

## SCREENING OF *SCLEROTINIA* STEM ROT RESISTANCE IN BANGLADESH MUSTARD GERmplasm USING COTYLEDON ASSAY METHOD

NAJMUN NAHER<sup>1\*</sup>, SHAMIM SHAMSI, MD RAWSHAN ALI<sup>2</sup> AND MD ABUL BASHAR

*Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh*

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### Abstract

In the present investigation Brassica germplasm were screened *in vitro* against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, the causal organism of stem rot disease of mustard (*Brassica* spp.) using cotyledon assay. The germplasm belong to *Brassica rapa*, *B. juncea*, *B. napus* and *Brassica* sp. Among the 81 germplasm and seven cultivated varieties seven genotypes, namely BD 10113, BD 6948, BD 6954, BD 7108, BD7121, BD 7788 and BD7799 exhibited resistant reaction and eight germplasm viz. JBC 05117, BD 10456, BD6974, BD7116, BD7802, BD7804, BD7806, and BD7807 expressed moderately resistant reaction against *S. sclerotiorum*. The rest 66 germplasm and showed susceptibility at varied degree. Moderately susceptible reaction was observed in 29, susceptible in 26 and highly susceptible reaction was found in 11 germplasm. Out of seven cultivated varieties three were found highly susceptible, two were susceptible and two showed moderately susceptible.

### Introduction

Stem rot in oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* is one of the most devastating fungal diseases worldwide. *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary is a necrotrophic and non-host-specific fungal pathogen that infects more than 400 plant species, including several important oil crops such as oilseed rape, soybean and sunflower<sup>(1)</sup>. It is a serious threat to oilseed rape production with substantial yield losses worldwide including Australia, Europe and North America<sup>(2-4)</sup>. The pathogen is recognized by the fluffy white mycelium and black sclerotia that develops on the surface of lesions<sup>(5)</sup>. Various methods such as cultural, chemical and varietal resistance are used to manage *S. sclerotiorum*<sup>(6)</sup>.

Host resistance selection is the only economic and sustainable way of managing this disease<sup>(7)</sup>. Garg *et al.*<sup>(8)</sup> reported cotyledon assay in *B. napus* to rapidly differentiate the genotypes against *S. sclerotiorum*. Most common inoculation technique is mycelia-infested substrate (agar plug, carrot, celery and oat) instead of ascospores. Ascospores are

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\*Author for correspondence: <najmunsmriti@gmail.com>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, Life and Earth Science Group, National University, Gazipur-1704, Bangladesh. <sup>2</sup>Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gazipur- 1701, Bangladesh.

difficult to operate and to produce *in vitro*, and inoculation with ascospores in laboratory and greenhouse environments<sup>(9)</sup>. Cotyledon test has been used by some researchers to identify resistance to *S. sclerotiorum* in genotypes of soybean<sup>(10-11)</sup>. Identify the resistant sources is one of the best long-term prospect for improved management of this disease. Keeping all these in view, the present investigation was undertaken to examine the reaction of 88 mustard germplasm of Bangladesh against *S. sclerotiorum* using cotyledon assay method.

### Materials and Methods

A single isolate of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* was selected based on aggressiveness reactions on mustard hosts. This isolate was collected from Joypurhat to evaluate the responses of different genotypes of mustard to *S. sclerotiorum* in greenhouse. Eighty eight germplasm of mustard belongs to *Brassica rapa*, *B. juncea*, *B. napus* and *Brassica* sp. were selected for screening. Among them 30 germplasm belong to *B. rapa*, 21 were *B. juncea*, 32 were *B. napus* and 5 were of *Brassica* sp. All the germplasm were grown in small plastic pots separately. Five seeds of each genotype were sown in each pot. This experiment was conducted under controlled environment growth room conditions of  $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  during the day and  $18 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  at night. Seedlings were grown until cotyledons were fully expanded.

Fifteen isolates of *S. sclerotiorum* were collected from five districts (Bogra, Jamalpur, Habiganj, Joypurhat and Kusta) of different agro-ecological zones in Bangladesh. One isolate of *S. sclerotiorum* was selected based on aggressiveness reactions on mustard leaf of BARIsorisa 14.

The selected aggressive isolate of *S. sclerotiorum* was grown on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium at  $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  in an incubator. Seven agar discs (each 5 mm in diameter) were cut from the actively growing margin of a 3 day old cultured plate of the fungus and transferred to a 250 ml flask containing 75 ml of a sterilized potato dextrose broth. The flasks were incubated at  $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for 5 days. After 5 days, colonies of *S. sclerotiorum* was harvested and washed twice with sterilized water. The fungal mats obtained were transferred to 200 ml of same liquid medium and mycelia were macerated in a food grinder for 3 min. The macerated mycelial suspension was filtered through four layers of cheese cloth and the concentration was adjusted to  $10^4$  fragments/ml using hemocytometer with the same liquid medium.

