

## SCREENING OF SAFED MUSLI CULTIVARS AGAINST LEAF BLIGHT DISEASE

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Dried rhizome of Safed musli ( *Chlorophytum borivillianum* ) has medicinal value with enormous importance in the preparation of over hundred different medicines (Kirtikar and Basu, 1975). Cultivated Safed musli in Vidarbha region is affected by leaf blight, causing up to 30 % yield loss (Sattar *et. al.*, 2006). It is expected that different genotypes of Safed musli may differ in their response towards the incidence of leaf blight, and therefore present investigation was carried out to identify the cultivars which are resistant to leaf blight disease. caused by *Colletotrichum capsici*.

Present study was carried out in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. Safed musli genotypes *viz.* Khamkheda local, Bordi-7, Nimbora-11, Paturdi-9, Neknampur-1, and Neknampur-2 cultivated at different locations were screened against *Colletotrichum capsici* under natural conditions. The infected leaf samples were collected from the fields in polythene bags. The incidence of leaf blight was evaluated on the basis of per cent infection, and classified into nine grades. The disease severity index (DSI) was then decided by using nine point scale given by Mayee (1983).

Depending on infection percentage, the leaves were classified into 9 grades. The 0 % infection was considered as Immune, infection in range from 1 to 20 % was considered as resistant, from 21 to 30 % moderately resistant, from 31 to 40 % moderately susceptible, from 41 to 70 % susceptible and from 81 to 90 % was considered as highly susceptible.

On the basis of disease severity the genotypes Khamkheda, Nimbora 11 and Neknampur-2 were resistant, while the genotypes Bordi -7 and Paturdi 9 were susceptible to leaf blight disease.

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