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ASCOCHYTA BLIGHT OF BROAD BEAN – A NEW RECORD FOR PAKISTAN

BASHIR AHMAD KHAN, I. U. HAQ, F. U. REHMAN AND M. ASLAM

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

During spring 1982, Broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.) sown at the National Agricultural Research Centre, was found seriously infected by a foliar pathogen. The disease appeared on leaves in the form of circular to oval dark brown spots with light brown centres. Lesions on the stem were circular to elongate with centres lighter than the red margins. On the pods lesions were mostly circular, dark colored and sunken. Severely affected pods, either did not develop the seeds or the seeds were shrivelled with brown to dark brown lesions on the affected seeds. The fungus produced pycnidia which were dark brown, globose, sub-globose, ostiolate and measured 85.0 to 212.0 μm in diameter. Conidia were hyaline, straight or curved, ends rounded, 1 to 3 septate and measured 11.5 – 23.4 x 3.8 – 5.8 μm. The fungus was identified as *Ascochyta fabae* Speg., similar to that described by Beaumont (1950).

Infected and diseased plant parts were transferred on PDA and *Ascochtyta fabae* was isolated in culture. Broad bean seedlings, grown from healthy seeds were sprayed with spores and mycelial suspension of the fungus. Typical symptoms appeared within 4 days of inoculation and the fungus reisolated. This is the first report of *A. fabae* as a pathogen of brodbean in Pakistan.

From the study it is concluded that the fungus may be seed-borne in nature. Since the crop is a new introduction in Pakistan, it is probable that A. *fabae* has been introduced alongwith the seed. Care should be taken while importing seed lots from other countries so that chances of introduction of new pathogens could be avoided. For this purpose, post entry seed health testing should be given due consideration.

References

Beaumont, A. 1950. On the *Ascochyta* spot disease of broadbean. *Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc., 33:345-349.*