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## Screening of Some Indigenous and Exotic Mulberry Varieties against Major Foliar Fungal and Bacterial Diseases

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(Received 7 October 2005; Accepted 22 January 2006)

Fifty-six indigenous and twenty nine exotic mulberry varieties were screened against powdery mildew, *Myrothecium* leaf spot, *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot, sooty mold and bacterial leaf spot for a period of three years under field condition. The percent disease index (PDI) was recorded during peak season of the foliar diseases. Out of eighty-five varieties studied, ten varieties were highly resistant and eight were resistant to powdery mildew; six varieties were immune and seventy-eight varieties were highly resistant to *Myrothecium* leaf spot; sixty varieties were highly resistant and 21 were resistant to *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot; forty four varieties were highly resistant to sooty mold and two varieties were immune and fifty-eight were highly resistant to bacterial leaf spot. Lowest cumulative disease index was observed in *M. multicaulis* (7.28) followed by Thailand lobed (7.85) and Italian mulberry (8.06).

**Key words:** *Morus* spp., Resistance, Susceptible, Powdery mildew, *Myrothecium* leaf spot, *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot, Sooty mold, Bacterial leaf spot

### Introduction

Mulberry (*Morus* sp.) is a fast growing perennial tree. It is cultivated as bush, middle bush and tree for its valued leaf for silkworm (*Bombyx mori* L.) rearing. Mulberry is affected by several pathogenic diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, mycoplasma and virus (Yokoyama, 1962; Rangswami *et al.*, 1978; Sengupta *et al.*, 1990; Yashihiko,

1995). Diseases affect leaf yield (Sikdar and Krishnaswami, 1980, Sengupta *et al.*, 1990) and reduce nutritive value (Chanturia, 1968; Umesh Kumar, 1991). Feeding of diseased leaves prolongs larval period and reduces cocoon yield (Noamani *et al.*, 1970; Umesh Kumar *et al.*, 1993). Foliar diseases, viz., powdery mildew [*Phyllactinia corylea* (Pers) Karst.], *Myrothecium* leaf spot [*Myrothecium roridum* Tode Ex. Fr], *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot [*Pseudocercospora mori* (Hara) Deighton], bacterial leaf spot [*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *mori* Maji, Qadri and Pal] and sooty mold (Ascomycetes and Deuteromycetes fungi) are important foliar diseases in the Eastern and North Eastern part of India (Maji, 2002, 2003a). Chemical, botanical and biological control against the foliar diseases has been developed (Biswas *et al.*, 1993; Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2003; Gangwar *et al.*, 2000; Maji *et al.*, 2000, 2003a, b; Pratheesh Kumar *et al.*, 2004). Chemical control has some limitations as the cost for chemical control is high, residual toxicity to silkworm, and hazardous to environment. Repeated use of fungicide/antibiotics leads to evolve resistant pathogen. Moreover, the purchase of chemicals for crop protection called for some extra economic burden to poor and marginal farmers generally practice sericulture. By far, the best method for control of plant diseases is to raise plants having capacity to remain disease free in presence of pathogens (Pelczar *et al.*, 1977). Plantation of disease resistant mulberry variety is advantageous to farmers, because mulberry is propagate by stem cuttings and once planted, its active growth phase remains for fifteen years. Pelczar *et al.* (1977) opined that wild species which under natural selection are capable of resisting many, perhaps most, infections that occur in nature. Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute, Berhampore - a premier sericultural research organization in the Eastern and North Eastern region of India has rich exotic and indigenous germplasm resources. The present investigation was conducted to screen disease

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resistant mulberry varieties for future disease resistance breeding programme.

## Materials and Methods

Six month old mulberry saplings of fifty-six indigenous and twenty nine exotic mulberry varieties were planted in micro plot (10' × 10') with 2' × 2' spacing at Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute Berhampore, West Bengal, India [latitude 24° 6'N, longitude 88° 15'E, tropical monsoon climate and altitude 19 m above MSL]. For maintenance of plantation, decomposed farm yard manure was applied at the rate 20 MT/ha/yr during July. Chemical fertilizers, nitrogen, phosphorus and potash were applied at the rate 336:180:112 kg/ha/yr 20 – 25 days after pruning. Nitrogen was applied in five equal split dose during March, May, July, September and December and phosphate and potash in 2 split doses during July and December. Plants were pruned five times during 4<sup>th</sup> week of February, April, July, September and November. Plantation was irrigated at 20 days interval from November to May.

