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LEAF BLIGHT OF *MIRABILIS JALAPA* L.

A severe and widespread leaf blight disease on *Mirabilis Jalapa* was observed in June 1973 at Trivandrum in some of the ornamental gardens. The symptoms of the disease first appeared as small yellowish brown spots with irregular outlines and became dark brown as they enlarged. The infection starts from the margins and progresses rapidly towards midrib and later the entire leaf surface get covered by the black patches and ultimately the leaves fall down. The diseased leaf tissues consistently yielded a species of *Fusarium* on isolation. The fungus was brought to pure culture by single spore isolation method. On potato dextrose agar medium the fungus produced a whitish fluffy mycelium and sporulated abundantly. Microconidia were oval to slightly elongated 0—1 septate and measured $10.0-15.5\mu \times 2.0\mu$. Microconidia were 2 to 4 celled and slightly curved. They measured $25.0-37.5\mu \times 5.0-7.0\mu$. Chlamydospores with a diameter of $5.0-10.0\mu$ were also noted under cultural conditions. The symptoms developed within 4 to 6 days. When inoculated on potted plants, re-isolation yielded *Fusarium* sp which was identical with the original isolate. The pathogen has been identified as *Fusarium* sp. Asok Kr Kar (1964) reported similar fungus from Calcutta. But there is no record of this blight in South India.

സംഗ്രഹം

നാലുമണി ചെടികളുടെ ഇലകളെ ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു *Fusarium* കമീം രോഗം *Mirabilisjalapa* പുറത്തുള്ള ചില തോട്ടങ്ങളിൽ കാണുകയുണ്ടായി. രോഗലക്ഷണങ്ങൾ സാധാരണയായി *Mirabilisjalapa* നിറത്തിലുള്ള പൊട്ടകളായിട്ടാണ് ആരംഭിക്കുന്നത്. ക്രമേണ ഇലയെ പൂർണ്ണമായും ബാധിക്കുകയും രോഗം ബാധിച്ച ഇലകൾ അവസാനം പൊഴിഞ്ഞു പോകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. രോഗകാരണമായ കമീം ഫ്യൂസേറിയം സ്പീഷീസ് ആണെന്ന് തെളിയിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. തെക്കെ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ഇതിനുമുമ്പ് ഈ രോഗം കണ്ടതായി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല.

REFERENCE

Asok Kr Kar 1964. Leaf blight of *Mirabilisjalapa* L. *Sci. and Cult.*, 30, 506-507.

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