DIDYMELLA BRYONIAE (AUERSW.) REHM - A SEED-TRANSMITTED PATHOGEN IN CUCURBITACEOUS CROP PLANTS

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In tests with seed samples of five cultivated cucurbitaceous crop plants, bitter gourd (Momordica charantia L.), snake gourd (Trichosanthes cucumerina L.), sponge gourd (Luffa acutangulata (L.) Roxb), cucumber (Cucumis sativus L.) and pumpkin (Cucurbita sp.) obtained from 15 stations both in the wet and dry zones, the pathogenic fungus Didymella bryoniae (Auersw.) Rehm was detected in blotter tests in two species, cucumber and snake gourd. The locations where infections occurred were Wagolla for cucumber and Ambepussa and Nilambe for snake gourd. The fungus was present on the seed coat, cotyledons and endosperm. It causes pre-emergence rot, stem canker and leaf spot and is considered an important seed-transmitted pathogen.