

Research Article**Analysis of Cultural and Molecular Variability among *Botrytis cinerea* Pers Isolates Causing Gray Mould of Capsicum****AK Mehra, AB Malannavar and DK Banyal***Department of Plant Pathology, CSK HPKV, Palampur-176 062; Email: dkbanyal@gmail.com***Abstract**

Botrytis cinerea is an economically important pathogen that can infect more than 200 plant species in the field, greenhouse and storage, which is attributed to its great flexibility in adapting to various environmental conditions. *Botrytis cinerea* isolates based on colony characteristics (*i.e.* type of growth, colony colour, shape and sporulation) exhibited considerable cultural variability and on the basis of these characteristics 18 isolates were categorized into 6 groups having 1, 4, 2, 4, 4 and 3 isolates in BCG1, BCG 2, BCG 3, BCG 4, BCG 5 and BCG 6, respectively. Molecular data generated by ISSR markers exhibited wide genetic diversity in *B cinerea* and 18 isolates were placed in 12 variant groups keeping 78 per cent similarity as cut-off point. Clustering of isolates into clades was based on geographical location of isolates.

Key words: *Botrytis cinerea*, cultural and molecular variability, ISSR markers

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