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Occurrence of a New Leaf Spot of Groundnut in Gujarat

A. M. Parakhia, L. F. Akbari and M. U. Vaishnav

Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Gujarat Agricultural University, Junagadh-362 001

A severe leaf spot of groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) was observed at Umrala village of Junagadh taluka during survey of different diseases of crop in *kharif*, 1995. Whitish grey spots with brittle papery centre were observed on leaf lamina, petiole and stem of groundnut var. GAUG-10. Initially, the spots were small, circular light brown in colour and measured 1-2 mm. These spots enlarged upto 8 mm and central portion was shredded giving shot hole appearence (Fig. 1). Several spots were coalesced and finally leaves were defolliated. Whitish mycelial strands and very small whitish sclerotial bodies were observed in necrotic area of the spots. These whitish sclerotia finally turned dark brown in colour.

The fungus was isolated on PDA medium and pathogenicity was proved. On the basis of morphological characters, the fungus was identified as *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc. Usually

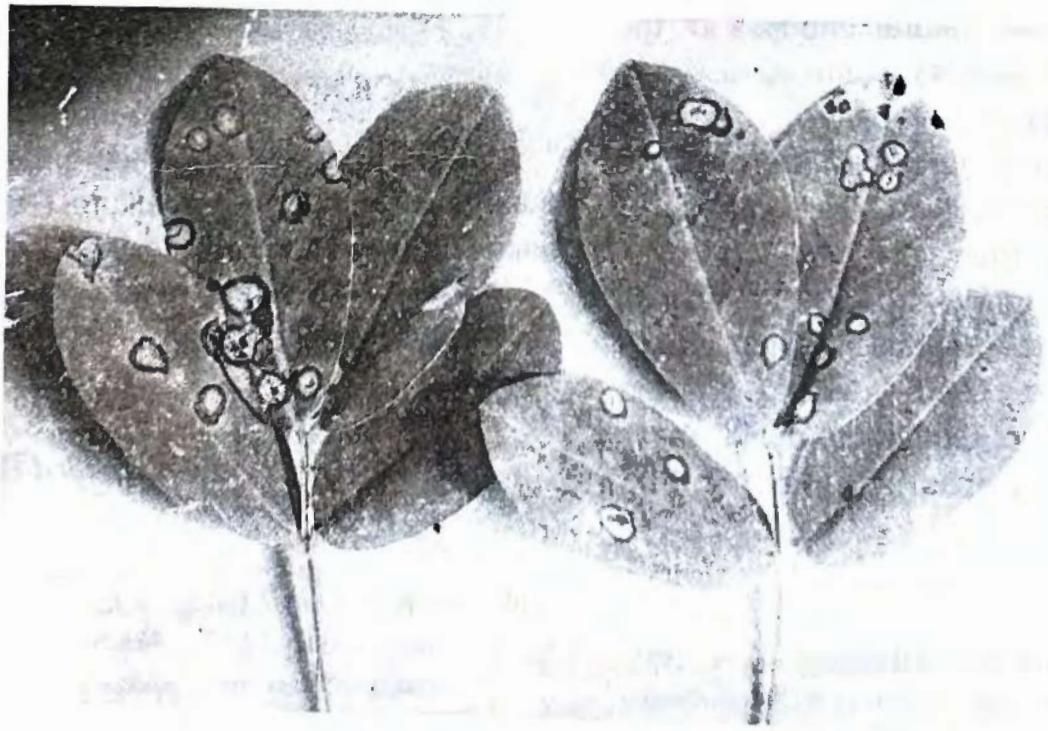

Fig. 1 : Leaf spot caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc.

this pathogen attacks on stem and collar region of plant but probably the leaf spots occurred due to the infection resulted from sclerotia dispersed from soil by splashing rain.

The leaf spot of groundnut caused by *S. rolfsii* was reported earlier from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (Chauhan and Singh, 1988 and Agrawal, 1991).

This is a first report of leaf spots of groundnut in Gujarat.

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