

DISTRIBUTION OF MONOSPORASCUS ROOT ROT AND VINE DECLINE DISEASE OF CUCURBITS IN EGYPT

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ABSTRACT

Root rot and vine decline (MRR/VD) disease of cucurbits caused by *Monosporascus cannonballus* is one of the recently described diseases in Egypt. The inciting is a soil borne fungus classified as Ascomycetes fungus named *Monosporascus cannonballus* Pollack and Uecker belonged to order Sordariales, family Sordariaceae. Field and *in vitro* experiments examined the distribution and pathogenicity of *M. cannonballus*. The disease occurred in Egypt on cultivated cucurbits i.e. cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* var. *cantulepensis*), watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) plants. In three years of disease survey, the disease occurred at 10, 10 and 2 fields of cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber, respectively during late summer of 2006, 2007 and 2008, which were located at Nubariya (Behaira), Sumosta (Beni Suif), Gamsa (Demietta), Kasassin and Tal El-Kaper (Ismailia), Queisna and Sadat city (Minufiya), El-Arish (North Sinai), Salhiya and Abu Kabir (Sharkyia)

Disease progression in different tested cucurbits grown in fields at different localities was not observed until the fruit set stage of plant growth, but rapidly increased at the fruit maturity stage (10 to 14 days pre-harvest) resulting yield loss reached more than 50%. The isolation rate of *M. cannonballus* reached 22.0% from diseased hosts. In *in vitro* test, diseased seedlings after one to two weeks of inoculation and perithecia were formed in infected roots 21 days later. Also all tested isolates were pathogenic to all tested cucurbit host plants.

Keywords: cantaloupe, watermelon, cucumber, *Monosporascus* root rot and vine decline (MRR/VD), *Monosporascus cannonballus*, distribution.

INTRODUCTION

Cucurbits are considered one of the most important and widely distributed vegetables in Egypt and all over the world. Family Cucurbitaceae consists of approximately 90 Genera, but 3 only are widely grown in Egypt, i.e. *Cucumis* spp. (cucumber & melons), *Citrullus* spp. (watermelon) and *Cucurbita* spp. (squash & Pumpkin). They are grown in Egypt at many localities; either in open fields and / or protected cultivations. The cultivated area reached about 250,000 Fadden in 2007.

The first published report of *Monosporascus cannonballus* came from Arizona in 1970. It was reported as an unknown fungus from rotted secondary roots of cantaloupe plants (Troutman and Matejka 1970). This fungus classified as Ascomycetes fungus named *Monosporascus cannonballus* Pollack and Uecker (Pollack & Uecker, 1974). In 1990 the causal agent has been also found (Mertely *et al.*1991) as a little known, soil borne fungus, *M. cannonballus* and the disease was named *Monosporascus*

root-rot and vine decline (MRR/VD). During the recent years, MRR/VD disease was observed on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber which grew during the hot weather. Soil borne diseases of cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber particularly MRR/VD, have been a problem and distributed in many parts of the world. Martyn and Miller (1996) reviewed that, the pathogen is common in hot, semiarid melon and watermelon growing areas of Israel, Japan, Southwestern regions of the United States, Southern Spain, Tunisia, India, Saudi Arabia, Central America, Guatemala, Honduras and Taiwan. The phenomenon of melon and watermelon wilting due to *Monosporascus* infection is known in many regions around the world and has been referred to as melon collapse (Reuveni *et al.*, 1983; Pivonia *et al.* 1998; Sarpeleh, 2008), sudden wilt (Eyal and Cohen 1986; Cohen *et al.*, 1996; Pivonia *et al.* 1997; Pivonia *et al.* 1998; Edelstein *et al.* 1999), root rot (Uematsu *et al.* 1992; Kim *et al.*, 1995), vine decline (Stanghellini *et al.*, 1995; Bruton and Miller, 1997; Cohen *et al.*, 1999), and *Monosporascus* root rot and vine decline (Mertely *et al.*, 1991; Martyn *et al.* 1994; Wolff, 1995; Martyn and Miller, 1996; Wolff and Miller, 1998)

The disease distributed in many parts of the world on different cucurbit hosts i.e. on melon in Japan (Uematsu and Sekiyama, 1990) in Saudi Arabia (Karlatti *et al.* 1997), in Honduras (Bruton and Miller, 1997) in Brazil (Marinho *et al.* 2002) in Iran (Sarpeleh 2008), on cantaloupe in Arizona, USA (Stanghellini *et al.* 1996) on melon, oriental melon, watermelon and cucumber in Korea (Heo *et al.* 2001a). In Egypt, MRR/VD disease is one of the recently described diseases which reported on diseased plants of cantaloupe and watermelon (El-Desouky and El-Wakil, 2003).

