among the known genes tested for resistance, the genes *Sr* 1, *Sr* 7 *b*, *Sr* 9 *a*, *Sr* 13, *Sr* 14 and *Sr* 16 are largely ineffective for races of stem rust important, at the moment, in India.

Division of Genetics, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110 012, India, *July* 29, 1975.

N. K. PATRA.
R. N. SAWHNEY.
V. L. CHOPRA.

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LEAF SPOT OF *PRUNUS CORNUTA* STEUD. INCITED BY *POLYSTIGMA RUBRUM* (PERS. EX. FR.) DC.

A SEVERE red spot on the leaves of *Prunus cornuta* Steud. was noticed at Khadrala (H.P) in June, 1974. *Prunus cornuta* Steud. a deciduous species growing at elevation of 2,000 metres to 3,033 metres has a good potentiality as root stock for cherry, as grafts on it make vigorous growth as compared to those on *Pr. cerasoides* D. Don. which is already in use as rootstock for cherry.

The infection occurred from April to May immediately after the new leaves formed. The characteristic symptom of the disease appeared as yellow circular or irregular lesions on lower surface of the leaf blade. In advanced stage, these lesions turned dark red and were scattered over the entire leaf. The spots measuring 7 mm to 9 mm in diameter were raised on the underside and lowered on the upper surface of the leaf. The red lesions surrounded by yellow margin consisted of numerous stromata. In the later stage of disease development, the infected leaves got dried and detachment of diseased spots took place leaving "shot hole". The attack of disease restricted to foliage only.

Efforts to culture the causal agent on potato-dextrose agar were unsuccessful, since it happened to be obligate parasite[15]. However, the pathogenicity test was initiated by inoculating the young leaves of *Pr. cornuta* with suspension of ascospores. The symptoms of the disease developed after 30 to 45 days of inoculation. Inoculation through pycniospores could not induce the disease. The fungus has been identified as *Polystigma rubrum* (Pers. ex. Fr.) DC. and the specimen deposited at CMI, Kew, Surrey, England, under IMI succession No. 185885.

Polystigma rubrum, being widely distributed pathogen in several countries, is reported to attack a large number of stone fruit plants such as Almond[1-3], Damson[15-18], Plum[1-4,7-10,12,14,19], *Prunus domestica*[17], *Pr. spinosa*[5,11] Prune, Apricot[6] and *Pr. insititia*[8]. Besides, the fungus has been reported earlier on Almond[16] from India, but there is no report on *Pr. cornuta* and hence this appears to be new host record for this country.

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Horticultural Research Station, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Amartara Cottage, Simla-4, *September* 4, 1975.

R. D. RAM.
S. S. RANDHAWA.

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A NEW LEAF BLIGHT OF INDIA RUBBER CAUSED BY *PHOMA GLOMERATA* (CORDA) WR. AND HOCHAPF. IN INDIA

A DISTINCTIVE leaf blight of India rubber (*Ficus elastica* Roxb.) was noted in the late winter of 1971 in New Delhi. Both the surfaces of affected leaves (young and old) bore necrotic, irregular spots, measuring several cm in diameter, and

covering almost half the leaf blade (Fig. 1). The light brown to brownish-black, shrunken and thin, necrotic lesions showed in sharp contrast to the green portion of the leaf. Numerous gray-black fruiting bodies of the fungus were visible in the lesions on both the surfaces of the older leaves. Under stereobinocular microscope, a number of jet black subepidermal fruiting bodies (pycnidia) with pinkish ooze scattered all over the infected areas were clearly visible.

FIG. 1. Stages in the development of leaf blight disease of India rubber.

Repeated isolations of the fungus on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) confirmed the association of *Phoma glomerata* (Corda) Wr. and Hochapf. with the lesions. The fungus is known to cause a blight of grapevine and its blossoms and also as a secondary invader causing rot of tomato, potato, etc[1,2].

The pathogenicity of the fungus (a ten-day old culture) was tested on three year old, potted plants by spray method. First symptoms were observed 48 hours after spraying on the leaves. However, no infection was observed on petioles and stem. Reisolations from all the infected tissues on PDA repeatedly yielded *P. glomerata*.

The occurrence of *Phoma glomerata* (Corda) Wr. and Hochapf. appears to be a new report for India and India rubber as its host. The fungus culture (Accession No. 1730) has been deposited with the Type Culture Collection of the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

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Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology,
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110 012,
September 18, 1975.

P. M. MUKEWAR.
V. C. LELE.
M. K. ROY.

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SILVER JUBILEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY, ANDHRA UNIVERSITY, WALTAIR

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Department of Pharmacy, Andhra University, will be held during the last week of April, 1976. A Seminar on Recent Advances in the Chemistry and Pharmacology of Indian Plant Drugs will be held in this connection. Further particulars may be obtained from Prof. E. Venkata Rao, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Andhra University, Waltair.