

A REPORT ON WEB BLIGHT OF MUNGBEAN IN PAKISTAN

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In September 1983, mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek) in the experimental plots of the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, showed light coloured, irregular spots of variable size which soon turned white with narrow reddish brown margins. Under severe infection, premature defoliation occurred. The fungus isolated, on potato dextrose agar was identified as *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn. One month old leaves of mungbean cv. NCM-5 when inoculated with mycelium from 5 day old culture of *R. solani* showed typical symptoms as observed in the field. Web blight caused by *R. solani* Kuhn., in West Africa is reported to destroy cowpea during periods of heavy rains (Singh & Allen, 1979). The pathogen has wide host range and can infect cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), black gram (*Vigna mungu*), green gram (*Vigna radiata*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Phaseolus calcaratus* and *P. atropurpureus* (Sing et al., 1979). There does not appear to be any previous record of *R. solani* Kuhn causing web blight of mungbean in Pakistan.

References

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- Singh, S.R. and D.J. Allen. 1979. *Cowpea pests and diseases*. Manual Series No. 2. IITA. Ibadan, Nigeria, p. 113.