Pathogenicity was firstly confirmed in 1985 with isolates from Japan (Uematsu *et al.* 1985, Uematsu and Sekiyama 1990) and with isolates from USA in 1990 (Mertely *et al.* 1991). The most recent confirmation of pathogenicity was from Saudi Arabia (Karlatti *et al.* (1997), from Korea Heo *et al.*, 2001a, from Korea Heo *et al.*, 2001a) and from Egypt (El-Desouky and El-Wakil, 2003).

The objective of this study was to confirm the root-rot and vine decline disease of cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber in Egypt, which is caused by *M. cannonballus*. Description of the disease symptoms, Distribution, confirmation of pathogenicity was conducted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Disease survey:

MRR / VD disease was surveyed in three commercial cucurbits fields belonged to cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber at ten locations represented seven governorates during the summer seasons of 2006, 2007 and 2008. The locations of the surveyed governorates were: Nubariya (Beheira), El-Kasassin and El-Tal El-Kapeer (Ismailiya), Gamsa (Damietta), Salhiya and Abu Hammad (Sharkiya), El-Arish (North Sinai), Sumosta (Beni Suief) and Queisna & Sadat city (Minufiya). Five fields represented each location were randomly chosen for inspection and investigation to determine the disease occurrence and percentage of disease incidence.

Collection of infected specimens:

Diseased plants of cultivated cucurbits belonged to cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber showed root-rot and vine decline symptoms were collected for determination the frequency of fungi occurred and associated with diseased roots. They were obtained occasionally over a three-year period of 2006, 2007 and 2008 from fields of many localities in Egypt (Table, 1). Samples were obtained from five fields of each location, where plants were suffered from the disease. The collected samples were brought to the laboratory and then the number of isolated fungi and their frequency was determined. Then, the diseased plants were subjected to the isolation trial.

Isolation and identification:

Isolations were also made from 20 symptomatic plants per field, using tissue excised from cortical lesions of tap root and necrotic margins of small, lateral roots. The excised tissue of root were washed with tap water, surface-disinfected in 0.5% sodium hypochlorite for approximately two minutes and rinsed in sterile distilled water. They were plated on water agar (WA) and incubated at 25°C. After 3-5 days of incubation, hyphal tips were transferred to potato dextrose agar (PDA). After 7 days, plates were examined and colonies were identified according to Pollack and Uecker (1974). Isolates were transferred to PDA slants and were kept for the further studies. The Frequencies of isolation of each isolate was recorded based on location.

Inoculum production:

Different isolates of *M. cannonballus* that were isolated from diseased roots of different cucurbit plants grown in investigated localities were used throughout this study. Inoculums were prepared by growing the fungus isolates on PDA plates at 25°C. When the fungus grew over media in plates, the mycelium was cut to small pieces and used as inoculum (Uematsu *et al.* 1985 and Cohen *et al.* 1996).

Pathogenicity test:

Pathogenicities of different isolates were evaluated in the greenhouse (25- 35°C). They were tested on cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* var. *cantalupensis* cv. Ideal), on watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus* cv. Aswan) and on cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* cv. Beit Alpha). The experiments were conducted in 25 cm-diameter pots filled with sandy soil. Inoculum was mixed at the rate of culture on one plate / 1kg sandy soil. Soil mixed with PDA only used as a check (untreated). Fifty seeds were used for each treatment. Each treatment comprised five replicates.

