



Figure 1. Healthy and *Verticillium lecanii* infected larvae of *Plutella xylostella*.

isolated from soil caused 53% mortality in white grubs *Holotrichia consaginata* Blanch (I and II instars) in a pot culture study<sup>5</sup>. Thus, under suitable environmental conditions, *V. lecanii* might serve as an effective biocontrol agent against *P. xylostella* on cruciferous crops. Further studies on the efficacy of the fungus on *P. xylostella* on cabbage under glass house and field conditions are in progress.

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#### A NEW FRUIT ROT OF *CITRUS RETICULATA* BLANCO

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DURING surveys conducted in January-February 1986, a new fungal fruit rot of orange (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco) was observed in the orange orchards of Kolasib town of Mizoram state. In the initial stage of infection, the fruit developed minute depressions and one to several circular ash-grey spots. On ripening and subsequently, the spots turned into bigger lesions. The infected fruit coat shrivelled and gave a dry rot appearance. Black pycnidial bodies developed on these lesions (figure 1).

Microscopic examination of the isolated fungus revealed that it is *Phoma citri* (culture no. MZ. ICAR-PP-27). Whitish, greenish-dark to black colonies appeared on PDA slants. So far in Mizoram, no record of this fruit rot disease has been made on orange fruits and the presently reported host is a new record for Mizoram and India<sup>1</sup>.

The pathogenicity test was carried out successfully by inoculating the isolate grown on PDA slants into orange fruits by Granger and Horne's method<sup>2</sup> and also by spraying the conidial suspension of the



Figure 1. Orange fruits showing symptoms of *Phoma citri* infection.

organism over injured and uninjured fruits. Only injured and ripened fruits developed typical symptoms after 15 days. Reisolation from artificially infected fruits yielded pure culture of *Phoma citri*. (Culture deposited in the division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.)

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#### OUTBREAK OF *ORGYIA POSTICA* WALKER (LYMANTRIIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA), A NEW PEST ON MANGO IN UTTAR PRADESH

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LARGE-SCALE defoliation of mango by *Orgyia postica* was noticed in orchards of Behat area in Saharanpur district (Uttar Pradesh) during June–July, 1987. Light infestation was also noticed in most of the orchards surveyed in Lucknow. Perusal of the literature revealed that this is the first record of the pest on mango from India. Host range, nature of damage, and some observations on the biology of the pest are reported here.

*O. postica* is a polyphagous pest attacking *Albizia* spp., *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Callicarpa lanata*, *Erythrina lithosperma*, *Lagerstoemia flos-reginae*, *L. indica*, *Pithecolobium dulce*, *Ricinus communis*, *Shorea robusta*, *Tectona grandis*, *Ziziphus jujuba* and *Z. xylopyra* in India<sup>1</sup>. Sporadic outbreaks of this pest have been recorded on *Ricinus communis*<sup>2</sup>. Although a pest of broad-leaved species, it has been