

Occurrence and Distribution of Chickpea Rust (*Uromyces ciceris-arietini*) in Major Chickpea growing Regions of Andhra Pradesh.

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ABSTRACT

Chickpea rust, caused by the fungal pathogen *Uromyces ciceris-arietini*, poses a significant threat to chickpea cultivation. The present study was aimed to assess the prevalence and distribution of chickpea rust in five major chickpea growing districts of Andhra Pradesh, India, during the *rabi* season of 2022-23. A roving survey was conducted across forty-nine villages covering fifteen mandals. The results revealed varying levels of per cent disease incidence and per cent disease index of chickpea rust was recorded across the districts. Among the five districts surveyed, the highest mean disease incidence was observed in Prakasam (31.48 %) followed by Kurnool (14.51%), Anantapuramu (12.06 %), Bapatla (6.78%) and Nandyal (3.94%) district. The disease severity in terms of per cent disease index (PDI) was calculated using disease grades collected for individual plants in the surveyed fields, the maximum mean PDI was recorded in Prakasam (45.09%), followed by Anantapuramu (24.57%), Kurnool (23.56%), Bapatla (12.53%) and Nandyal (8.02%) district. In Andhra Pradesh, the mean disease incidence of chickpea rust ranged from 0 to 55.90% and the disease severity (PDI) ranged from 0 to 91.2%. The study provides valuable insights into the distribution and severity of chickpea rust, highlighting the areas that require immediate attention for disease management and prevention.

Key words: *Chickpea, Per cent disease severity, Rust and Uromyces ciceris-arietini*