van, *Meded. Inst. voor Planten Zeiketen*, 1925, 67, 53.
4. Harter, L. L. and Whitney, W. A., *Phytopathology*, 1931, 21, 991.
5. Kreutzer, W. A. and Durrell, L. W., *Ibid.*, 1938, 28, 512.
6. Kripal, S. A., *Indian Phytopath.*, 1971, 24, 611.
7. McRae, W., *Rept. Imperial Mycologist, Sci. Repts. Agr. Res. Inst., Pusa*, 1923–24, p. 41.
8. Mitra, M., *Ibid.*, 1924–25, p. 45.
9. Srivastava, D. N. and Rao, V. R., *Curr. Sci.*, 1964, 33, 119.
10. Subramaniam, L. S., *Mem. Dept. Agr. India, Bot. Ser.*, 1919, 10, 181.

A New Record of *Bacillus cereus* on the Spotted Bollworm, *Erias vittella* (F.)

In recent studies on the pests of cotton and bhendi (*Abelmescus esculentus*), the larvae of *Erias vittella* (F.) were found infected by a bacterium in the field. The pathogen was identified as *Bacillus cereus.*

B. cereus has been reported on the southern armyworm (Barbers, 1938), eye-spotted bud-moth, *Spilonota ocellana* (Legner, 1973), codling moth (Stephens, 1952) and larch sawfly, *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Htg.) (Heimpel, 1954 *b*). But there appears to be no record of it on *E. vittella.*

While examining the bollworm infested bhendi fruits collected from the fields around Dharwar, the authors noticed some of the larvae dead inside the fruits. The body was filled with fluid ; the skin was intact and the fluid emitted a putrefying smell when teased. Colour of the body was pale. The percentage of the infected larvae varied from 9 to 10. Medium-sized larvae which measured 8 mm to 11 mm were found highly susceptible.

This appears to be the first record of *B. cereus* on *E. vittella.*

Our thanks are due to Dr. Gerard M. Thomas, of the University of California for identifying the pathogen, and to Dr. S. V. Patil, Director of Instruction, Agricultural College, Dharwar, for encouragement.

Department of Entomology, T. S. Thontadarya.
College of Agriculture, S. N. Holihosur.
Dharwar 580 005, I. G. Hiremath.
May 1, 1975.

1. Barbers, F. H., "A septecamia of the southern army worm caused by *Bacillus cereus*," *Ann. Ent. Soc. Am*, 1938, 31, 371.
2. Heimpel, A. M., "A strain of *Bacillus cereus* Fr. and Fr. pathogenic for the larch sawfly, *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Htd.)," *Can. Entomologist*, 1954, 86, 73.
3. Legner, E. F. and Oatman, E. R., "Natural Biotic control factors of the eye spotted Bud moth, *Spilonota ocellana* on apple in Wisconsin," *J. Econ. Entomol.*, 1963, 56, 730.
4. Stephens, J. M, "Disease in codling moth larvae produced by several strains of *Bacillus cereus*," *Can J. Zool.*, 1952, 30, 30.