

## NATURAL OCCURRENCE OF TOMATO ENATION LEAF CURL VIRUS IN (*LUFFA CYLINDRICA ROEM*) AT DELHI-A FIRST RECORD

BY

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A leaf curl disease of *Luffa cylindrica* Roem. characterized by curling, twisting and rolling of young leaves and coupled with dark green minute enations on the veins on the under surface of the leaves was found to be graft transmissible (Fig. 1). The incidence of the disease during March, 1982 was found to be sixty percent. The causal virus transmitted by whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci* (Gen.)) was also transmissible to tomato, tobacco, chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) and *Luffu acutangula* Roxb.



Fig. 1

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is presumed to be *Nicotiana Virus 10 A* having its first natural occurrence in *Luffa*. Typical symptoms of leaf curl with enations appeared after 20 days of inoculations. Inoculations from naturally infected tomato and chilli on to *Luffa* resulted in reproduction of the disease and *vice versa*.

The virus under study differs in transmission and symptomatology with tobacco distortion virus reported by Smith (1935), leaf curl of tomato (*Nicotiana virus 10*) described by Vasudeva and Samraj (1948), and enation leaf curl of chilli reported by Dhanraj and Seth (1968) but resembles enation leaf curl of tomato (*Nicotiana virus 10 A*) isolated from naturally infected tomato plants by Nariani (1968). Unlike the virus under report, the tomato distortion virus is sap-transmissible; the tomato leaf curl virus causes leaf curl symptoms with enations on tobacco but not in tomato and the chilli enation leaf curl induced enation in chilli.

Therefore, the author has recorded the ever first natural infection of *Luffa cylindrica* Raem with the virus described here.

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