

**COTTON WEEDS AS HOSTS OF *MYROTHECIUM RORIDUM* Tode ex. Fr.**

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*Myrothecium roridum* is a wide spread fungus, causing leaf spot disease of cotton in cotton tracts of Punjab (Tanweer & Saleem, 1974). It has been observed on many cotton varieties including the local ones. The disease first appears as small circular, whitish, grey ringed spots with definite margins on the leaves. As the spots grow in size, they coalesce to form large irregular spots. Concentric rings appear under unfavourable conditions of development and on both sides of the leaf black pinhead sized sporodochia of round to irregular shape are seen.

The fungus, in addition to cotton, has also been reported to be pathogenic on Beet (Sleeth, 1956) Gardinia, Viola (Barnett, 1960), Red clover (Cunfer *et al* 1969) Snap-dragon (Wilhelm & Baker, 1945), from different countries of the world. In Pakistan, it has been found on *Lycopersicum esculentum* and *Xanthium strumarium* (Khan & Kamal, 1958).

During the cotton growing season of 1973-74 symptoms of the disease have also been observed at the Cotton Research Institute, Multan on *Amaranthus viridis* Linn (Amaranthaceae) CMH, 14; *Convolvulus arvensis* Linn. (Convolvulaceae) CMH, 8; *Cucumis* sp. (Cucurbitaceae) CMH 15; *Portulaca oleracea* Linn. (Portulacaceae) CMH, 9, and *Corchorus olitorius* Linn. (Tiliaceae) CMH, 10.

All these hosts are weeds of cotton crop and may be serving as primary source of inoculum for the disease spread. The fungus has been identified as *Myrothecium roridum* Tode ex Fr. (IMI No. 184668). To control *Myrothecium* leaf spot of cotton in addition to other control measures, eradication of weeds from cotton fields and their vicinity is suggested. Further studies on the role of cotton weeds in the spread of disease needs investigations.

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CMH—Cotton Mycological Herbarium, Cotton Research Institute, Multan.

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