

fungus from India. The specimen has been deposited at CMI, Kew, Surrey, England (IMI 189448).

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#### SCLEROTIAL ROT OF *SOLANUM KHASIANUM* CLARKE AND *SOLANUM MAMMOSUM* L.: TWO NEW HOSTS

THE plants, *Solanum khasianum* Clarke and *Solanum mammosum* L. are important sources of raw material for steroid hormone industry. The latter has been introduced recently at Jorhat, Assam. The plants under experimental cultivation were found to be severely attacked by the organism in May, June and July when high temperature prevailed after rains. The infection which started from the collar region of the plants covered the whole of the main stem with white mycelial growth bearing sclerotial aggregations in advance stage, resulting shedding of leaves, rotting and ultimately death of the plants. The mustard seed-like Sclerotia which were mostly produced at the base of the stem were also present over the ground around the plants.

On the basis of morphological features and cultural characteristics, the organism was identified as *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc. (*Corticium rolfsii* Curzi). The pathogenicity of the fungus was confirmed by inoculating the plants under natural conditions which produced similar symptoms. *S. rolfsii* has been found to cause collar and root rot resulting wilting, yellowing or leaf shedding of many economically important plants<sup>1-4</sup> in the country. There is no previous record of the fungus on these hosts. The specimens have been deposited in CMI, Kew, Surrey, England (IMI-187261 and 187262).

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#### MONOPOLOID IN *GOSSYPIUM ARBOREUM*, L. VAR. LD. 132

KIMBER AND RILEY (1963)<sup>2</sup> have reviewed literature on the haploids with ( $n = 2x = 26$ ) in tetraploid *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense* cottons. Turecotte and Feaster (1969)<sup>3</sup> and Barrow and Chaudhari (1976)<sup>1</sup> reported haploids in interspecific hybrids of *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense*. However, occurrence of monoploid ( $n = x = 13$ ) has been reported in diploid species of *Gossypium* rarely. Thus Skovsted (1935)<sup>4</sup> and Webber (1940)<sup>5</sup> reported monoploids in diploid *Gossypium* species *G. davidsonii* Kell. and *G. sturtii* Muell ( $2n = 26$ ).



FIGS. 1-3. Fig. 1. Monoploid *G. arboreum* var. LD. 132 ( $n = x = 13$ ). Fig. 2.  $n = x = 13$  trivalent chromosomes at metaphase I ( $\times 500$ ). Fig. 3.  $n = x = 6II + 1I$  at metaphase I ( $\times 700$ ).

Monoploids in the commonly grown cotton *G. arboreum* have not been reported so far. The authors recorded a single plant in 1976 in the field population of *G. arboreum* var. LD. 132. The plant was conspicuous because of its miniature leaves and dwarf habit with short internodes (Fig. 1). It flowered very late