

terio-phages could be detected for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; Dhara³ also failed to detect bacteriophages for *P. aeruginosa* even from sewage samples. Bacteriophages for *K. pneumoniae* were found in several samples. *K. pneumoniae* is associated with plant matter^{4,5} in addition to animal excreta which are carried by rain water into the Ganga; such strains may well be different from the human pathogens and the bacteriophages detected in the water samples may also be different.

The phage titres in several cases were quite high and in 17 samples the number of phage particles per ml of water was 10^6 or more. The sample from Hardwar showed the presence of bacteriophages for *S. typhimurium* and *K. pneumoniae*. A large number of samples from Allahabad onwards showed the presence of bacteriophages for all the enteric bacteria studied. Berhampore water sample showed phage activities against all the enterobacteria. Places near the sea shore, which are not thickly populated, showed fewer bacteriophages. Since bacteriophages are specific for bacterial strains, the actual number per sample may be higher.

Ganga water contains significant amounts of organic matter which may support microbial growth. Since Ganga water retains its quality for a long time without visible signs of fermentation, it would appear that one way by which the bacterial population is controlled in Ganga water may involve the activity of bacteriophages. The effects observed could not be due to the toxic or antibiotic substances which may be present in the samples, as such substances, even if present, would have been diluted many folds by the large volume of water flowing down the river. Details will be published elsewhere.

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TIP ROT AND LEAF BLIGHT— A NEW FUNGAL DISEASE OF JUTE FROM WEST BENGAL

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JUTE crop in the Institute's farm and in the neighbouring cultivator's fields suffered from a fungal disease during 1979 to 1982. The loss was estimated between 14 and 26%. Most of the commercially cultivated varieties of both *Corchorus capsularis* L. and *C. olitorius* L. species of jute were affected. The disease was visible in a severe form during late summer to rainy seasons between late July and early September.

Symptomatological studies revealed that the leaf tips of the crown of the affected plants started rotting first characterized by brownish discoloration. The affected tip drooped, decayed and turned black. Whitish fungal mycelium sporulated profusely as numerous blackish brown pin heads. Leaves later suffered from chlorosis and ultimately blighted. In the case of most severe attack, infection from the leaves spread to the stems and the entire plant dried up. The pin-head like sporulation was easily visible in the field during the morning hours, especially on bright sunny days followed by cloudy and rainy days.

Laboratory investigations revealed that the epidermis and outer cortex were affected and got disintegrated. The pathogen was identified as *Choanephora cucurbitarum* (Berk and Lav.) Thaxter. From the existing literature¹⁻³, it appears that this is the first record of tiprot and leaf blight disease of jute.

Isolation from the affected plant parts and the transfer from hyphal tips grew very fast on PDA, at 28°C. Mycelium was slightly creamy, fluffy with profusely branched coenocytic hyphae. Hyaline to blackish brown fruiting bodies appeared after seven days on PDA. Pathogenicity test confirmed *C. cucurbitarum* as a primary pathogen of jute and inoculation studies showed that the fungus was pathogenic to sunhemp species—*Crotalaria juncia* L.

The same species of the fungus is destructive to capsicum causing wetrot, fruit rot and dieback^{4,5} to amaranthus causing young shoot blight and wet rot^{6,7}, and to potato causing leaf blight⁸. Soyabean, cowpea, sweet potato, squash, cucurbits etc, are also reported to be attacked with *C. cucurbitarum* and also with other species of the same fungus^{8,9}.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Many companies are faced with problems arising from differing standards and regulations governing financial accounting and reporting in the various countries where they operate. And one of these most complex and controversial issues relates to foreign currency translation. To help simplify matters, international accountants Ernst & Whinney has produced a booklet entitled *Foreign Currency Translation*. Developed by a team of E & W accounting and financial reporting specialists from around the world, it identifies various concepts, methods and treatments involved in foreign currency translation. It also addresses two key questions at the heart of the current controversy, namely how financial transactions in foreign currencies are accounted for domestically and how the financial statements of foreign-based oper-

ations are translated in the country of the parent. By explaining the underlying concepts involved, and highlighting the differences and similarities among the accounting and reporting practices currently followed in various parts of the world, the booklet shows how and where the issue stands. There is a special section in the booklet which details the latest foreign currency translation developments, including synopses of the most recent pronouncements on the subject from the Canadian Accounting Standards Committee, the UK Accounting Bodies, and the US Financial Accounting Standards Board. Ernst & Winney has some 21,000 personnel in over 300 offices located in more than 70 countries throughout the world. (*The City*, British Information Services, British High Commission, New Delhi 110 021).

WORKSHOP IN NEUROSCIENCES

Dr S. D. Telang, Biochemistry Department, Baroda University, Baroda, India, will conduct a one month workshop in Neurosciences from November 1, 1984 for scientists from India and Southeast Asia working in University Department and Medical Institutions who want to initiate teaching and research in neurobiology; COSTED will support the travel of 5 partici-

ants from Southeast Asia. Those interested in taking part in the workshop should send their curriculum vitae to Dr Telang before the end of May, 1984. Selected candidates will be informed in June, 1984.

Further particulars may be had from Prof. C. V. Ramakrishnan, Biochemistry Department, Faculty of Science, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda 390 002.
