

Morphological variability of *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) Goid, causal agent of dry root rot disease of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)

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ARTICLE INFO

Received : 21.08.2014

Revised : 27.01.2015

Accepted : 12.02.2015

KEY WORDS :

Chickpea, *Macrophomina phaseolina*,
Sclerotia, Solid media

ABSTRACT

To find out the best sources of nutrients for the fungal growth, different solid media were tested. Maximum radial growth was recorded on PDA and Czapek's agar with mean colony diameter of 90mm and on par with each other compared to other media tested. Carrot agar recorded maximum number of sclerotial production (48 per microscopic field) followed by PDA (46 per microscopic field) and the minimum sclerotial production was observed in Czapek's agar (39.33 per microscopic field). PDA and carrot media supported good mycelial growth and sclerotia production. The maximum sclerotial size was observed in PDA (0.5×0.4 μm) whereas Czapek's agar recorded minimum size of sclerotia (0.3×0.2 μm). Ellipsoidal shape of sclerotia was observed in Czapek's agar whereas, irregular shaped sclerotia were observed in other media. Maximum dry mycelial weight was recorded eighth day of incubation (150mg).

How to view point the article : Nagamma, Gowdra, Saifulla, Muhammad, Pavithra, S. and Suresh, S.R. (2015). Morphological variability of *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Tassi) Goid, causal agent of dry root rot disease of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.). *Internat. J. Plant Protec.*, **8**(1) : 69-72.

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