Disease assessment

Plants were harvested when reached to fruit maturity and roots were recovered by gentle washing. Roots were rated for disease severity according to Aegerter *et al.*, (2000) as infection Type (IT), where: 0 = no symptoms, 1 = few lesions (covering < 10 % of root), secondary root rot slight, 2 = rot of secondary roots or lesions covering approximately 25% of the root, 3 = lesions covering at least 50% of the root and dead secondary roots, 4 = general root rot, most of the root affected, also including (pre and post emergence damping – off). Disease severity index (DSI) was recorded according to (Kobriger *et al.* 1998) as follow:

Disease severity index (DSI) = $[\sum (\text{disease class} \times \text{No. plants in class}) \times 100] \div (\text{total plants}) \times 4$. Also the number of surviving plants was recorded at the end of the growing period.

Statistical analysis: Data obtained were subjected to the proper statistical analysis for each experiment using the MSTAT statistical software. Comparisons were made following Fishers LSD (0.05).

RESULTS

Disease symptoms:

The fungus infects young secondary and tertiary roots of cucurbit plants i.e cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber early in the season, but the infected plants usually do not develop symptoms till near maturity stage. The fungus colonizes the cortical tissue, ultimately affects the most of the feeder roots. Extensive reddish–brown areas on tap root and some lateral roots appeared and may slough-off as the plant is pulled from the ground. At or near harvest, most of the root system is affected and the vines begin to collapse, beginning with the crown leaves and progressing distally till the entire canopy may collapse, exposing the fruit to intense solar radiation. Lateral roots may bear numerous black perithecia, which contain several black, spherical ascospores. Perithecia often were observed profusely on such secondary and tertiary roots, but rarely on tap roots. The ascus is hyaline and each contains only one ascospore.

Disease survey:

MRR/VD disease incidence was surveyed on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber plants grown in commercial fields at ten locations represented seven governorates during the summer season of 2006, 2007 and 2008. Data in Table (1) showed that the values of the disease incidence during the summer season of 2008 were generally higher than those recorded during summer season of 2006 or 2007. Percentages of the disease incidence (Expressed as DSI) at the different locations varied from 4.00 to 16.33 % (Mean = 9.40%) during summer season of 2008. While they were 2.67 to 13.00 % (Mean = 8.73%) during summer season of 2007 and from 2.00 to 13.67% (Mean = 6.94%) during summer season of 2006.

The highest value of mean DSI (11.00 %) was recorded at Nubariya (Behaira), followed by (10.89 %) at sadat city (Minufiya), 10.78 % at El-Arish (North Sinai), 9.89% at Salhiya (Sharkiya), 9.78% at Sumosta (Beni Suif) and (7.33%) at Abu Kabir (Sharkya). The lowest values were recorded (5.00, 5.56, 5.78 and 6.00%) at El-Tal El-Kapeer, El-Kasassin (Ismailia), Queisna (Minufiya) and at Gamasa (Damietta), respectively. Generally, the disease was recorded on cantaloupe and watermelon at all investigated localities while the disease was recorded on cucumber at Nubariya (Behaira) during late summer of 2008 and at Sadat city (Minufiya) during late summer of 2006 and 2008.

Table (1): Incidence of *Monosporascus* root rot / vine decline disease, expressed as disease severity index (DSI), on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber in commercial fields at six governorates during late summer seasons of 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Governorate	Location	Late summer season / disease severity index (DSI)			
		2006	2007	2008	Mean
Behira	Nubariya	4.67*	12.00	16.33	11.00
Beni Suif	Sumosta	3.00	10.00	16.33	9.78
Demietta	Gamasa	7.67	5.33	5.00	6.00
Ismailia	Kasassin	5.00	3.67	8.00	5.56
	Elal El-Kapeer	3.38	2.67	4.00	5.00
Minufiya	Queisna	5.33	8.00	4.00	5.78
	Sadat city	10.00	9.67	13.00	10.89
North Sinai	El-Arish	13.67	8.33	10.33	10.78
Sharkiya	Salhiya	9.67	13.00	7.00	9.89
	Abu Kabeer	2.00	11.00	10.00	7.67
Mean		6.94	8.37	9.40	

*Each sample belongs to 30 plants obtained from 3 fields (10 plant samples of each cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber /field).

Table (2): Frequency of incidence of *Monosporascus* root rot / vine decline disease on different cucurbit plants during 2006, 2007 and 2008 late summer season at different localities in Egypt.

