



FIGS. 1-4. 1, Infected leaf, 2, Pinidia. 3, T.S. of leaf showing picnidium. 4, Spores.

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FUSARIUM CAPSULE DISEASE OF CARDAMOM

GREEN capsules of cardamom plants [*Elettaria cardamomum* (L.) Maton] growing in the Wynad region of Kerala exhibited disease symptoms characterised by the presence of spots or lesions, during November-December, 1977. Infection initially appeared as reddish-brown specks on the outer skin of the capsules. Symptoms were noticed on capsules of all stages of development. As the infection advanced, the spots enlarged and became yellowish-white and slightly sunken in the centre and surrounded by reddish-brown margin. The spots are generally roundish, but at times slightly elongate ones are also noticed. The spots measured 1-4 mm in size. In severe cases of infection, the capsules tended to dry up. During rainy periods, rotting of infected capsules also could be noticed. Disease affected capsules, when dried in the curing chamber, exhibited greyish, scabby spots or lesions corresponding to the infected areas, consequently reducing the market value of the produce to a considerable extent.

Infected capsules yielded a species of *Fusarium*, when isolated on Czapek's agar medium. Pathogenicity of the fungus was established by artificial inoculations.

The fungus was subsequently identified as *Fusarium moniliforme* Sheld, and a culture of the same has been deposited at the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, England (IMI No. 227935).

The disease has not been recorded on cardamom capsules so far.

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