

Fruit rot of pear caused by *Gilbertella persicaria* var. *indica*.

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(With two figures.)

During the course of studies of *Mucorales* from varied sources in India, a strain of *G. persicaria* var. *indica* Mehrotra and Mehrotra was isolated from the fruits of pear (nakha), collected from local market in September, 1963. The fungus was found causing rot of pear fruits. Recently, the author (1963) reported "a fruit rot of tomato" by another strain of the same variety. Hesseltine (1960), reported the occurrence of *G. persicaria* on the fruits of peach and mulberry.

There is no previous report from India about a fruit rot of pear (nakha) by this organism and thus it appears to be the first record of the disease from this country.

The rot is characterized by a large brown area. The rot progresses gradually and spreads to the whole fruit with the exudation of drops of reddish liquid. At the later stage sporulating structures (sporangia) appear at places and the whole fruit becomes pulpy.

Fruits were selected for their lack of any bruises or skin breaks. They were first carefully sterilized. The pathogenic nature of the fungus was confirmed by the methods followed in a previous paper (Mehrotra, 1963). All the inoculated fruits were placed in a moist chamber at room temperature. By the end of two days, infection appeared as a small brown area about the site of inoculation. The untreated controls showed no infection. When pieces of tissue were aseptically removed, pure cultures of *G. persicaria* var. *indica* were isolated.

Pathogenicity of the organism was also tested on apple. From the cross inoculation studies it was found that the organism infected the fruits producing typical soft rot. No exudation of watery substances was noticed in this case.

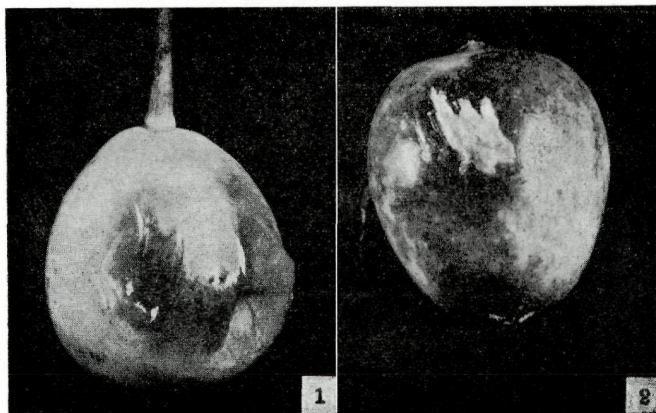
A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

The author is thankful to Dr. R. N. Tandon for the necessary laboratory facilities. Thanks are also due to the Government of India for the grant of a scholarship and to Mr. R. K. Kakkar for his help.

Literature cited

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Figs. 1—2. *Gilbertella persicaria* var. *indica*. 1. Showing diseased pear (nakha) fruit. 2. Showing diseased apple fruit.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Sydowia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1964

Band/Volume: [17](#)

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