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SEED INFECTIONS WITH MYROTHECIUM SPP.

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Species of *Myrothecium*, a genus belonging to the amerosporous Tuberculariaceae of Hyphomycetes, were found to be seed-borne in eight crop plants belonging to five families :

- Cruciferae : *Lactuca sativa* (Lettuce)
- Cucurbitaceae : *Momordica charantia* (bitter gourd) and *Trichosanthes anguina* (snake gourd)
- Gramineae : *Oryza sativa* (rice)
- Leguminosae : *Glycine max* (soybean), *Vigna unguiculata* (cowpea)
- Solanaceae : *Capsicum annuum* (capsicum) and *Solanum melongena* (bringal)

Infected seeds had sporodochia on the seed surface.

Infections were detected in seeds from crops grown in ten different locations : Alutharama 1.0%, Bandarawela 0.3%, Bombuwela 0.3%, Karadian Aru 1.0-1.5%, Kilinochchi 1.0%, Kundasale 1.0%, Maha Illuppallama 2.0%, Marake 0.5%, Pelwehera 2.0% and Thirunelvely 1.0%.

Infections with *Myrothecium* appear to be associated with a leaf spotting condition in young seedlings. However, the amount of inoculum required to induce symptoms needs investigation.