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DIPLODIA ROT OF DOLICHOS LAB-LAB L

A disease affecting the pods and vines of *Dolichos lab - lab* L. was noticed at the College of Agriculture campus, Vellayani during 1973. The infection was mainly confined to the pods nearing maturity and it started as a brownish discolouration eventually becoming dark brown to black. Such infected pods ultimately dried up. Numerous pycnidia of the fungus appeared as black pinhead like structures on the rind. Vines bearing infected pods exhibited die-back symptoms and pycnidia of the fungus was observed on the bark of the dead vines also.

A species of *Diplodia* was repeatedly isolated in pure culture. Pathogenicity was established by inoculating healthy pods and vines, kept in a humid chamber, with a thick spore suspension of the fungus. A slight wounding of the tissues was found very effective. Typical symptoms were noticed within 4-8 days. The fungus grew well on Potato dextrose agar with a blackish colour. The pycnidia produced on the pods and twigs were erumpent more or less globose and black coloured. They measured 200 — 415 x 90 - - 180 μ . Pycnidiospores were initially hyaline, oblong and one-celled. On maturity they become oblong to elliptical, dark brown, 2-celled with longitudinal striations on the wall and measured 18.60—21.50 x 12.60 μ .

On artificial inoculations the fungus infected detached fruits of papaya, bitter gourd, guava, sapota and stem cuttings of tapioca. Based on conidial measurements, pathogenicity and host range of the organism the fungus was identified as *Diplodia natalensis* Pole Evans which is a new record on *Dolichos lab-lab* L.

സംഗ്രഹം

അമരപ്പയറിന്റെ വളളികളേയും കായ്കളേയും ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു തരം ചീയൽ രോഗം വെള്ളായണി കാർഷികകോളേജ് ഗവേഷണതോട്ടത്തിൽ 1973 ൽ പരക്കെ കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. രോഗബാധ ഏറ്റവും പയറുകൾ പെട്ടെന്നുതന്നെ അഴുകി ഉണങ്ങിപ്പോകുന്നു. രോഗകാരണമായ കമീരം ഡിപ്ലോഡിയൻ നാലൻസിസ് പോലം ഇവാൻസ് ആണെന്ന് തെളിയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഡോളിക്കോസ് ലാബ് ലാബിനെ (അമരപ്പയർ) ഈ കമീരം ആക്രമിക്കുന്നതായി ഇതിനു മുമ്പു രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല.

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(M. S. received: 25-2-1974)