

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Prevalance and perpetuation of chilli fruit rot pathogen (*Colletotrichum* spp.)

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SUMMARY

Chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) is one of the most important spice crop grown in India. *Colletotrichum* spp. viz., which is the casual agent of anthracnose disease and has been reported to cause infection and also cause infection in humans. During the survey in chilli growing areas of western Maharashtra among the seven districts maximum incidence (24%) of fruit rot was observed in Pune district. Three species of *Colletotrichum*, viz., *Colletotrichum capsici*, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Colletotrichum acutatum* are known to be associated with fruit rot. Perpetuation studies revealed that the conidia of three *Colletotrichum* spp. got perpetuated in both sterile soil and field soil but viability of conidia was maximum in sterile soil. Conidia of all three species survived upto 60 days in sterile soil but conidia completely lost viability within 60 days in field soil. The diseased fruit also showed reduction in capsaicin content by 34.7 per cent.

Key Words : Chilli fruit rot, *Colletotrichum* spp., Prevalence, Viability, Fruit quality

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