Twelve days old cotyledons were inoculated with mycelial suspension. A total of two droplets of mycelial suspension of  $10 \mu\text{l}$  were deposited on every seedling using a micropipette, with a single drop on each cotyledon. While inoculating, the mycelial suspension in conical flasks are shaken regularly to maintain homogenous mixture. After inoculation all pots were covered with polyethen sheet to maintain 100% relative humidity. In addition, a very fine mist of water was sprayed over cotyledons and the pot.

Necrotic and water soaked lesions appeared after two days of inoculation. At 4 days after inoculation, polyethen sheets were removed and lesions were assessed on the basis of lesion diameter (mm). Lesion diameters were measured using a liner ruler. Disease reaction was also measured by revised rating scale (slightly modified) of AICRP rapeseed-mustard <sup>(12)</sup>.

Rating score	Lesion length (mm)	Disease reaction
0	No lesion	Immune (I)
1	0.1- 2	Resistant (R)
2	2.1- 4	Moderately resistant (MR)
3	4.1- 6	Moderately susceptible (MS)
4	6.1- 8	Susceptible (S)
5	8.1 and above	Highly susceptible (HS)

### Results and Discussion

Cotyledons inoculated with *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* showed necrotic and black colored lesions after 4 days of inoculation (Table 1). Typical necrotic lesions appeared on cotyledons of susceptible germplasm. The type, size and severity of lesions on cotyledons varied between the germplasm ranging from very small to extreme (0.5 to 11 mm) where entire cotyledons collapsed and were covered with white cottony mycelial growth.

The initial disease symptoms were produced on 24 hrs after inoculating the cotyledon with the isolate of Joypurhat (Fig. 1). After five days whole cotyledon was covered with mycelium of *S. sclerotiorum*. Seven germplasm, namely BD 10113, BD 6948, BD 6954, BD 7108, BD 7121, BD 7788 and BD 7799 showed resistant reaction and eight germplasm viz. JBC 05117, BD 10456, BD 6974, BD 7116, BD 7802, BD 7804, BD 7806, and BD 7807 were moderately resistant. Moderately resistant germplasm showed a small lesion confined to the size of the inoculum droplet and resistant genotype showed only very small necrotic dots in the inoculation areas. Out of 81 germplasm, 11 were highly susceptible and 26 were susceptible against *S. sclerotiorum*. The remaining 29 showed moderately susceptible reaction. Out of seven cultivated varieties, three were highly susceptible, two were susceptible and two moderately susceptible. Resistance screening of 81 germplasm revealed that the resistance and susceptible genotypes were easily distinguished by comparing with susceptible varieties of mustard. It was observed that out of 30 *Brassica rapa* germplasm 2 were resistant, 3 were moderately resistant, 9 were moderately susceptible, 9 were susceptible and 7 were highly susceptible. Out of 21 germplasm of *B. juncea* 3 were resistant, 1 was moderately resistant, 8 were moderately susceptible, 4 were susceptible and 5 were highly susceptible. Out of 32 germplasm of *B. napus* 2 were resistant, 4 were moderately resistant, 12 were moderately susceptible, 13

