Morpho-cultural variability of different *Rhizoctonia solani* isolates associated with banded leaf and sheath blight disease of kodo millet.

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ABSTRACT

In the current study the *Rhizoctonia solani* isolates were obtained from different millet-producing regions in India where BLSB incidence was more predominant. They were cultured on PDA in order to observe the morpho- cultural characters Radial growth was measured at 24 h interval time from 2 to 5 DAI and was found that the highest growth rate was observed in SGK-1 (0.91 mm h^{-1}) and the lowest in KRK-1 (0.64 mm h^{-1}) and two distinct mycelial patterns were observed *i.e*., profusely growing cottony fluffy and profusely growing cottony; with colony colour varying from light yellowish brown to very pale brown. The range and hyphal width measured between 5.65 – 9.66 mm whereas, size of sclerotia ranged between 0.92 mm to 1.69 mm. Initiation of sclerotia was observed at 3 to 4 DAI and a prominent variation was seen in sclerotial pattern of arrangement. Two different types of sclerotial distribution was recorded *i.e*., surface and surface and touch the lid where both micro and macro type of sclerotia were observed. Variations in sclerotia colour (reddish brown to dark brown), sclerotia number (54.67 to 191.67) and weight of sclerotia (28.3 mg to 85.2 mg) were also noticed on PDA

Keywords: *BLSB, Morpho- cultural, Mycelia, Rhizoctonia solani and Sclerotia*