

Seasonal occurrence of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) diseases in Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT

Observations on the seasonal occurrence of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) diseases in Vellanikkara, Trichur, India during 1989 to 1991 showed that *Alternaria* leaf blight, die back and fruit rot diseases were serious problems during rainy season. Incidence of leaf blight (*Phytophthora capsici*) and bacterial leaf spot (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*) were also observed in this area.

Key words: chilli, *Capsicum annuum*, diseases, seasonal occurrence.

Chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) is cultivated in a small scale in almost all homesteads of Kerala. Despite ideal soil and climatic conditions, large scale cultivation for commercial purpose is restricted to an area of about 1100 ha with an annual production of 1143 t of dry chilli (Murthy 1988), because of the incidence of a large number of fungal, bacterial and viral diseases (Prakasam *et al.* 1988). The present study was undertaken to record the incidence of important chilli diseases prevalent in Vellanikkara, Trichur.

Monthly observations were recorded on the incidence of various diseases on the variety 'Manjari' during 1989, 1990 and 1991 at the vegetable research plots of the College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Trichur (Kerala).

The observations revealed that *Alternaria* leaf blight during July - October and die back and fruit rot caused by *Colletotrichum capsici* during September-October are serious. Mild infection of *Phytophthora* leaf blight was also noticed during this period, whereas the incidence of *Cercospora* leaf spot was negligible. The study also showed the presence of bacterial leaf spot caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* during July - August 1989; leaf blight disease caused by *Choanephora cucurbitarum*, mild incidence of mosaic during North East monsoon period of 1990, and powdery mildew disease during January - March 1991. However, leaf blight disease caused by *C. cucurbitarum*, mild incidence of mosaic during North - East monsoon period of 1990, and powdery mildew

disease during January - March 1991. However, leaf blight disease caused by *C. gleosporioides* was observed during all the three years.

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