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Ginger Rot by *Fusarium Solani*

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* (L.) Roscoe) is grown in India over about 25,000 ha and yields about 24,000 t dry ginger. India is the largest producer of dry ginger accounting for 50% of the world's production. The present note reports the occurrence of ginger rot by *Fusarium solani* (Mart.) Sacc.

The most serious diseases of ginger are soft rot caused by *Pythium* spp. and rhizome rot caused by *Sclerotium* sp. So far, only an unidentified species of *Fusarium* has been reported as pathogenic to ginger, causing basal rot in Hawaii. However, Mehrotra (1952) observed colonisation of *F. roseum* in stored ginger, and Sharma and Joshi (1975) have reported presence of *F. arthrosporioides* in the rhizosphere of ginger.

During 1976-77, the author first observed wilting and rhizome rot in the experimental plots. The disease was characterised by premature drooping, wilting, yellowing, and drying of plants in patches or in whole bed. Basal portions of infected plants were discoloured.

The rhizomes were also discoloured, shrunken, and some times watery.

The causal organism was identified as *Fusarium solani* (Mart.) Sacc. by CMI (IMI No. 21 14 13).

The pathogen was isolated from disease affected rhizomes on PDA. The mycelium is cottony white, fast spreading, floccose or submerged in Richard's medium and colour changes from white to orange and finally grey, conidia scattered in false heads, microconidia oval to oblong, macroconidia hyaline, three septate, 14.0-35.0 × 5.0-6.5 μ, curved towards the ends and markedly pedicellate at the base, chlamydospores terminal or intercalary (Subramanian, 1971).

Pathogenicity tests were carried out in pots containing 1:1 sand-soil media, infested with the inoculum grown on sand-maize medium for three weeks and they were confirmed. This is the first record of *F. solani* inciting wilting and rotting of ginger.

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