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RESEARCH NOTE

Curvularia lunata and *Curvularia pallescens* the potential pathogens causing leaf blight of gladiolus caused by *Curvularia* spp.

■ D.M. PAWAR

Department of Plan Pathology, College of Agriculture, Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, RATNAGIRI (M.S.) INDIA

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*Corresponding author:
sandeshpawar55@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Gladiolus an important floricultural crop, was found to be affected by leaf blight. Curvularia blight was noteced on gladiolus in affected Botany farm and Horticultural Nursery, College of Agriculture, Dapoli. The causatiwe fungi were C*urvularia lunata* and *Curvularia pallescens*. The incidence of blight ranged from 42.10 to 57.14.

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Both the fungi were readily isolated on PDA and pathogenicity was established by spraying the spore suspension of the fungi on healthy leaves. The characteristic symptoms developed on inoculated plants. Upon reisolation the causal fungus was similar to one used for inoculated. the symptoms appeared as circular to oval, which later became irregular, often coalesced to form larger. In early stage, the spots were chlorotic but soon became tan coloured, surrounded by dark reddish brown border. Yellow halo surrounded the spots coalescing to result in complete blightening (Sohi 1990).

In case of *C. pallescens,* the fungus initially caused angular leaf spot on mature leaves. The spots were brownish without light halo. Several spots that coalesced formed necrotic patches resulting in crinking of leaf lamina. This is the first report of *C. pallescens* causing blight of gladiolus from Maharashtra state.

Following the Koch's postulates the pathogenicity proved. The organism when inoculated on healthy plants of gladiolus produced typical symptoms. Similar symptoms were reported by Kolse and Sawant (2000) who mentioned Curvularia blight casued by *C. lunata* and *C. gladioli*. Rath and Dhal (1972) isolated *C. pallescens* and proved its pathogenicity on *Canna indica*. They observed disease during rainy season in which various symptoms occurred as minute discolored, yellow, irregular specks on the petals. The spots gradually increased in size and later formed blighted aspearance.

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