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YELLOW MOSAIC OF *MICROCOCCA MERCURIALIS* BENTH.

A virus disease causing yellow mosaic of *Micrococca mercurialis* Benth., a common weed was observed in 1977. The symptoms appeared as small circular, oblong or irregular yellow spots on the leaves; near the margin, tip or at the base. The veins and veinlets turn yellow in colour. In the initial stages, the spots are limited by the veins and spread as a broad band of chlorotic tissue. In advanced stages, these spots become bright yellow, coalesced and gradually the whole leaf turn yellow. The leaf become small and occasionally cup shaped by the slight inward rolling of the margin. The shortening of the internodes and premature defoliation and shedding of flowers also occur. Attempts to transmit the virus by mechanical means were not successful, could be transmitted by inarch and wedge grafting, and the symptoms appeared in 8 and 14 days respectively. The Virus was also transmitted by the white fly, *Bemisia tabaci* Genn. Five insects each, with an acquisition and inoculation feeding periods of 24 hours each, were used and the symptoms appeared 25 days after inoculation. The role of weed hosts on the perpetuation of certain virus diseases affecting economic crop plants is well established (Varma, 1963 and Nair and Wilson, 1960).

സംഗ്രഹം

കേരളത്തിലെ തോട്ടങ്ങളിൽ സാധാരണയായി കാണപ്പെടുന്ന മൈക്രോകോക്ക മെർ കൂരിയാലിസ് എന്ന കളചെടികളിൽ ഒരു വൈറസ് രോഗം കാണപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇലകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പൊട്ടകളാണ് പ്രധാനരോഗലക്ഷണം. രോഗം ബാധിച്ച ഇലകൾ ചെറുതാകുകയും നേരത്തേതന്നെ പൊഴിഞ്ഞുപോകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ വൈറസ് രോഗം ഒട്ടവണ്ണനത്തൂലം എട്ടുദിവസംകൊണ്ടും ബെമീസിയ ബോസി എന്ന പ്രാണിമൂലം 25 ദിവസം കൊണ്ടും പുതിയ ചെടികളിലേക്ക് പകരുകയുണ്ടായി.

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