Research Article

Standardization of *In Vitro* Cultural Conditions and Role of Nitrogenous Fertilizer Dose on Rice False Smut (*Ustilaginoidea virens*)

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Abstract

False smut of rice (*Ustilaginoidea virens* Cooke) is one of the most important disease affecting the rice production across the world. Since isolation and slow growth are two major constraints under axenic conditions, Potato Sucrose Agar (3%) with pH 6.5 incubated for 24 hours dark at 28C hastens the growth of the pathogen. This disease historically being uncommon and occurred sporadically in certain regions, regarded as an epidemic disease in all rice growing areas. Lack of adequate scientific information on role of nitrogenous fertilizer on rice, false smut induced an urgent need for identifying the effective dose of nitrogenous fertilizer. Present studies were undertaken to examine the effects of dose of nitrogenous fertilizers on false smut and the results revealed that a direct proportionality was existed between nitrogen doses and disease incidence.

Key words: False smut, fertilizer, nitrogen, rice

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