

The decrease in the number of R spermatocytes at early intervals might be caused by the radiation-induced lethal damage to these cells. After 24 hr and later, this reduction does not seem to be only due to the direct cell killing and diminished proliferative activity of the precursors leading to maturation depletion, but also due to mitotic death in the dividing maturation pool. The sudden spurt in their number at day 28 might be due to the reappearance of a considerable number of their precursors at the previous interval. Significantly higher quantities of R-spermatocytes observed in the drug-treated groups at all the dose levels, indicate a high degree of protection given by WR-2721 to the testicular elements under observation. It is reported that WR-2721 enters into the tissue by passive diffusion and dephosphorylates enzymatically⁹. After that it gets distributed intracellularly and thus protects the biological materials against the radiation induced cell death, by a number of molecular and physiological mechanisms^{9,10}.

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SCIENCE NEWS

FIRST RECORD OF *SEPTORIA VERONICAE* ON VERONICA

A severe leaf spot disease on Veronica, an ornamental hardy herbaceous perennial, was observed during the summer at Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar.

The disease on the leaves is characterised by numerous pale spots with small black dots arranged in circles, measure about 1.5 mm in dia and have greyish ashy centres. Later these dots coalesce to form large necrotic patches.

The pathogen responsible for the disease has been identified as *Septoria veronicae* Rob. and Desm.—a pathogenic parasite on the plant. Pycnidia, partly embedded in plants, are dark separate, globose, ostiolate, 100–170 μ in dia; erumpent and produced in spots. Conidiophores are short. Conidia (Pycnidio-

phores) are narrowly elongated to filiform, hyaline, 3–4 septate and measure 28–40 \times 1.5 μ .

The species *Septoria veronicae* is a new record for India. The pathogen was isolated on PDA and Czapek's agar medium from diseased leaves. The fungus grew with profuse sporulation and a number of pycnidia bearing clusters of conidia were observed.

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