

ANTHRACNOSE OF COWPEA—A NEW DISEASE RECORD IN PAKISTAN

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In October, 1983 the exotic cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.) cultivars growing at National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, suffered from Anthracnose disease. The disease severity ranged from 2.15% depending on the cultivar affected. Though all above ground plant parts were affected, the disease was severe on stems and pods. On stem the lesions were orange to reddish-brown which gradually enlarged, became sunken and developed acervuli with black setae. Lesions on pods were small, few mm to 1 cm in size, light brown to pinkish at the border but dark-brown to black in the centre. Similar symptoms have been described by Smart (1976) for cowpea Anthracnose.

The causal organism of the disease was isolated in pure culture on potato dextrose agar (PDA) and was identified as *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* (Sacc. and Mang.) Bri. and Cav. The pathogenicity was confirmed through Koch's postulates, on cowpea plants grown in pots *C. lindemuthianum* has got a wide host range including Lima bean, scarlet summer bean, tepary bean, mung bean, cowpea and broad bean (Walker, 1952). Cowpea Anthracnose, though already reported from Nigeria, India and Brazil (Singh and Allen, 1979), is a new disease record in Pakistan.

REFERENCES

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