
Incidence of Choanephora rot on Cabbage and Cauliflower from Kerala

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A head/curd rot disease caused by *Choanephora* spp. was constantly found to appear on cabbage and cauliflower planted in the fields of College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram and the farmer's fields at Kasaragod district. The disease caused 30 to 60 per cent yield losses in the affected fields. Morphological characterization of the pathogen revealed the mycelia of the fungus to be hyaline and nonseptate. Sporangiohores bearing sporangiola erect, hyaline, unbranched, apically dilated to form a clavate vesicle from which arose dichotomously branched distally clavate secondary vesicles. Monosporous sporangiola, indehiscent, ellipsoid, brown to dark brown with distinct longitudinal striations, measured 12 to 20 × 6 to 12 μm. Sporangiospores ellipsoid, brown to dark brown, indistinctly striate measuring 16 to 20 × 8 to 12 μm. Further confirmation by molecular analysis on the identity of the fungus carried out by ITS sequencing revealed the pathogen to be *Choanephora cucurbitarum*.

Key words: Cabbage, cauliflower, choanephora rot, Kerala
