

Black Rot' of Pineapple—A New Record from South India

Pineapple (*Ananas comosus* L.) does not suffer from any major fungal pathogens in the field, but after harvest, 'Black rot' or 'Fruit rot' is found to be the chief cause of deterioration of the stored fruit. The causal fungus has been identified as *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* van. Hon.

The infection generally starts at the cut end of the stem in the form of small, circular, water soaked spots which are very soft. With the advance of the disease the spots enlarge and coalesce forming a large black patch extending throughout the fruit. The inside tissue is also invaded by the fungus, becomes very soft, black, watery and emits a foul smell. Market surveys conducted during the past two years have shown that the total loss of fruits due to the rottage may be as high as 10–15%.

A critical perusal of literature indicates that this disease is a new record from South India. Chemical control trials conducted at this Institute have shown that dipping the fruits for five minutes after harvest in thiabendazole (1000 ppm) or benomyl (2000 ppm) would ensure good protection against this disease.

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Ephelis oryzae Syd. on Some Hosts New to India

Different species of *Ephelis* have been reported on different hosts in India¹⁻⁴. During 1966 and 1974, *Ephelis* spp. was collected on some grasses (*Eragrostis tremula**, Hochst., *E. ciliaris* R. Br. var. *clarkei**, *Echinochloa colona*† Link, *Pennisetum alopecuroides** Steud., *Paspalum distichum** L.) and millets (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*† L. and *Setaria italica* Beauv.), at J.N.K.V.V. Farm, Jabalpur. Diseased samples of *Oryza sativa* L. from Surguja and of Bastar Districts also revealed the presence of this fungus. In all the cases, the causal organism transformed the panicles into a compact agarbatti-like shape.

On the basis of symptomatology and morphological characters, the present organism is identified as *Ephelis oryzae* Syd. The specimens have been

deposited in the Central Herbarium of Plant Pathology, J.N.K.V.V., Jabalpur, M.P.

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* New host records for the country.

† New host record for the State.

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Record of *Plutella xylostella* Linn. [= *maculipennis* (Curt.)] as a New Pest of *Amaranthus viridis* in Karnataka

Plutella xylostella L. is an important pest of cruciferous crops attacking nearly 39 different host plants of the family³, apart from a number of weed hosts recorded². Some of the non-cruciferous crops attacked are onion⁴, maize⁶, beet root, *Salsola kali* (Chenopodiaceae) and *Cires arietinus* (Papilionaceae)⁵ and okra¹.

Recently (October–December, 1974), the caterpillars of *P. xylostella* were found along with the caterpillars of *Hymenia fascialis* on leafy vegetable, *Amaranthus viridis* in a few localised patches in Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore District. The nature of damage is similar to that met with on cruciferous crops. The present observation is the first record of an infestation of the pest on *Amaranthus viridis*.

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