

## Studies on groundnut rust *Puccinia arachidis*

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During recent surveys extensive damage due to groundnut rust was found in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. In Gujarat, only mild, scattered outbreaks were recorded but no rust was found in Punjab. Only uredospores were found during the surveys and under natural climatic conditions in Hyderabad they were short lived.

Screening germplasm for resistance under heavy natural infection is possible at Hyderabad during the Kharif season. A detached leaf technique has been developed to screen material under laboratory conditions. Two cultivars (PI 259747 and PI 298115), reported resistant elsewhere, were resistant at Hyderabad and are being used extensively in hybridization programmes. Fourteen  $F_3$  breeding lines from Puerto Rico appear to be excellent sources of further resistant material.

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