Powdery mildew, *Myrothecium* leaf spot, *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot, bacterial leaf spot and sooty mold severity were recorded sixty day after pruning during July, September and November for three years. Disease data was recorded by randomly selecting five plants in each variety. In each plant, foliar disease severity was assessed from three randomly selected branches using a 0 – 5 visual rating scale (Maji *et al.*, 2000). In this scale, 0 – healthy leaf, 1 = 1 – 5% leaf area infected, 2 = 6 – 10% leaf area infected, 3 = 11 – 25% leaf area infected, 4 = 26 – 50% leaf area infected, 5 = 51% and above leaf area infected. Percent of disease index (PDI) was calculated according to F. A. O. (1967) formula.

$$\text{Percent disease index} = \frac{\text{Sum of all numerical rating}}{\text{Total no. of leaves counted} \times \text{Maximum grade}} \times 100$$

Mulberry varieties were categorized considering disease severity as 0 = Immune, 0.01 – 5% highly resistant; 5.01 – 10%; resistant; 10.01 – 25% moderately resistant, 25.01 – 50% susceptible; 50.01 – 100% highly susceptible.

## Results

Percent disease index (PDI) and cumulative disease severity (CDI) of eighty five mulberry varieties to powdery mildew, *Myrothecium* leaf spot, *Pseudocercospora*

leaf spot, sooty mold and bacterial leaf spot presented in Table 1.

Among the eighty-five varieties screened, ten varieties were highly resistant with less than 5% disease severity, 8 varieties were resistant, 49 varieties were moderately resistant and 18 varieties were susceptible to powdery mildew. Lowest disease index was observed in Thailand lobed (0.22 PDI) followed by *M. multicaulis* (2.14 PDI). Highest disease severity was observed in Kolitha-3 (33.71 PDI).

Seven varieties *viz.*, Bush Malda-B, Koliakuthai, Calcebrasa, Sujampur, Berhampore-20, Jatinuni, Tollygangu were found immune to *Myrothecium* leaf spot and seventy-eight varieties disease severity was less than 5%.

Sixty varieties were highly resistant, 21 varieties were resistant and four varieties were moderately resistant to *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot. Lowest disease index was observed in Rotundiloba (0.08 PDI) followed by Thailand lobed (0.14 PDI). Highest disease severity was recorded in Bush Malda - A (13.35 PDI).

Forty-four varieties were highly resistant, 34 varieties resistant and seven were moderately resistant to the sooty mold. Lowest sooty mold severity was observed in *M. indica* black (1.22 PDI) and highest in S<sub>1</sub> variety (18.73 PDI).

Two varieties *viz.*, *M. multicaulis* and China White were immune to the disease. Fifty-eight varieties were highly resistant, 19 resistant and 6 moderately resistant to the disease. Highest disease severity was observed in KPG-1 (13.22 PDI).

Among the varieties lowest CDI observed in *M. multicaulis* (7.28) followed by Thailand lobed (7.85), Italian (8.06), Australia (10.86). Highest CDI observed on Nagaland local (50.18) and Kolitha-7 (48.91).

## Discussion

The occurrence of foliar diseases is one of the limiting factors of production for healthy and nutritious mulberry leaves. Foliar diseases alone reduce 10 – 15% leaf production per unit area of land (Sengupta *et al.*, 1990). To overcome crop loss due to diseases and repeated application of fungicide/agricultural antibiotics, development of resistance mulberry varieties is the best option. Powdery mildew is one of the major diseases in all sericulture practicing country. Our results indicates that ten genotypes *viz.*, Thailand lobed, *M. multicaulis*, *M. australis*, Italian mulberry, Kanva-2, *multicaulis*, Rotundiloba, Australia, MR-1, KPG-2 are highly resistant against p. mildew. Govindaiah *et al.* (1989) reported that Koliakuthai is completely resistant, Punjab local resistant and Shrim – 5

**Table 1.** Percent disease index, disease response and cumulative disease index indigenous and exotic mulberry varieties

