

days. The colony growth of the fungus in all the plates was recorded at 2-day intervals; the production of sclerotia was also recorded (table 1).

The results showed variation in the growth potential of mycelia and sclerotia. Under the conditions specified above, sclerotia showed rapid growth by producing mycelia and large number of sclerotia also appeared subsequently. The growth activity of sclerotia under visible light was greater with higher sclerotial production as compared to the cultures under NUV and darkness. In darkness, growth from sclerotia as well as mycelium was more or less equal. In light, however, growth from sclerotia was markedly higher than from mycelia. The growth of the fungus arising from the mycelial disc was almost uniform under all the conditions, with no sclerotial production. The higher growth activity of sclerotia is attributed not only to the *in vivo* factors but also to the stored substances present in them.

It is therefore concluded that *R. solani* is an efficient pathogen which can adapt and survive under varied field conditions through the production of sclerotia, whose density is regulated by the process of anastomosis between different mating types.

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## TAKHTAJANIANTHUS DE, GEN. NOV.

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IN 1875 E. Boissier and E. Blanche described a new genus of Compositae (Asteraceae) with the name *Postia* Boiss. and Blanche (in Hooker and Jackson<sup>1</sup>). But an year earlier, Fries<sup>2</sup> erected the genus *Postia* Fr. for a number of poroid fungi with soft basidiocarps, small pores and thin dissepiments. It was opined that taxonomically it is illogical and erroneous to accept the same generic name for Fungus and Angiosperm. Since it was published one year earlier, the Friesian name *Postia* Fr., has priority and therefore this generic name should be

regarded as valid. Naturally, the generic name *Postia* Boiss. and Blanche proposed for 4 species of Compositae (in Hooker and Jackson<sup>1</sup>) becomes invalid and a new generic name has been given for *Postia* Boiss. and Blanche which is as follows:

*Takhtajianthus* De, gen. nov. (the generic epithet celebrated after taxonomist Prof. Armen L. Takhtajan).

Capitula heterogama radiata v. disciformia floribus radii ♀ 1 — seriatis discique ♀ fertilibus, v. radio deficiente, homogama. Involucrum hemisphaericum v. subglobosum, bracteis imbricatis sub-2-seriatis appressis obtusis v acutis. Receptaculum paleaceum. Corollae ♀ ligulatae v. filiformes. Antherae breviter caudatae. Achaenia tetragonosun-compressa, hirta, conformia, omnia papposa. Pappus duplex, exterior pilis brevissimis persistentibus, interior paleis 2-3 caducis elongatis apice barbellatis constants. Harbae lanatae, e rhizomate crasso multicaules, ramis 1 cephalis v. corymboso-2-3-cephalis. Folio alterna, intogerrima v. denticulata.

Typus: *Postia lanuginosa* Boiss., 1875.

The 4 species included under the genus *Takhtajianthus* De, gen. nov. are as follows:

*Takhtajianthus bombycina* (Boiss. and Haussk.) De, comb. nov. (Basionym: *Postia bombycina* Boiss. and Haussk., In: *Boiss. Fl. Orient.*, iii, 183, 1875).

*Takhtajianthus lanuginosa* (Boiss.) De, comb. nov. (Basionym: *Postia lanuginosa* Boiss., In: *Boiss. Fl. Orient.*, iii, 182, 1875).

*Takhtajianthus microcephala* (Boiss.) De, comb. nov. (Basionym: *Postia microcephala* Boiss., In: *Boiss. Fl. Orient.*, iii, 183, 1875).

*Takhtajianthus puberula* (Boiss. and Haussk.) De, comb. nov. (Basionym: *Postia puberula* Boiss. and Haussk., In: *Boiss. Fl. Orient.*, iii, 183, 1875).

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