**Table 1. Screening of 88 Brassica germplasm against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*.**

Sl. No	Accession No.	Species	Lesion length (mm)*	Disease Reaction	Sl. No.	Accession No.	Species	Lesion length (mm)*	Disease reaction
1.	JBC 05117	<i>B. rapa</i>	3.2	MR	23.	BD 10115	<i>B. rapa</i>	4.5	MS
2.	JUN 536	<i>B. juncea</i>	9.3	HS	24.	BD 10455	<i>B. napus</i>	7.8	S
3.	Nap 0564	<i>B. napus</i>	5.0	MS	25.	BD10456	<i>B. rapa</i>	2.4	MR
4.	BARI sorisa 16	<i>B. juncea</i>	6.5	S	26.	BD 6948	<i>B. juncea</i>	1.5	R
5.	BARI sorisa 12	<i>B. rapa</i>	8.4	HS	27.	BD 6949	<i>B. rapa</i>	5.5	MS
6.	BARI sorisa 10	<i>B. juncea</i>	11	HS	28.	BD 6952	<i>B. rapa</i>	5.5	MS
7.	Tori 7	<i>B. rapa</i>	5.5	MS	29.	BD 6953	<i>B. rapa</i>	9.5	HS
8.	BARI sorisa 11	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.3	MS	30.	BD 6954	<i>B. rapa</i>	1.8	R
9.	Nap 0567	<i>B. napus</i>	7.0	S	31.	BD 6955	<i>B. rapa</i>	6.8	S
10.	Sau 01	<i>B. napus</i>	7.3	S	32.	BD 6956	<i>B. rapa</i>	4.4	MS
11.	BARI sorisa 08	<i>B. napus</i>	6.6	S	33.	BD 6957	<i>B. juncea</i>	6.6	S
12.	BD 9869	<i>B. napus</i>	5.3	MS	34.	BD 6958	<i>B. rapa</i>	4.1	MS
13.	BD 10105	<i>B. napus</i>	5.0	MS	35.	BD 6974	<i>B. juncea</i>	2.5	MR
14.	BD 10106	<i>B. napus</i>	4.6	MS	36.	BD 7104	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.5	MS
15.	BD 10107	<i>B. napus</i>	5.6	MS	37.	BD 7106	<i>B. juncea</i>	6.9	S
16.	BD 10108	<i>B. rapa</i>	7.5	S	38.	BD 7108	<i>B. juncea</i>	0.5	R
17.	BD 10109	<i>B. rapa</i>	6.6	S	39.	BD 7112	<i>B. juncea</i>	8.5	HS
18.	BD 10110	<i>B. rapa</i>	4.1	MS	40.	BD 7113	<i>B. rapa</i>	9.6	HS
19.	BD 10111	<i>B. napus</i>	7.8	S	41.	BD 7114	<i>B. rapa</i>	10.5	HS
20.	BD 10112	<i>B. napus</i>	8.6	HS	42.	BD 7115	<i>B. rapa</i>	12	HS
21.	BD 10113	<i>B. rapa</i>	0.5	R	43.	BD 7116	<i>B. rapa</i>	2.5	MR
22.	BD 10114	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.5	MS	44.	BD- 7118	<i>B. rapa</i>	5.5	MS

(Contd.)

(Contd.)

Sl. No.	Accession No.	Species	Lesion length (mm)*	Disease reaction	Sl. No.	Accession No.	Species	Lesion length (mm)*	Disease reaction
45.	BD 7119	<i>B. juncea</i>	4.5	MS	67.	BD 7803	<i>B. napus</i>	5.6	MS
46.	BD 7120	<i>B. napus</i>	6.5	S	68.	BD 7804	<i>B. napus</i>	2.6	MR
47.	BD 7121	<i>B. juncea</i>	1.2	R	69.	BD 7805	<i>B. napus</i>	4.3	MS
48.	BD 7127	<i>B. rapa</i>	7.7	S	70.	BD 7806	<i>B. napus</i>	3.5	MR
49.	BD 7129	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.6	MS	71.	BD 7807	<i>B. napus</i>	2.5	MR
50.	BD 7131	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.3	MS	72.	BD 9344	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	7.0	S
51.	BD 7132	<i>B. juncea</i>	5.0	MS	73.	BD 9346	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	7.5	S
52.	BD 7133	<i>B. juncea</i>	8.0	S	74.	BD 9347	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	5.5	MS
53.	BD 7134	<i>B. juncea</i>	8.5	HS	75.	BD 9348	<i>B. rapa</i>	8.0	S
54.	BD 7135	<i>B. juncea</i>	10	HS	76.	BD 9351	<i>B. rapa</i>	4.5	MS
55.	BD 7136	<i>B. juncea</i>	4.3	MS	77.	BD 9352	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	5.0	MS
56.	BD 7137	<i>B. napus</i>	7.5	S	78.	BD 9353	<i>B. rapa</i>	10	HS
57.	BD 7724	<i>B. napus</i>	6.5	S	79.	BD 9354	<i>B. rapa</i>	7.5	S
58.	BD 7788	<i>B. napus</i>	1.8	R	80.	BD 9355	<i>Brassica</i> sp.	8.4	HS
59.	BD 7790	<i>B. napus</i>	6.2	S	81.	BD 9864	<i>B. napus</i>	6.3	S
60.	BD 7791	<i>B. napus</i>	6.6	S	82.	BD 9865	<i>B. napus</i>	4.6	MS
61.	BD 7792	<i>B. napus</i>	7.0	S	83.	BD 9866	<i>B. napus</i>	4.5	MS
62.	BD 7793	<i>B. napus</i>	7.5	S	84.	BD 9867	<i>B. napus</i>	5.6	MS
63.	BD 7795	<i>B. napus</i>	5.6	MS	85.	BD 9868	<i>B. rapa</i>	7.3	S
64.	BD 7796	<i>B. napus</i>	5.0	MS	86.	BARI sorisa 14	<i>B. rapa</i>	8.5	HS
65.	BD 7799	<i>B. napus</i>	0.5	R	87.	BD 9343	<i>B. rapa</i>	6.0	S
66.	BD 7802	<i>B. napus</i>	3.3	MR	88.	BD 9348	<i>B. rapa</i>	6.5	S

\* = Average value, n = 6; R = Resistant, MR = Moderately resistant, MS = Moderately susceptible, S = Susceptible and HS = Highly susceptible.