Governorate	Location	Season	Cucurbit crop / disease severity index (DSI)			
			Cantaloupe	Watermelon	Cucumber	Total
Behaira	Nubariya	2006	3.00*	1.67	0.00	4.67
		2007	7.00	5.00	0.00	12.00
		2008	10.33	4.67	1.33	16.33
Beni Suif	Sumosta	2006	2.00	1.00	0.00	3.00
		2007	7.00	3.00	0.00	10.00
		2008	9.33	7.00	0.00	16.33
Demietta	Gamasa	2006	3.00	4.67	0.00	7.67
		2007	2.33	3.00	0.00	5.33
		2008	2.00	3.00	0.00	5.00
Ismailia	Kassasin	2006	3.00	2.00	0.00	5.00
		2007	2.67	1.00	0.00	3.67
		2008	6.00	2.00	0.00	8.00
	El-Tal El-Kapeer	2006	3.33	5.00	0.00	8.33
		2007	2.33	0.33	0.00	2.67
		2008	3.00	1.00	0.00	4.00
Minufiya	Queisna	2006	1.33	4.00	0.00	5.33
		2007	3.00	5.00	0.00	8.00
		2008	1.00	3.00	0.00	4.00
	Sadat city	2006	5.00	4.00	1.00	10.00
		2007	5.67	4.00	0.00	9.67
		2008	8.00	3.00	2.00	13.00
North Sinai	El-Arish	2006	8.00	5.67	0.00	13.67
		2007	5.00	3.33	0.00	8.33
		2008	6.33	4.00	0.00	10.33
Sharkiya	Salhiya	2006	6.67	4.00	0.00	9.67
		2007	8.00	5.00	0.00	13.00
		2008	4.00	3.00	0.00	7.00
	Abu Kabeer	2006	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00
		2007	7.00	4.00	0.00	11.00
		2008	6.00	4.00	0.00	10.00

*Each sample belongs to 30 plants obtained from 3 fields (10 plant samples of each cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber /field).

Data presented in Table (2) showed the frequency of incidence of MRR/VD disease on different cucurbit plants i.e. cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber during late summer season of 2006, 2007 and 2008 at different localities in Egypt.

Data also clear that the values of the mean DSI varied on different cucurbit host plants. The highest value of mean DSI was recorded on cantaloupe plants and reached to 10.33% followed by watermelon which recorded 7.00% while the lowest values were recorded on cucumber which ranged from 1 to 2%.

In the present work, *M. cannonballus* caused severe root-rot of cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber in different growing areas in Egypt. The fungus was isolated from diseased cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber plants in low frequencies at few fields in survey during hot weather.

Percentage of isolation frequency of *M. cannonballus* from cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber were obtained at different localities in Egypt during late summer season of 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table (3): Isolation frequency % of *M. cannonballus* from cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber at different localities in Egypt during late summer of 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Governorate	Localition	Cucurbit crop / Frequency of pathogen isolate %		
		Cantaloupe	Watermelon	Cucumber
Behaira	Nubariya	22.00*	16.33	4.67
Beni Suif	Sumosta	12.00	8.67	0.00
Demietta	Gamasa	12.00	10.00	0.00
Ismailia	Kassasin	17.33	11.67	0.00
	Tal El-Kaper	10.67	7.33	0.00
Minufiya	Queisna	13.00	11.00	0.00
	Sadat city	18.33	15.00	2.67
North Sinai	El-Arish	11.67	8.00	0.00
Sharkita	Salhiya	16.00	6.33	0.00
	Abu Kabir	18.00	8.67	0.00

*Mean of thirty symptomatic plants of each field which taken for isolation of the pathogen.

Data presented in Table (3) show that, the percentage of isolation varied according cucurbit crop grown in different locations. They were ranged from 10.67 to 22.00% of *M. cannonballus* isolates obtained from infected cantaloupe roots. While, isolation varied between 7.33 to 16.33% of infected watermelon roots. However, isolation from infected cucumber roots was recorded 4.67 and 2.67% at Nubariya (Behaira) and Sadat city (Minufiya), respectively.

The highest frequencies of *M. cannonballus* isolation were recorded at Nubariya (Behaira) and Sadat city (Minufiya) within different three investigated cucurbit host plants.

