

Morphological variability among isolates of *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc.

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Morphological variability of ten isolates of *Sclerotium rolfsii* were studied based on their growth rate, colony colour, mycelial dispersion and appearance and sclerotium formation, colour, weight and number of sclerotia, arrangement using solid media viz; PDA. Wide range of variation was noticed with respect to various attributes studied. Growth rate ranged from 0.75 to 1.25 mm per hour, based on this attribute isolates were grouped in to three groups: Group I- 3 isolates with faster growth viz., lentil, linseed and potato (1.25 mmh⁻¹); Group II - five isolates with medium growth rate (0.94 mmh⁻¹) viz., chickpea, mungbean, soybean, rice and tomato; Group III had isolates from pea and lathyrus with slow growth rate (0.75 mmh⁻¹). Average size of sclerotia for most of the isolates were >1mm in diameter, whereas for some isolates like linseed and potato produced small sclerotia of <1mm diameter. Colour of sclerotia was generally light to dark brown at maturity. The morphological characters of *S. rolfsii* isolates tested were highly variable. The variability among isolates observed in the present study could be attributed to physiometabolic differences among isolates arising from different crop production systems and also some biochemical variability to adapt to their ecological and environmental conditions.

Key words: *Sclerotium rolfsii*, isolates, morphological variability
