

CHOANEPHORA POD ROT OF MUNGBEAN

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During kharif season (July-September) of 1983, pods of exotic and local mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek.) cultivars planted at National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, under the Food Legumes Improvement Programme, were found to be rotting. The diseased pods showed water-soaked spots on which the fungus fruited abundantly. A network of white mycelium on pod surface and numerous conidiophores spread out in all directions with brownish black heads of sporangia. It was observed that pods nearing maturity were more susceptible than the young pods. Withered and detached flowers were also found to be infected. The disease was more prevalent under humid conditions.

The fungal pathogen was isolated in pure culture on PDA and was identified as *Choanephora cucurbitarum* (Berk and Rav.) Thaxter. In order to test the pathogenicity of the fungus detached healthy pods of mungbean cultivar VC 15-82 were surface sterilized with 0.5 per cent sodium hypochloride solution for 1.5 minutes, and then washed several times in distilled sterilized water. The washed pods were inoculated by dipping them into a conidial suspension of *C. cucurbitarum* (6.5×10^4 conidia/ml) and then were placed in sterilized petri-plates at room temperature (21 to 29 °C) along with uninoculated control. After one week, the inoculated pods developed characteristic symptoms of the disease as were observed in the field, while no symptoms developed on the uninoculated pods. Upon re-isolation the fungus came out to be the same, i. e., *C. cucurbitarum*. This pathogen, though reported to parasitize *Cajanus cajan* Misra and Mehra, 1989), cotton (Sapkai et al., 1975), *Capiscum annuum* (Mirza & Qureshi, 1978) and cowpea (Kangatharalingam, 1979), is a new record on mungbean in Pakistan.

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