of Perotus giganteus giganteus, the zone reticulatis is not so distinct in Rousettus leschenaulti. The medulla is clearly demarcated from the cortex in Epixonius fuscus and Megaderma lyra lyra. However, in Anurotus pallidus it is not distinct. The medulla in both the species of bats studied here is distinctly separated from the cortex and two types of cells are recognized on the basis of their staining reactions.

Details of the cyclical changes in these glands in these animals are being published elsewhere.

The author is thankful to Dr. A. Gopalakrishna, Director, Institute of Science, Nagpur, for guidance throughout this work.

Department of Zoology, (Mrs.) V. M. SAPKAL, Institute of Science, Nagpur 440 001, November 10, 1977.


STEM BLIGHT OF WHEAT CAUSED BY ALTERNARIA ALTERNATA

DURING a survey of the diseases of cereals in and around Allahabad, a blight disease was observed on C13 variety of wheat. The fields in which the disease appeared had clayey soil and previously paddy was grown there. At the time of emergence of the ears slight browning of the stem was observed in a few individuals. Browning started from the nodes, both upwards and downwards. Within ten days the affected stem turned dark brown to black, giving it the typical blighted appearance. Ears from such plants were smaller and the grains less developed in comparison with healthy ones. All the isolations made from the diseased portions of the stem invariably yielded Alternaria alternata (Fr.) Keissler. The fungus was also isolated from the underlying soil of the fields. In the green house the pots were filled with sterilised soil, and infested with maize meal culture of A. alternata. Wheat plants (C13) grown in such pots expressed symptoms identical with those observed in the field. The same pathogen was again isolated from these plants. These investigations revealed the soil borne nature of the disease. Earlier A. alternata had been reported causing black point disease of wheat seeds in storage. However from the stem of the wheat it is being reported for the first time.

Thanks are due to Dr. A. Johnston, Director, C.M.I., Kew (England), for identifying the fungus and to Prof. D. D. Pant, Head of the Botany Department, Allahabad University, for providing laboratory facilities.

Botany Department, Allahabad University, Allahabad 211 002, July 17, 1977.


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