SECTION B

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SEED-BORNE FUNGI OF CULTIVATED CROPS IN SRI LANKA

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In a systematic survey of seed infections in crops cultivated in Sri Lanka, nearly 300 seed samples of cereals, pulses and vegetable crops from various agro-ecological regions of the country were examined for the presence of seed-borne organisms. The blotter method for determining seed-borne fungi was extensively used.

Rice samples constituted the bulk of the cereals tested. There were marked differences in the degree of infection with *Drechslera oryzae* and *Trichoconis padwickii* in seed samples from different locations and also in seed samples of different varieties from the same location. *Pyricularia oryzae* was not encountered.

The crops tested in pulses were black gram, cowpea, green gram and soybean. *Ascochyta* sp., *Botryodiplodia* sp., *Cercospora* sp., *Corynespora cassiicola, Fusarium oxysporum, Fusarium solani, Macrophomina phaseolina, Myrothecium roridum* and *Phomopsis* sp. were noteworthy recordings.

The fungi of pathogenic significance detected in samples of vegetables and other crops were *Ascochyta* sp., *Botryodiplodia theobromae, Cercospora* sp., *Didymella bryoniae, Fusarium oxysporum, Fusarium solani, Macrophomina phaseolina, Myrothecium roridum, Myrothecium verrucarria, Phoma* spp. and *Rhizoctonia solani.*

Besides the above fungi, several genera of saprophytic fungi were also observed in most of the seed samples, *Chaetomium* spp., *Penicillium* spp. and *Trichoderma* spp., which are known to be biocontrol agents, were detected in several samples.