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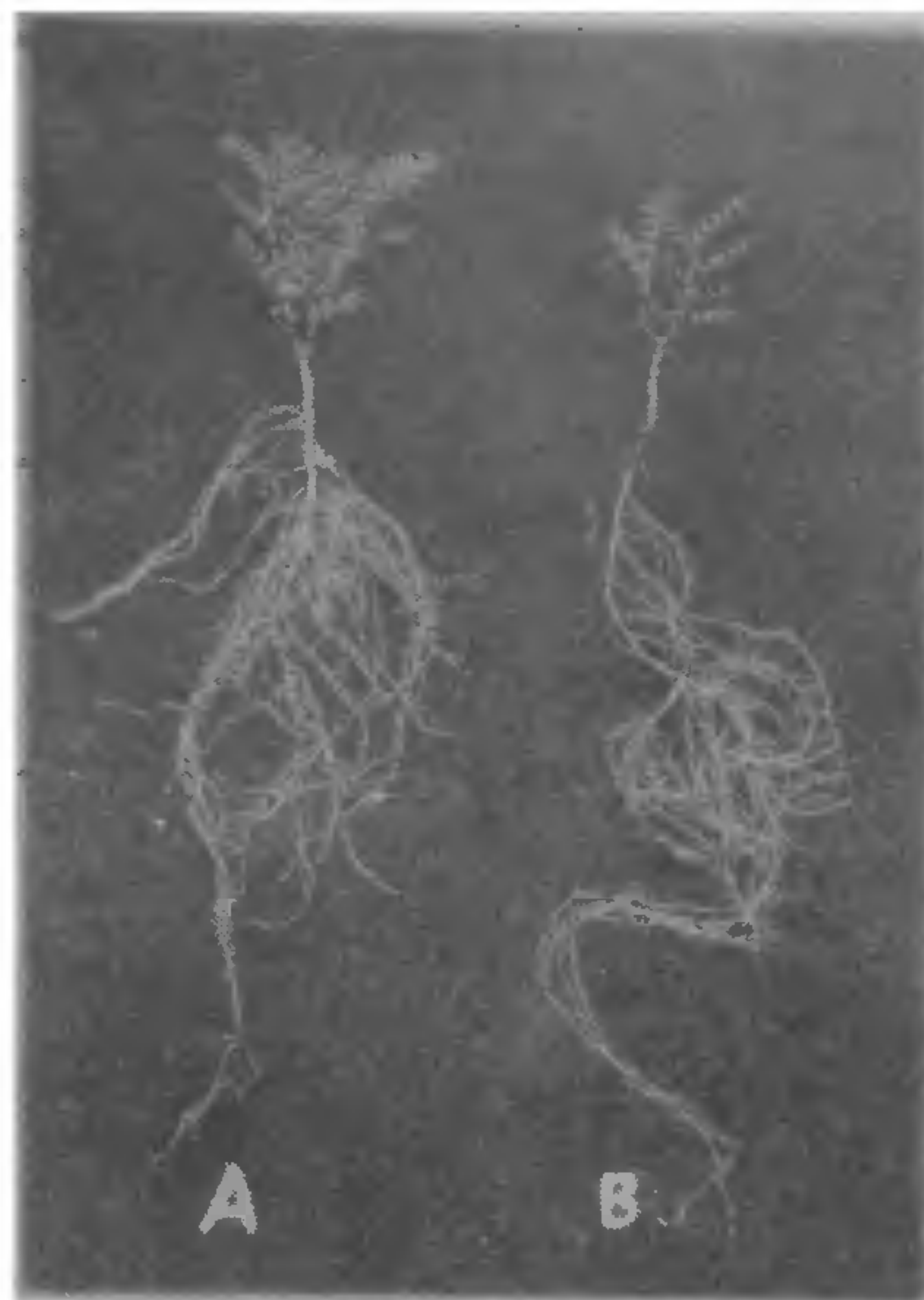
\*Originals not seen.

## A NEW RHIZOCTONIA ROOT-ROT OF GRAM

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DURING a survey in 1981 in Rajasthan State, some yellow, stunted and drying gram (*Cicer arietinum* L.) plants were observed. On isolation on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), *Thanatephorus (Rhizoctonia) cucumeris* (Frank) Donk was isolated..

The fungus was maintained on PDA and was multiplied on pre-soaked (overnight) and sterilized sorghum grains under aseptic conditions. Sorghum grains (5 g) having 7-day fungal growth were placed about 7.6 cm deep, in sterile soil in 15 cm earthen pots and were covered with soil. The seeds, surface sterilized with 0.1% mercury dichloride solution and subsequently washed with sterile water, were sown above the covered sorghum grains. Disease symptoms were observed after 30 days of germination.



**Figure 1.** A Healthy plant of gram. B diseased plant showing black portion of infected root with *Thanatephorus (Rhizoctonia) cucumeris* (Frank) Donk just below the cotyledons.

Yellowing of lower leaves was observed as the first disease symptom. Gradually the leaves dried and finally the entire plant dried. Infected plants remained stunted. Diseased plants were taken out together with roots. The uppermost root portion was seen infected having black colour around the roots. Infected plants died within a week or so after germination where infection was severe.

Reisolations and pathogenicity tests were carried out several times during 1981 and 1982 rabi. The fungus was always isolated from the inoculated plants. Checks remained unaffected. This constitutes first record of *Thanatephorus (Rhizoctonia) cucumeris* on gram in India.

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