

## Screening of field crop varieties for the infection of *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam

K K S D Pradeepika\*, M Rambukkana and D P P Jayakody  
National Plant Quarantine Service, Katunayake

Thirty three varieties of nineteen field crops were screened for the infection of *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam. under net house conditions. Seeds were planted in clay pots filled with garden soil arranged randomly and replicated twice. Red onion (*Allium cepa*) var. Vedalan and maize (*Zea mays*) var. Badra were used as the susceptible check and resistant check, respectively. *Daucus carota* (Carrot), *Brassica oleracea* (Cabbage), *Spinacia oleracea* (Spinach), *Cucumis sativus* (Cucumber), *Momordica charantia* (Bitter gourd: var.MC 43), *Trichosanthes cucumerina* (Snake gourd: var.MI Short), *Glycine max* (Soybean: var.Pb 1 and PM 13), *Vigna radiata* (Green gram: var.MI 5, Ari and MI 6), *Capsicum annum* (Green chilli: var. MI 1,MI 2, MI Hot, KA 2 and Arunalu), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (Tomato: var.Donna 091) and *Solanum melongena* (Brinjal: var. SM 164) were identified as susceptible crop varieties for the infection of *Cuscuta chinensis*. *Raphanus sativus* (Raddish: var. Big ball and Beeralu), *Arachis hypogoea* (Groundnut: var. Walava and Indi), *Abelmoschus esculentus* (Okra: var. Haritha and Sudu bandakka) were found to be resistant for the infection. However, the parasite grew and flowered on *Vigna unguiculata* (Cowpea: var. Dawala, Wijaya, MI 35 and Waruni) and *Vigna unguiculata*, sub 'sp. *Sesquipedalis* (Vegetable cowpea: var. Polon mae and AC 000555) showing different response for the infection. In this case, vine and haustoria died after few days indicating that they are tolerant for the infection. Thus, these resistant crop varieties for the infection of *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam. could be included in a crop rotation programme to manage this parasitic plant.

Tel: 011-2252028