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Studies on morphological and cultural variability of *Alternaria* spp. causing leaf blight in cotton

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ABSTRACT

Cotton is the most important cash crop, back bone of sprawling textile industry and fetching an export earning besides providing employment to Indian population. *Alternaria* a major foliar fungal pathogen showed wide variability in morphology as well as in culture. Septation of twelve isolates conidia ranged from 1-7 vertical and 3-9 horizontal. Raladoddi isolate showed maximum horizontal septa (9) and Kanakapura showed maximum vertical septa. Size of the condia varied from 132.24 x 9.10 to 14.98 x 2.56, maximum size was measured in Raladoddi isolate. Measurements of all isolates were compared with standard measurements of *Alternaria macrospora* given by Ellis (1971), out of twelve isolates eight resembled *A. macrosora*. These isolates cultured on potato dextrose agar (PDA) for variability, the colony margin varied from irregular to soft, with a colour of brown, light gray and light pink. The maximum (1.99 µm) width of mycelia was found in Tagalladoddi isolate.

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