

Short Communication

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A LEAF SPOT DISEASE OF WILLOW (*SALIX ALBA* L.) CAUSED BY *CERCOSPORA SALICIS* CHUPP AND GREENE

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In March, 1976 a diseased specimen of *Salix alba* was collected from Mirpur-Sakro, 60 miles South East of Karachi, in Thatta District. The disease manifests in the form of small, circular to irregular dark, reddish brown spots on the leaves. Under severe attack, spots become coalescent and cover the entire leaf surface. The affected leaves turn yellow, dry and finally defoliate (Fig - 1). The incidence of the disease observed was 90%.

On microscopic examination, the fungus was found to be a species of *Cercospora*, which has been identified as *Cercospora salicis* Chupp & Greene. A brief description of the fungus is given below.

Fruiting mainly epiphyllous, olivaceous faintly effuse; stromata consists of a few olivaceous cells. Conidiophores in dense fascicles, pale olivaceous brown, unbranched, indistinctly multiseptate; straight to curved, mostly geniculate measuring $2.5-4.5 \times 19-55 \mu$ Cnidia pale olivaceous cylindrical, straight to mildly curved, 1 to 7 septate, base truncate tip obtuse.



Fig. 1. Leaf spots of *Cercospora salicis*.

measuring $2.5-5 \times 22-74 \mu$.

The fungus on being referred to Commonwealth Mycological Institute Kew, was confirmed as *Cercospora salicis* Chupp & Greene and appears to have been reported for the first time in Pakistan. The specimen has been deposited in the Mycological herbarium Karachi vide Acc. No. 4703.

Reference

1. C. Chupp (A Monograph of the Fungus Genus *Cercospora*, Ithaca, New York, 1953), p. 667.