

**A NEW LEAF SPOT DISEASE OF MULBERRY
CAUSED BY *MYROTHECIUM RORIDUM*
TODE EX FR.**

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DURING a survey of the diseases of mulberry (*Morus alba* L.), a new tar leaf-spot disease was noticed at Mysore during the rainy season (June–October) of 1986–87. It was observed on both exotic and indigenous varieties of mulberry like Local, Kanva-2, S-30, S-36, S-41, S-54, Kosen and China-White. The intensity of the disease varied among the varieties. During the season it was found to be 10–12% in Local and Kanva-2 and 5–8% in other varieties.

The diseased samples were collected from fields and surface-sterilized with 0.1% HgCl₂ and plated on Czapek's Dox and potato dextrose agar (PDA) media. The plates were incubated at 28°C (±2°C) for 7 days. Consistently grown fungi were isolated, purified and maintained on PDA slants. The fungus was identified as *Myrothecium roridum* Tode ex Fr.



Figure 1. Mulberry leaf affected by tar leaf-spot disease caused by *M. roridum*.

and confirmed by the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England (IMI No. 310663).

The disease symptoms appear in the form of large, irregular/circular, linear tan-coloured spots with dark margins on the leaf surface. The spots later become necrotic and greyish brown (figure 1).

Perusal of the literature revealed that *Myrothecium roridum* Tode Ex Fr. has been reported on mulberry from China¹ and is a new record from India^{2,3}.

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**CHROMOSOMAL STUDIES IN *CULEX*
*MINUTISSIMUS***

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MOSQUITOES are pests and vectors of dreadful diseases. In spite of the importance of mosquito studies, data on mosquito chromosomes are woefully scanty. The monotonous uniformity, both in number and morphology, of mosquito chromosomes has palpably discouraged interest in the pursuit of cytogenetic studies. Indeed, all karyotypes examined so far, except in the genus *Corethra*¹, have three pairs of chromosomes with but minor variations in centromeric position and chromosome length. The karyology of *Culex minutissimus* (genus: *Culex*, sub genus: *Lophoceratomyia*) is discussed here for the first time. This species has a distribution range from Punjab to Orissa². Local populations were used in the studies.

Mitosis and meiosis were studied in the neuroblast