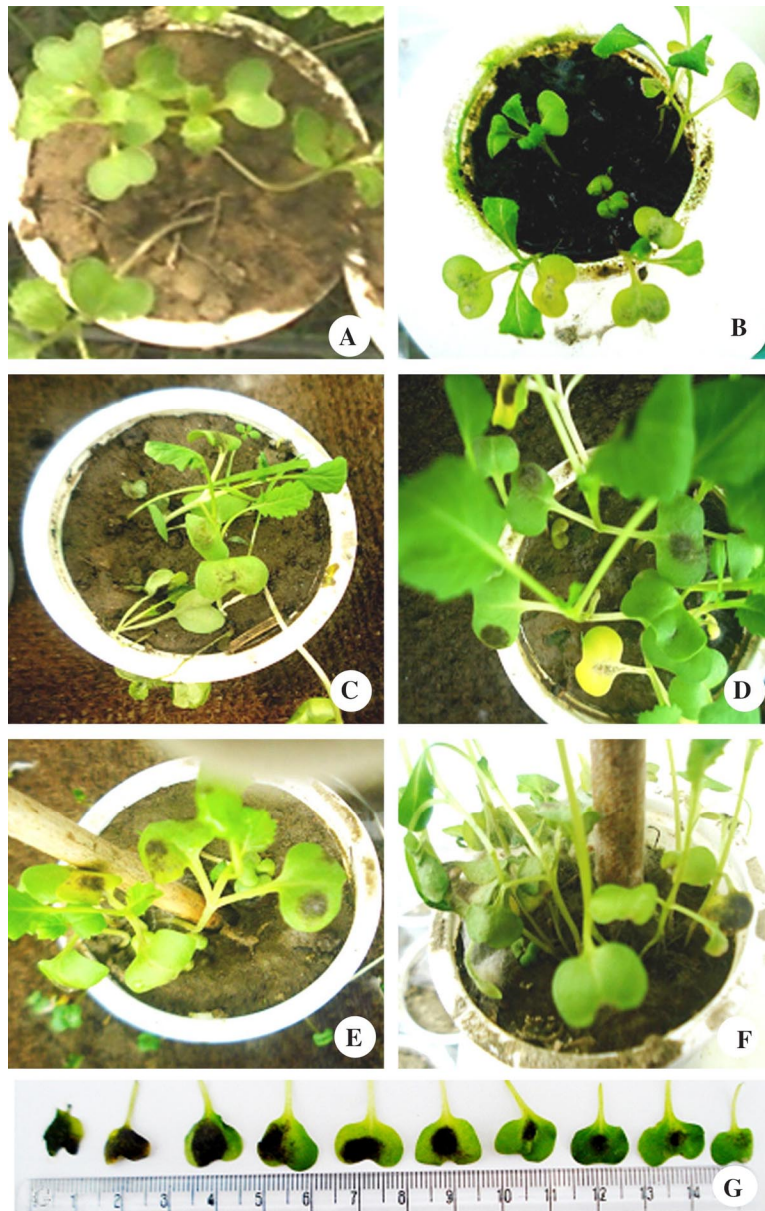


Fig. 1. Resistance test on cotyledon in mustard germplasm against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*: A. Resistant; B-C. Moderately resistant; D. Moderately susceptible; E. Susceptible; F. Highly susceptible and G. Different lesion on cotyledons of mustard.

were susceptible and 1 found highly susceptible. Out of 5 germplasm of *Brassica* sp. 2 were susceptible, 2 were moderately susceptible, and 1 was highly susceptible against *S. sclerotiorum*. *S. sclerotiorum*. These results support the findings of Nooshin and Dalili<sup>(13)</sup>

and Li *et al.*<sup>(14)</sup>. Results of *in vitro* germplasm evaluation showed that, none of the rapeseed mustard genotypes tested was immune against *S. sclerotiorum*. Bradley *et al.*<sup>(15)</sup> found significant differences between canola genotypes but there were absence of complete resistance against *S. sclerotiorum* genotypes. Garg *et al.*<sup>(8)</sup> evaluated cotyledon and field screening of several *B. napus* genotypes for their reaction against *S. sclerotiorum* and found certain partial resistance genotypes of *Brassica napus*. Dalili *et al.*<sup>(16)</sup> evaluated 25 rapeseed genotypes against sclerotinia rot for two years and reported significant differences between the genotypes.

The results showed that out of 81 germplasm, only seven found resistant against sclerotinia stem rot disease of mustard in cotyledon assay. Among them 2 germplasm belonged to species of *Brassica rapa*, 3 were *B. juncea* and 2 were from *B. napus*. None of the cultivated varieties found resistant against *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in our country.

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