

A CONDITION OF CHILLI GROWN UNDER DRY ZONE CONDITIONS  
ASSOCIATED WITH GROWTH RETARDATION

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A condition of chilli reported from cultivations in dry zone areas was characterised by stunting and the inhibition of lamina development producing a little leaf syndrome. Sap transmissible virus isolate from affected plants infected a number of experimental hosts including *Chenopodium amaranticolor*, *Chenopodium quinoa*, *Chenopodium murale*, *Nicotiana tabacum* cv. White Burley, *Nicotiana rustica*, *Petunia hybrida*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Capsicum frutescens* and *Vigna unguiculata* cv. Black Eye. However, these isolates failed to induce symptoms comparable to the original condition. Further, recovery from the original condition was observed when affected plants were established in favourable soil media permitting good drainage and aeration. The new flush of leaves developed the normal lamina form.

The cause of the original condition appears to be related to factors operative through the soil or chemical inputs rather than a virus.