Pathogenicity test:

Pathogenic ability of different *M. cannonballus* isolates was conducted in order to confirm their virulence and to define the most aggressive isolates causing serious damage on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber plants. Ten isolates were selected out of twenty two fungal isolates that obtained. Data given in Table (4) show that isolates of the studied fungus

were chosen according to their frequency as five isolates of *M. cannonballus* from cantaloupe (Nos. 1-5), three isolates from watermelon (Nos. 6-8) and two from cucumber (Nos. 9-10). They were chosen to perform their pathogenic ability on different cucurbit host plants.

Data presented in Table (4) indicate that all the tested isolates were pathogenic on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber as they significantly increased MRR / VD severities on different cucurbit host plants. Also it showed that *M. cannonballus* (isolate No. 5) were the most aggressive isolate than the other isolates of this fungus with significant differences between this isolate and the others.

Table (4): Virulence of *Monosporascus cannonballus* isolates obtained from rotten roots of cucurbit plants collected from different localities in Egypt under greenhouse conditions.

Fungus / Isolates	Cucurbit crop / Mean disease severity index (DSI)		
	Cantaloupe cv. Ideal	Watermelon cv. Aswan	Cucumber cv. Beit Alpha
<i>M. cannonballus</i> Isolate 1	39.20*	28.00	15.60
2	33.40	21.40	12.00
3	36.20	25.00	09.20
4	39.00	20.20	12.00
5	43.00	29.00	13.00
6	31.40	24.60	08.60
7	28.80	21.20	12.00
8	26.20	18.40	11.80
9	29.40	20.00	10.00
10	33.00	19.00	11.20
Control	00.00	00.80	00.60
L. S. D. at 5%	00.44	00.69	00.53

*Mean of five replicates.

Percentages data were arcsine-transformed before carrying out the analysis of variance.

This aggressive isolate show the highest significant percentages disease severity index (43.0, 29.0 and 13.0 %) on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber, respectively. This virulent isolate No 5 was followed by isolates (Nos.1, 4, 2 and 10) in their pathogenic ability to evaluate their potential in causing MRR /VD disease symptoms. The third rank include isolates (Nos.3, 6, 7, 8 and 9) in this respect.

DISCUSSION

Firstly, the periodical survey of cucurbit plants for different diseases incidence revealed that MRR / VD disease on cantaloupe and watermelon was recently observed in Egypt. The disease was firstly found on cantaloupe plants of Ideal and Galia cultivars in a commercial field at Nubariya (Behaira) and at El-Arish (North Sinai). It was also found on watermelon of cultivar Giza-1 at Gamasa (Damietta) in late summer season during the period of 1999 to 2001 (El-Desouky and El-Wakil 2003).

In this investigation, infected cucurbit plants i.e. cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber usually do not develop symptoms till near harvest

time. Sometimes, the aboveground of disease symptoms is a gradual yellowing and dieback of the older leaves as the plants set fruit.

Foliar deterioration progressing distally and advances to young leaves at the harvest period. Affected plants suddenly wilt and eventually die, prematurely showing the vine decline symptoms. The underground symptoms appear as extensive areas of tap roots and some lateral roots are necrotic, and may slough off as the plant is pulled from the ground.

In recent years, MRR/VD disease on cantaloupe and watermelon was first found on cantaloupe plants of Ideal cultivar in a commercial field at Nubariya (Behira Governorate) during late summer season of 1999 with disease incidence varied from 27.25 to 85%. The disease was also found on watermelon of cultivar Giza-1 at Gamasa (Damietta Governorate) during summer season of 2000 with disease incidence from 57.25 to 88.25%. Later, the disease was also found on cantaloupe plants cv. Galia at El-Arish (North Sinai Governorate) during late summer season of 2001 with disease incidence ranged from 38.25 to 78.25% (El-Desouky and El-Wakil 2003)

The disease is primarily appearing as a problem on sandy soils in Egypt. During this study, the fungus *M. cannonballus* was isolated from ten localities in Egypt where cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber grown in a sandy or sandy loamy soils. The fungus is indigenous to the soil and populations build up with continuous cultivation of cucurbit hosts, particularly cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber. In USA, during 1991, *Monosporascus* was discovered at Texas on the farms on which the soil texture is similar in pH (7.7 to 7.8) and soil salt content, suggesting that the fungus may prefer or tolerate alkaline and saline condition (Mertely *et al.* (1991).

