

**B-76: Some observations on the health status of vegetative planting materials imported into Sri Lanka**

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Samples of imported vegetative planting material received at the National Plant Quarantine Service, Katunayake, provided the materials for this study. They included cuttings of orchids, corms of *Gladiolus*, bulbs of lillies and tubers of potato. Samples were examined visually and tissue pieces plated on a potato dextrose agar medium for the detection of microorganisms. They were observed in growing-on tests for abnormalities and virus-like symptoms. Virus infections were detected by indicator inoculation tests and confirmed by immunosorbent electron microscopy.

The more important fungi of pathogenic significance detected were *Acrimonella atra* and *Fusarium solani* in *Vanda*, and *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Fusarium* spp and *Geotrichum* sp. in potato. A potyvirus was detected in *Vanda* and *Dendrobium* and tentatively identified as Cymbidium mosaic virus.

Although fungal infections are easily detected, symptoms of virus infections were not always prominent and there was the possibility of latent infections. Therefore, the need for reliable phytosanitary certification of the health status of plant materials from countries from which imports are made is of the utmost importance.