Mulberry varieties	Origin	Percent disease index/disease response										CDI
		PMLD		MLS		PLS		SMLD		BLS		
		PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	
<i>M. multicaulis</i>	Italy	2.14	HR	0.13	HR	0.36	HR	4.64	HR	0.00	I	7.28
Thailand-Lobed	Thailand	0.22	HR	0.07	HR	0.14	HR	3.58	HR	3.84	HR	7.85
Italian	Italy	2.47	HR	0.17	HR	0.19	HR	1.92	HR	3.31	HR	8.06
Australia	Australia	4.85	HR	0.57	HR	0.65	HR	1.25	HR	3.53	HR	10.86
Rotundiloba	France	4.80	HR	0.30	HR	0.08	HR	6.48	R	0.10	HR	11.76
<i>Multicaulis</i>	France	4.77	HR	0.23	HR	5.30	R	0.83	HR	1.87	HR	13.00
MR-1	Karnataka	4.89	HR	0.17	HR	1.12	HR	3.02	HR	4.40	HR	13.61
KPG-2	Kalimpong	4.91	HR	0.19	HR	0.98	HR	5.63	R	2.85	HR	14.56
Almora local	Uttaranchal	6.97	R	0.12	HR	1.80	HR	4.24	HR	2.32	HR	15.46
Okinowaso	Japan	6.65	R	0.67	HR	1.71	HR	6.03	R	1.82	HR	16.88
Kanva-2	Karnataka	4.11	HR	0.32	HR	1.92	HR	4.06	HR	6.48	HR	16.89
Fernandodias	Paraguay	6.45	R	0.04	HR	0.69	HR	4.06	HR	5.76	R	17.00
Cyprus	Cyprus	10.09	MR	0.33	HR	2.18	HR	3.42	HR	2.45	HR	18.47
China (White)	China	10.25	MR	0.67	HR	0.66	HR	7.39	R	0.00	I	18.97
<i>M. australis</i>	Australia	2.38	HR	0.12	HR	2.06	HR	3.3	HR	11.12	MR	18.99
China black-B	China	11.59	MR	0.52	HR	4.53	HR	2.66	HR	0.98	HR	20.28
<i>M. indica</i> (Black)	West Bengal	10.89	MR	0.93	HR	1.70	HR	1.24	HR	6.07	R	20.84
Dudhia White	West Bengal	8.04	R	0.23	HR	3.59	HR	3.15	HR	5.88	R	20.89
Bishnupur-4	West Bengal	15.82	MR	0.38	HR	1.34	HR	1.38	HR	2.31	HR	21.22
Kolitha-8	West Bengal	7.36	R	0.58	HR	8.51	R	2.69	HR	2.40	HR	21.52
CSRS-2	West Bengal	10.35	MR	0.90	HR	2.22	HR	1.25	HR	7.49	R	22.21
MS-8	Karnataka	14.21	MR	0.25	HR	2.03	HR	6.01	R	0.21	HR	22.72
Mandalaya	Burma	10.64	MR	1.13	HR	5.05	R	3.87	HR	2.89	HR	23.58
Surat	Gujrat	5.64	R	0.09	HR	3.91	HR	6.9	R	8.24	R	24.78
Sujanpur-5	Punjab	7.25	R	1.12	HR	6.09	R	7.57	R	2.94	HR	24.97
Assambola	Assam	10.59	MR	0.77	HR	3.30	HR	2.81	HR	8.18	R	25.65
Bogura-1	Bangladesh	10.44	MR	0.22	HR	1.61	HR	5.09	R	8.60	R	25.96
Jodhpur	Rajasthan	18.14	MR	0.71	HR	3.38	HR	3.9	HR	0.17	HR	26.31
Kajli	West Bengal	13.47	MR	0.19	HR	3.25	HR	1.99	HR	8.35	R	27.25
V1	Karnataka	12.52	MR	0.31	HR	3.52	HR	10.09	MR	0.83	HR	27.26
<i>M. indica</i> X	West Bengal	16.68	MR	0.40	HR	4.60	HR	4.23	HR	1.78	HR	27.69
Kurseong	West Bengal	16.14	MR	0.07	HR	2.54	HR	4.92	HR	4.76	HR	28.43
Bush Malda-B	West Bengal	13.13	MR	0.00	I	2.63	HR	3.64	HR	9.10	R	28.50
Koliakuthai	Assam	16.15	MR	0.00	I	1.64	HR	6.11	R	5.00	HR	28.90
Berhampore-B	West Bengal	16.71	MR	0.44	HR	3.24	HR	4.80	HR	3.86	HR	29.04
Calebrasa	Paraguay	17.63	MR	0.00	I	2.46	HR	5.22	R	3.78	HR	29.09
MS-5	Karnataka	15.04	MR	0.92	HR	5.28	R	5.43	R	2.79	HR	29.47
Sujanpur	Punjab	8.07	R	0.00	I	5.57	R	6.01	R	10.07	MR	29.73
Thailand (Unlobed)	Thailand	15.05	MR	0.64	HR	2.02	HR	4.07	HR	8.12	R	29.89
Burma-8	Burma	19.96	MR	0.13	HR	5.07	R	2.84	HR	2.06	HR	30.06
<i>M. indica</i> h.p	West Bengal	23.40	MR	0.50	HR	1.17	HR	4.48	HR	0.59	HR	30.15
Berhampore-20	West Bengal	16.66	MR	0.00	I	3.82	HR	1.94	HR	7.97	R	30.40
Bush Malda-A	West Bengal	12.43	MR	0.04	HR	13.35	MR	1.37	HR	3.49	HR	30.69