The fungus was isolated from diseased plants in low frequencies at few fields in survey during hot weather. Due to thermophilic nature of *M. cannonballus*, it appears to be adapted to hot, semiarid climate with soil tend to be saline and alkaline and may be more active as a pathogen (Martyn and Miller, 1996 and Stanghellini *et al.* 1996).

Pathogenicity test was conducted in order to found the ability of *M. cannonballus* isolated from diseased plants to MRR / VD syndrome of cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber in the greenhouse. Ten isolates of *M. cannonballus* were chosen for pathogenicity test. All the tested isolates were pathogenic on cantaloupe, watermelon and cucumber since they significantly increased root diseases severity index. *M. cannonballus* (isolate No. 5) was the most aggressive isolate than the others with significant differences between them. Their importance seems to be in their ability to co-colonize the roots of different cucurbit host plants and to induce a greater disease contribution extent. In addition, a variety of organisms has been reported as causal agents of MRR / VD disease in various regions in the world including *M. cannonballus* (Uematsu *et al.*, 1992, Martyn *et al.* 1994, Miller *et al.* 1995 and Martyn and Miller, 1996). It is possible that all of these organisms act similarly by suppressing the root system, and finally affecting the balance between sink and source, especially during the period of fruit maturation.

The rapid development of the disease could be attributed to the reduction of high water demand by plants during later stages of plant

development that makes the uptake and water flow through the roots is constrained. The disease may do the most damage to thin roots, as although they make up a small percentage of the root mass, they contribute substantially to plant water uptake. Infected plants showed reduction in root growth, indicating that vine collapse is due in part to the negative effects on growth and root system size (Pivonia *et al.*, 2002).

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انتشار مرض عفن الجذور وتهدل العرش على القرعيات في مصر

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يعتبر مرض عفن الجذور / تهدل العرش على القرعيات والذي يتسبب عن الفطر مونوسبراسكس كانونبولس من أهم أمراض القرعيات التي سجلت حديثاً في مصر . والفطر المسبب يتبع الفطريات الأسكية. وقد أجريت الدراسات الحقلية وتحت ظروف الصوبة لدراسة مدى انتشار المرض في محافظات مصر ومقدرة الفطر الذي تم عزله على إصابة نباتات القرعيات المختلفة ، حيث دلت نتائج البحث أن هذا المرض ينتشر ويصيب نباتات القرعيات في مصر مثل الكانتلوب ، البطيخ ، الخيار . وقد تم حصر مدى انتشار المرض لمدة ثلاث مواسم زراعية مختلفة في نهاية الموسم الصيفي لأعوام ٢٠٠٦ ، ٢٠٠٧ و ٢٠٠٨ في محافظات البحيرة، بنى سويف ، دمياط ، الإسماعيلية ، الشرقية ، المنوفية وشمال سيناء وذلك في مزارع مختلفة. وقد دلت نتائج الدراسة أنه لم يظهر المرض على النباتات تحت الدراسة إلا في مرحلة إثمار النباتات ويزداد ظهور المرض في مرحلة نضج الثمار قبل جمع المحصول بحوالي أسبوعين أو أقل حيث يسبب خسائر في المحصول قد تصل إلى أكثر من ٥٠%. وقد تم عزل الفطر المسبب من حوالي ٢٢% من العينات المصابة التي تم الحصول عليها من الحقول تحت الدراسة. وفي اختبارات العدوى التي أجريت في الصوبة ظهرت أعراض المرض على شتلات القرعيات في خلال ١ - ٢ أسبوع من العدوى كما ظهرت الأجسام الثمرية للفطر (البريثيسيا) بعد ظهور الأعراض بثلاثة أسابيع . أيضا فقد أثبتت الدراسة أن جميع عزلات الفطر التي تم عزلها من النباتات المصابة من جميع أماكن الفحص كانت ممرضة لجميع نباتات القرعيات تحت الاختبار في الصوبة .