

Agri. Res. J. Kerala, 1976 14 (2)

**AGERATUM CONYZOIDES LINN; A WEED HOST OF PSEUDOMONAS
SOLANACEARUM, E. F. SMITH**

A large number of *Ageratum conyzoides* Linn. plants growing as weed were found affected by a bacterial wilt disease during August 1976 at the Pepper Research Station, Panniyoor. The incidence of the disease was high during continued warm, humid periods. The wilting was severe in plots where the incidence of quick wilt (food rot) of pepper was also high. The infection was also more on yellow vein mosaic virus affected plants.

The characteristic symptoms were the general loss of turgidity and drooping of tender shoots and leaves. In advanced stages, rotting of the stem was also observed. Wilting of leaves usually started from the tip and proceeded downwards. At the initial stage of wilting, the roots appeared healthy which later showed discolouration of the vascular tissues. Bacterial ooze was noticed from the out ends of infected root and stem. The pathogen was isolated on triphenyl tetrazolium chloride agar medium (Kelman 1954) and pathogenicity was confirmed by inoculating the healthy plants by stem puncturing method with 24-48 hour old culture of the isolate. In about 12-15 days the disease symptoms appeared on the inoculated plants. The isolate was also found pathogenic to tomato and chilli seedlings. From the cultural characters of the isolate on tetrazolium medium and its ability to produce wilt symptoms in tomato and chilli, the bacterium was identified as *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, E. F. Smith. *Ageratum conyzoides*, Linn. is a new host record of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* E. F. Smith in India.

സംഗ്രഹം

ആജ്ഞാ കോണിസോയിഡിസ് എന്ന കളയിൽ സുസോമോണസ് സോളനസീ യോം എന്ന ബാക്ടീരിയ മൂലം ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഒരു രോഗം പന്നിയൂർ കരുമുളകു ഗവേഷണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കണ്ടു. ടൊമാറ്റോയും ചുട്ടകിൻറയും തൈകളെയും ഈ രോഗം ബാധിക്കാമെന്നു തുടർന്നു നടത്തിയ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ തെളിയിച്ചു.

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Kelman A, 1954. The relation of pathogenicity of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* to colony appearance on a tetrazolium medium. *Phytopathology*. **44**, 693-695.

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(M. S. received 21.5.1976)