**Table 1.** Continued

Mulberry varieties	Origin	Percent disease index/disease response										CDI
		PMLD		MLS		PLS		SMLD		BLS		
		PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	PDI	DR	
MS-9	Karnataka	18.83	MR	0.40	HR	2.22	HR	5.78	R	3.57	HR	30.79
MS-7	Karnataka	22.39	MR	0.41	HR	1.22	HR	4.43	HR	2.35	HR	30.81
Matigara-White	West Bengal	13.70	MR	0.42	HR	5.99	R	3.1	HR	7.87	R	31.08
Berhampore-A	West Bengal	23.63	MR	0.42	HR	2.30	HR	4.47	HR	0.61	HR	31.43
Kakpilla	Assam	13.87	MR	1.29	HR	5.12	R	8.57	R	2.60	HR	31.45
MS-1	Karnataka	11.81	MR	1.56	HR	7.16	R	5.26	R	6.47	R	32.26
Bogura-4	Bangladesh	11.76	MR	0.52	HR	4.01	HR	4.28	HR	11.77	MR	32.35
Golaghat	Assam	22.00	MR	0.09	HR	1.72	HR	5.27	R	3.29	HR	32.36
Bishnupur-9	West Bengal	25.54	S	0.38	HR	2.40	HR	3.16	HR	1.18	HR	32.65
Matigara-Black	West Bengal	21.55	MR	0.62	HR	2.93	HR	4.91	HR	2.74	HR	32.74
Philippines	Philippines	22.33	MR	0.26	HR	5.57	R	3.64	HR	1.22	HR	33.03
Berhampore-6	West Bengal	14.64	MR	0.05	HR	5.18	R	4.96	HR	8.80	R	33.63
Jatinuni	Assam	18.51	MR	0.00	I	2.11	HR	7.51	R	5.58	R	33.71
Miuaso	Paraguay	26.24	S	0.42	HR	3.58	HR	3.31	HR	0.28	HR	33.83
Black cherry	Karnataka	22.40	MR	0.88	HR	1.54	HR	7.79	R	1.55	HR	34.16
Dudhia red	West Bengal	24.32	MR	0.32	HR	5.61	R	3.29	HR	0.70	HR	34.24
Shrim-2	Bangladesh	21.84	MR	0.25	HR	0.89	HR	10.72	MR	0.80	HR	34.50
<i>M. cathyana</i>	Indonesia	23.39	MR	0.10	HR	0.91	HR	3.97	HR	6.45	R	34.82
Kokusa-13	Japan	26.88	S	0.36	HR	1.42	HR	7.61	R	0.58	HR	36.85
Tista Valley	West Bengal	26.87	S	0.51	HR	3.03	HR	6.36	R	1.39	HR	38.16
Punjab local	Punjab	27.37	S	0.07	HR	2.81	HR	6.39	R	1.67	HR	38.30
RFS-175	Karnataka	17.89	MR	1.81	HR	6.89	R	9.08	R	2.90	HR	38.57
FGDTR-9	Karnataka	24.68	MR	0.42	HR	3.22	HR	10.62	MR	0.15	HR	39.09
Molai	Assam	26.59	S	0.09	HR	1.70	HR	7.71	R	3.07	HR	39.16
Monlai	Burma	25.48	S	0.22	HR	2.65	HR	7.7	R	3.54	HR	39.59
Mysore local	Karnataka	18.46	MR	0.66	HR	3.43	HR	6.81	R	11.01	MR	40.38
KPG-1	West Bengal	14.90	MR	0.55	HR	9.15	R	3.16	HR	13.22	MR	40.98
ACC165	Karnataka	23.02	MR	0.39	HR	2.89	HR	13.8	MR	1.01	HR	41.10
Kolitha-9	West Bengal	31.20	S	0.34	HR	4.41	HR	4.84	HR	0.59	HR	41.37
<i>M. nigra</i>	Indonesia	17.23	MR	0.41	HR	13.00	MR	6.94	R	5.15	R	42.72
Tollygangu	West Bengal	27.84	S	0.00	I	8.11	R	3.23	HR	3.86	HR	43.04
MS-6	Karnataka	32.62	S	0.39	HR	3.52	HR	6.09	R	0.60	HR	43.21
S1	West Bengal	25.54	S	1.85	HR	1.88	HR	10.5	MR	3.73	HR	43.50
Kollitha-3	West Bengal	33.71	S	0.22	HR	4.02	HR	5.33	R	0.34	HR	43.62
Shrim-5	Bangladesh	26.06	S	0.62	HR	6.76	R	9.97	R	0.28	HR	43.69
Sultanpur	U.P.	29.50	S	0.36	HR	6.78	R	7.11	R	1.95	HR	45.71
OPH-1	Karnataka	16.50	MR	0.83	HR	10.83	MR	11.15	MR	6.85	R	46.16
Shrim-8	Bangladesh	33.39	S	0.29	HR	5.88	R	7.12	R	0.78	HR	47.46
Monla-1	Burma	28.68	S	0.27	HR	8.89	R	7.03	R	3.57	HR	48.44
S1635	West Bengal	15.16	MR	1.00	HR	9.82	R	18.73	MR	4.03	HR	48.73
Kolitha-7	West Bengal	30.64	S	0.21	HR	10.23	MR	6.76	R	1.07	HR	48.91
Nagaland local	Nagaland	25.98	S	0.67	HR	4.87	HR	5.83	R	12.83	MR	50.18

