TABLE I

Cholesterol content (mg/50 mg of mycelium) in the dried mycelium of fifteen species of Helminthosporium

Organism	Strain	Cholesterol
H. bisceptatum	CBS–37172	0·68
H. catenarium	CBS–22458	0·54
H. cynodontis	CBS–30464	0·50
H. erythrospilum	CBS–31369	0·66
H. gramineum	CBS–30235	0·20
H. hawaiiensis	*Lycopersicon esculentus*	0·98
H. holmii	*Psidium guajava*	1·03
H. monoceras	CBS–15426	0·36
H. pedicellatum	CBS–19633	0·28
H. rostratum	*Capsicum annum*	0·52
H. siccans	CBS–31869	0·58
H. sorghicola	CBS–32664	0·28
H. spiciferum	*Solanum melangena*	0·08
H. inaequalis	CBS–55069	0·12
H. portulacae	CBS–58571	0·44

terol was reported in *Paecilomyces varioti* (1·7%)[3]. Preuss *et al.*[4–5] found one or less than one per cent of the total dried mycelium. There were significant differences even among morphologically closely related species and *vice versa*. Such variation was also noticed among the isolates of *Colletotrichum dematium*[6].

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PENICILLIUM DRY FRUIT ROT OF ASHGOURD

THE fruits of ashgourd (*Benincasa hispida* Cogn.) were found decaying in fields at Agra. The rotten fruits exhibited circular yellowish-green patches, which further decayed resulting in the formation of deep cavities at advanced stage of infection (Fig. 1). *Penicillium citrinum* Thom. was isolated from the rotten samples. Pathogenicity was confirmed by inoculating injured and uninjured healthy fruit surfaces. The observations revealed that only injured fruits produced the rot symptoms, while the control and uninjured remained healthy throughout. Reisolations from rotted fruits yielded the same fungus.

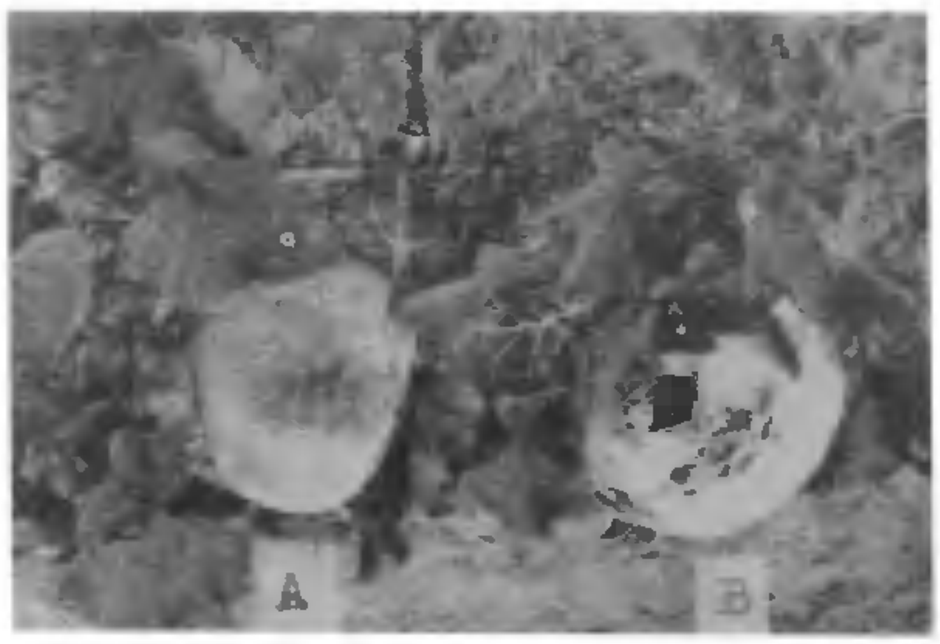

FIG. 1. Dry fruit rot of ashgourd showing early stage (A) and late stage (B) of infection in field.

Perusal of the literature revealed that several soft rot diseases of Petha Fruits were reported from India[1] and abroad[2] but the present dry caused by *P. citrinum* was not recorded so far.

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CELLULASE ACTIVITY IN HAUSTORIA OF *CASSYTHA FILIFORMIS* L.

THE production of cellulase by pathogenic microorganisms is well known. It has also been traced in roots of some higher plants (Tracy[1]). Sreenivas Rao and Thirupathaiah[2] reported the cellulase activity in aerial roots of *Vanda*. The production of cellulase in *Cassytha filiformis* L. is not known till today. Hence a study was undertaken to trace the presence of these