

A NEW RECORD OF *Phomopsis vexans* ON EGG PLANT  
IN PAKISTAN

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During October, 1980, a few diseased fruits of *Solanum melongena* L. affected with soft rot were collected from suburb of Faisalabad. Disease was found to be of common occurrence on mature fruits of egg plants. The causal organism associated with the affected fruit was a fungus which came out to be *Phomopsis vexans* Sacc. et Syd. [= *Diaporthe vexans* (Sacc. & Syd.) Gratz] upon identification. This fungus though already recorded (Linn, 1970) on egg plant in U.S.A. seems to be a new record on this host in Pakistan as it is not included in the Fungi of Pakistan compiled by Ahmad (1956, 1969) Mirza and Qureshi (1978) and in paper submitted as contributions to the fungi of Pakistan by Ahmad (1969a, 1971, 1971a, 1972, 1972a and 1972b), Ahmad and Ahmad (1972) and Ahmad and Arshad (1972a).

Description of the diseased specimen is as follows :

*Symptoms on the host*

The symptoms were observed on the fruits only. The affected parts of fruit developed necrosis. The diseased portion was found to be studded with black fruiting bodies of the fungus. The dots were in concentric zones. Colour of the skin of the affected fruit was brown changing to chocolate brown. The fruit also started rotting at a later stage.

*Characters of the causal fungus*

Pycnidia dark brown, globose, immersed in the host tissues, erumpent, 300 — 1200  $\mu$  dia with an ostiole of 55  $\mu$  dia; conidiophores hyaline, simple, straight, non-septate; conidia hyaline of two types ovoid (alpha form) and filiform, curved or bent stylospores (beta form) measuring 3.6 7.2 and 12.0 21.5  $\mu$  respectively.

*Pathogenicity*

Healthy fruits of egg plants were surface-sterilized by dipping in 70 per cent ethanol for two minutes and washed thoroughly with distilled water. The

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fruits were then injured with flame sterilized inoculating needle, and divided into two lots. One lot was inoculated with spore suspension of *Phomopsis vexans* and the other lot served as control. Both were incubated at 25°C. The inoculated fruits developed characteristic symptoms as were on the naturally affected fruits after an incubation period of 15 days whereas no symptoms developed on the injured non-inoculated fruits. The fungus came out to be the same as identified from the naturally affected material. The specimens were preserved and kept in the Mycological Herbarium of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, (LMH-2343).

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