

region. Repeated isolations from infected parts of the plant invariably yielded *Sclerotium* sp.

The pathogenicity of the fungus was established by inoculating the soil in which castor seedlings were grown with the fungus grown on corn meal sand medium (1:1 W/W basis). Detached leaves were inoculated with mycelial mat and incubated for 24-48 hours in moist chamber.

The pathogen was found to infect the germinating seeds resulting in pre-emergence rot. Such seeds were covered with white mycelial mat. The pathogen caused post-emergence death of seedlings, manifesting in the form of brown discoloration of stem, at the ground level followed by wilting. Further, white mycelial mat along with sclerotial bodies were observed on the root zone of infected castor seedlings. Water soaked, round to irregular brown spots appeared on detached leaves.

The pathogen under study was identified as *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc. This is the first report of *S. rolfsii* causing seed rot, seedling wilt and leaf blight of castor from India.

Department of Plant Pathology, A. L. SIDDARAMAIAH,
College of Agriculture, S. A. DESAI,
Dharwar 580 005, R. K. HEGDE.
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A NEW SPECIES OF *PSEUDOCERCOSPORELLA* (HYPHOMYCETES) FROM INDIA

DURING a routine survey of parasitic fungi of Gorakhpur region (U.P.) the author collected leaf spotting dematiaceous hyphomycete on *Streblus asper* Lour and *Milingtonia hortensis* Linn. f. suppl. from Farendra range of Gorakhpur Forest Division (U.P.). Microscopic studies revealed that the fungus was a new species of *Pseudocercospora* and hence,

Pseudocercospora strebli sp. nov.

Contagionis maculae amphigenae, rotundatae vel irregulares, pallide brunneae, sparsae margin rubello, ad 12 mm diametro, interdum coalescentes, fructibus epiphyllis per maculam instar punctorum nigrorum ostentis; stroma parvum, pallide brunneum, immersum vel interdum semi-immersum, pseudoparenchymaticum; conidiophori compacti, caespitosi, macronemati, mononemati, recti vel raro curvuli pallide olivaceo-brunnei, apice pallidiorae, leaves, subgeniculati, hand cicatricibus notati, hand ramosi, septati, 18-42.5 × 1.7-3.6 (vulgo 35 × 2.5) μm; cellulae conidiogenae integratae, terminalis, polyblasticae, cicatricibus, distinctis nullis, hyalini vel subhyalini; conidia simplicia, singularia, terminalia, levia ad septa hand constricta, obclavata vel cylindrica, at basim truncata hand ad basim et punctum colligationis cicatrice

distincta notata, transverse multi (ad sexies) septata 21.5-54 × 2.5-3.8 (vulgo 40 × 3) μm,

Hab. in foliis vivis *Streblus asper* Lour (Moracearum) Gorakhpur Octobri 1976 leg. R.P. Singh 279 et 291 IMI 212595 et 212597; atque in foliis vivis *Milingtonia hortensis* Linn. f. suppl. (Bignoniacearum) Gorakhpur Octobri 1976 leg. R.P. Singh 285 IMI 212571 b.

Infection spots amphigenous, circular to irregular, light brown, scattered, with reddish margin, up to 12 mm in diam, occasionally coalescing with epiphyllous fruitings appearing as black dots throughout the spots; stroma small, light brown, immersed, occasionally semi-immersed, pseudoparenchymatous; conidiophores compactly caespitose, macronematos, mononematos, straight to rarely curved, light olive brown, smooth, with paler apex, subgeniculate, with no distinct scars, unbranched, septate, 18-42.5 × 1.8-3.6 (usually 35 × 2.5 μm); conidiogenous cells integrated, terminal, polyblastic, with indistinct scars hyaline to sub-hyaline; conidia simple, solitary, terminal, smooth, unconstricted along the septa, obclavate to cylindric, truncate at base, with indistinct scars at the base along the point of attachment, transversely multi septate, (upto 6 septa), 21.5-54 × 2.5-3.8 (usually 40 × 3 μm).

On living leaves of *Streblus asper* Lour. (Moraceae)-Farendra Range, Gorakhpur Forest Division; October, 1976; leg. R.P. Singh 279 and 291; IMI 212595 and 212598 respectively. Also on living leaves of *Milingtonia hortensis* Linn. f. suppl. (Bignoniaceae); Govt. Garden city Area, Gorakhpur, October, 1976; leg. R.P. Singh 285, IMI 212581 b.

The author finds that the present fungus does not fall close to any species of *Pseudocercospora* described so far. Besides, no species of this fungus has ever been described on the host in question. Dr. B. C. Sutton of CMI remarks, "The present fungus is peculiar in having pigmentation of conidia and in lacking distinct scars either on the conidiophores or on the conidia. Neither *Cercospora* nor any of its segregates have so far been described from these hosts". It is, therefore, described here as a new species.

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Department of Botany,
Udai Pratap Post-Graduate College,
Varanasi,
January 14, 1970.

R. P. SINGH,