PMLD: Powdery mildew, CDI: Cumulative disease index, MLS: *Myrothecium* leaf spot, I: Immune, PLS: *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot, HR: Highly resistant, SMLD: Sooty mold, R: Resistant, BLS: Bacterial leaf spot, MR: Moderately resistant.

moderately resistant to powdery mildew but our results indicate that the Koliakuthai moderately resistant, Punjab local and Shrim – 5 are susceptible to the disease. However, disease response of Almora local, Shrim – 2, Kakkilla, Assambola, Jatinuni and RFS<sub>175</sub> corroborate with their finding. Variation of disease response may be due to different agroclimatic condition as well as and cultural practices of the two different regions.

Fungal leaf spot viz., *Myrothecium* leaf spot and *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot are a major problem during monsoon in the Eastern and North Eastern region of India. Our study indicates that seven mulberry genotypes viz., Tollygunge, Bush Malda-B, Sujampur, Calabresa, Koliakuthai, Jatinuni and Berhampore-20 are immune to *Myrothecium* leaf spot. But none of the varieties were immune to *Pseudocercospora* leaf spot.

Sooty mold causing fungi grows profusely on the upper surface the mulberry leaf on the secretion honeydew of white fly as a result leaves are unfit for silkworm rearing. Severity of sooty mold causing fungi was > 5 PDI in forty-four genotypes.

Bacterial leaf spot is another major foliar disease of mulberry during monsoon in the Eastern and North Eastern region of India. Two genotypes viz., China White and *M. multicaulis* were found disease free through out study period. Besides, fifty-eight genotypes were found highly resistance to the disease with > 5% disease severity.

The present study indicates that both exotic and indigenous varieties having different level of resistance to different foliar diseases. The immune and resistance genotypes identified can be utilized for future disease resistance breeding programme to evolve disease resistant mulberry varieties.

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