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## A New Report of *Bipolaris panici-miliacei* on Pearl Millet

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Pearl millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.] is the staple cereal crop best suited to the harsh climate of the seasonably hot, drought-prone, semi-arid regions of Africa and the Indian subcontinent. The relative importance of pearl millet diseases excluding nematodes is downy mildew 45%, *Striga* spp 32%, smut 9%, ergot 7%, rust 3%, viruses >1%, and other diseases 3% (King 1992).

An infected stalk of pearl millet was collected during Oct 1990 from Rajasthan, India. Later a fungus was isolated from the infected portion on potato dextrose agar and submitted for identification to the International Mycological Institute (IMI), London, UK. The fungus was identified as *Bipolaris panici-miliacei* (Nisikado) Shoem (IMI number 344665). The isolate of the fungus has been placed in the IMI herbarium. In literature, the fungus has not been reported on *Pennisetum* spp. However, there are reports from India of its occurrence on *Panicum psilopodium* (Misra et al. 1980), and from Papua New Guinea on *Setaria palmifolix* (Shaw 1921). Therefore, this is presumed to be the first report from India.

**Fungal description.** Conidiophores are single, or in small groups, dark olivaceous brown, simple, cylindrical, geniculate, 75–255 × 7–11 µm thick, and septate. Conidiogenous nodes and the surface below them are verruculose. Conidia fusoid, dark olivaceous brown, tapering gradually towards the ends, straight to sometimes slightly curved, 2–10 distoseptate, 30–155 × 10–27 µm with dark hilum included within the contour of the basal cell (Sivanesan 1987).

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## Dry Stalk Rot – A New Disease of Pearl Millet in Rajasthan

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## Introduction

Pearl millet is an important cereal of the semi-arid tropical regions of the world. In Rajasthan, India, pearl millet is cultivated on 4–6 million ha annually, mostly in the western part of the state where annual rainfall is 200–400 mm. No other cereal crops can be grown successfully under these conditions. In this region, both grain and stover yields are important products of pearl millet because animals are a major component of the farming system.