Studies on fungal diseases of Adhatoda zeylanica Medic

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SUMMARY
The present investigation deals with the fungal diseases of Adulsa (Adhatoda zeylanica Medic). Adulsa is an important medicinal plant used in traditional as well as modern systems of medicines. Its major biochemical contents especially in leaves are vasicine and vasicinone i.e. alkaloids. These are effective in cold, cough, respiratory diseases, hypertensive activity, asthma, dysentery, rheumatic pains and nervous disability. The fungal diseases are responsible for decrease in amount of alkaloids.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
The isolation, purification and identification of fungal pathogens was carried out by the method given by Dhingra and Sinclair (1995). Fresh leaves of Adhatoda showing typical zonate nacrotic brown spots were collected (Plate 1). Leaves were collected from two districts i.e. Parbhani and Nanded in the month of August 2008. Infected leaves were used in the form of bits of 1x2mm from nacrotic area for isolation. 20% alcohol and aqueous solution of 0.1% HgCl₂ was used for surface sterilization of leaves. Further leaf bits were
washed by giving three changes of sterile distilled water to remove traces of alcohol and HgCl₂, and dried on blotter paper. These bits were inoculated on solidified PDA media in Petriplates under aseptic conditions. Theses plates were incubated at 27°C for 8 days. Well developed mycelial growth was obtained. Pathogens were purified by singal hyphal tip method (Dhingra and Sinclair, 1995). These purified pathogens were transferred on to PDA slants for further studies. The different fungal pathogens and diseases were indentified by referring standard literature i.e. Introduction to fungi by Webster (2007) and Introductory Mycology by Alexopoulos (1962).

Pathogenicity was proved by simple detached leaf technique (SDI) (Mayee et al., 1978). For this purpose well developed leaves were surface sterilized using 70 per cent absolute alcohol and given 4 washings in distilled sterile water. The leaves were placed on moist filter paper in Petriplates in such a way that the dorsal side of the leaflets were exposed to inoculation. Fungal pathogen cultures were applied to the leaves with the help of zero number brush and inoculated leaves were incubated for 7 days at 27°C and then exposed to normal laboratory condition. Periodical watering was done to maintain wetness and turgidity. The inoculated leaves shows the same symptoms from where it was isolated. For the determination of disease severity index (DSI) 5 point scale was used (Mayee et al., 1978). For this purpose, 100 leaves were collected from bottom, middle and top region of the plant and categorized into five groups on the basis of per cent infection i.e. 0-25, 26-50, 51-75 and 76-100%, respectively (Plate 2).

DSI of two districts i.e. Parbhani and Nanded was calculated by using formula and ratings as shown below.

\[
\text{Disease severity index (DSI)} = \frac{\sum \text{of all ratings} \times 100}{\text{No. of observations} \times (\text{all ratings} - 1)}
\]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of culture, characters, reproductive structures and symptoms, the different fungal pathogens and diseases are identified i.e. follows:

**Alternaria alternata (leaf spot):**

The pure culture appears violet to blackish color on PDA medium. Microscopically, mycelium is short, septate, branched, light brown violet colored. The colonies are wolly. Conidiophores dark, broader than hyphae with geniculations. Conidia are muriform. Leaves shows brownish to blackish spots over its surface (Plate 3 and 4).

**Colletotricum capsici (Anthracnose):**

The fungus shows whitish velvet like structure. The mycelium is septate and branched. Conidia are hyaline and single rarely chained (Plate V and VI). Leaves shows characteristic symptoms with limited lesions.

**Aecidium adhatodae (leaf rust):**

Aecidium is found on the undersurface of leaves. It forms crowded round to orbicular spots i.e. 2-5 mm in diameter on cultural medium. It appears in grayish color. Aeciospores are liberated by rupture of epidermis.
Phoma vasicae Shreemali (leaf spot):

On culture plates it appears as spatches of dark black color with wavy outline. Generally it occurs on dry stem but rarely found on green leaves. Conidia area unicellular surrounded by slim layer of appendages. On leaf it shows symptoms as wholes and leaf spots.

These pathogens are responsible for causing diseases. Disease severity is studied, which shows variations in different locations of Parbhani and Nanded districts of Marathawada region of Maharashtra state. Diseases severity is more in Parbhani district than in Nanded district, as given in Table 1. the fungal infection is responsible to decrease in active ingredients of Adulsa. Therefore fungal disease are responsible for decrease in yield of plant. However, Butler and Sydow (1906 a) studied Aecidium adhatodae causing leaf rust, Chnoospora butleri (1906 b) causing greasy rust infecting to this plant in the region of Dehradun. Chona and Munjal (1955) also described leaf spot disease caused by Spetoria adhatodae in Delhi.

Acknowledgement:

The authors are thankful to the Principal Dr. P.L. More for providing necessary facilities for the present investigation.

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REFERENCES


Table 1: Fungal disease severity index of Adulsa (Adhatoda zeylanica Medic) of Parbhani and Nanded district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Infection</th>
<th>% Infection</th>
<th>DS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
<td>Nanded</td>
<td>Parbhani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23 x 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27 x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19 x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>51-75 %</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14 x 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>76-100%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>17 x 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Σ = 175

DSI of Parbhani = 43.75 %
DSI of Nanded = 32.25 %