

NEW REPORT OF *PUCCINIA LEVIS* ON *DIGITARIA SANGUINALIS*

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Some of the leaves of *Digitaria sanguinalis* (Linn.) Scop. were found suffering from leaf spot disease in the lawns of Ramna, Dacca, East Pakistan in December, 1969. The spots were distinct, black in colour and circular in outline. About 5-7 spots appeared on the dorsal surface of the infected leaves. On the average the spots measured about 0.1 cm in diameter.

A.T.S. of the diseased leaf when examined under microscope revealed the presence of uredial and telial sori containing uredospores and teliospores. Both the types of spores were seen on the surface of the same leaf. The uredospores were stalked, broadly ellipsoid, echinulate (Fig. 1), on the average measured 20 by 29 μ and were cinnamon-brown in colour. The teliospores were stalked, 2-celled, more or less globoid, divided by a prominent vertical septum (Fig. 2), on the average measured 25 by 34 μ and were chestnut-brown in colour.

The rust was identified as *Puccinia levis* (Sacc. & Bizz.) Magn. by Dr. Sivaneson. A specimen of the host along with the rust has been deposited in C.M.I., Kew (IMI 141758). *Puccinia levis* (Sacc. & Bizz.) Magn. has so far been reported to occur on *Paspalum urvillei* Steud. in Mexico, West Indies and America, and *Digitaria sanguinalis* (Linn.) Scop. has been reported to be the host of *Puccinia paspalicola* (P. Henn) n. comb. from Southern Texas, Mexico, West Indies, Central and South America and Southern India (Arther, J.C. and G.B. Cummins (1962). Thus the occurrence of *P. levis* (Sacc. & Bizz.) Magn. on *Digitaria sanguinalis* (Linn.) Scop. (*Syntherisma sanguinale* (L.) Dulac.) is being reported for the first time from East Pakistan.

I wish to thank Dr. Sivaneson of C.M.I., Kew for identifying the rust.

References

- Arther, J.C. and G.B. Cummins. 1962. Manual of Rusts. Hafner Publishing Company, New York.

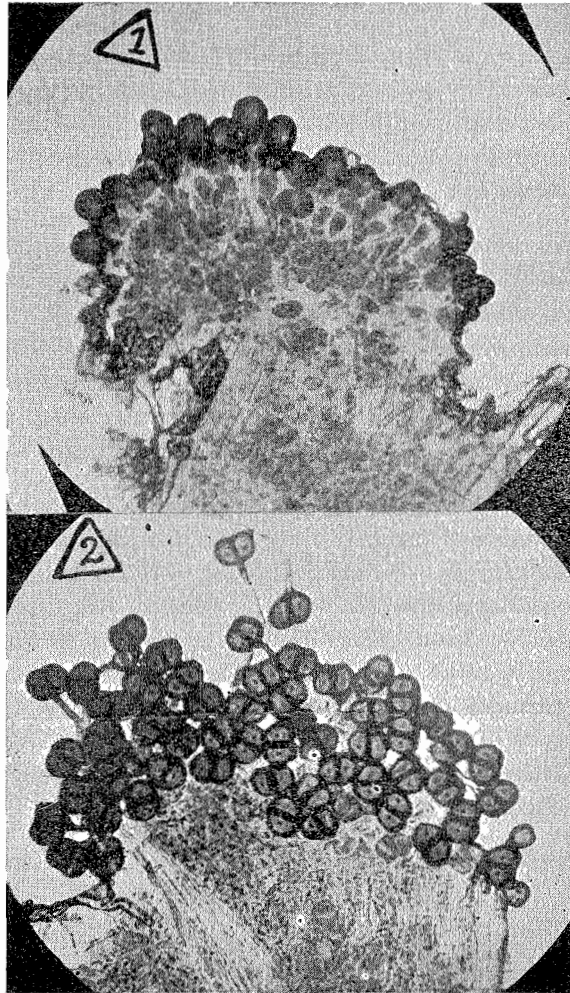


Fig. 1. Uredial sori showing uredospores.

Fig. 2. Telial sori showing teliospores.