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The pooled mean of three kharif seasons revealed that, the minimum root rot incidence (13.0 %) and maximum percent reduction of disease over control (68.8%) and yield (304 kg/ha) was realized in integrated treatment T5 i.e. seed treatment T. viride (Tv) + P. fluorescens (Pf) @ 5 g/kg each + soil application of P. fluorescens @ 2.5 kg/ha + T. viride @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in FYM + neem cake @ 250 kg/ha at the time of sowing, whereas the maximum incidence (41.7 %) and minimum yield (127 kg/ha) was recorded in untreated check (Nayan et al., 2019). Similar kind of results were obtained during summer season also (Table 1). Overall, the incidence of root rot was less during summer as compared to kharif. However, maximum yield was realized in summer over kharif. The yield reduction during kharif was due to severe incidence of phyllody in experimental plots. It was found that, combined application of bio-control agents (*T. viride* and *P. fluorescens*) as seed treatment and soil application showed the minimum root rot incidence and higher yields as compared to application of bio-control agent alone and over untreated check.

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Table 1 Integrated management of root rot disease of sesame

	Pooled data (Kharif, 2014, 2015 and 2015)			Pooled (Summer, 2015 and 2018)	
Treatment	Root Rot (%)	Phyllody %)	Yield (kg/ha)	Root Rot (%)	Yield (Kg/ha)
T1-Seed treatment <i>T. viride</i> @ 4 g/kg + soil application of <i>Tv</i> @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in 100 kg of FYM at sowing.	18.5 (25.1)	21.3 (26.8)	231	11.9 (19.6)	664
T2-Seed treatment <i>P. flourescens</i> @ 10 g/kg + Soil application of Pf @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in 100 kg of FYM at sowing.	24.0 (28.8)	22.4 (27.7)	204	12.9 (19.9)	654
Γ3-Seed treatment <i>T. viride</i> @ 4 g/kg + soil application of <i>Tv</i> @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in 100 kg of FYM + neem cake @ 250 kg/ha at sowing.	23.1 (28.4)	25.0 (29.3)	226	6.8 (14.1)	611
Γ4-Seed treatment <i>P. fluorescens</i> @ 10 g/kg + soil application of Pf @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in 100 kg of FYM + neem cake 250 kg/ha at sowing.	22.6 (27.6)	23.4 (28.3)	261	16.1 (23.4)	672
TS-Seed treatment Tv + Pf @ 10 g /kg + Soil application of Pf @ 2.5 kg/ha + Tv @ 2.5 kg/ha enriched in 100 kg of FYM + neem cake @ 250 kg/ha at sowing.	13.0 (20.9)	17.8 (24.7)	304	9.3 (15.8)	769
F6-Seed treatment Carbendazim @ 2 g/kg + soil drenching with Carbendazim @ 1 g/l.	33.4 (35.1)	19.8 (25.9)	183	13.5 (21.2)	561
Γ7-Untreated check	41.7 (40.1)	27.8 (31.6)	127	27.7 (31.7)	473
S.Em <u>+</u>	2.7	2.2	17.1	3.1	70.1
CV%	18.7	17.0	13.6	23.5	19.3
LSD (5%)	7.7	6.3	49.0	9.0	204

^{*}mean of 3 replications; figures in parenthesis are angular transformed values

Genetic variability for Alternaria leaf blight resistance in groundnut genotypes

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ABSTRACT

Fifty genotypes were screened for resistance to Alternaria leaf blight during three successive summer seasons during 2013 to 2015. Pooled analysis of variance indicated significant genotypic differences observed for resistance of Alternaria leaf blight indicating the existence of genetic variability among the 50 genotypes. Alternaria leaf blight had high heritability coupled with high genetic advance as per cent of mean revealed selection would be effective for improving this trait in studied genotypes. Based on three year data two advanced breeding lines *viz.*, PBS-12169,

PBS-12190 found resistance to Alternaria leaf blight. These genotypes can be used in breeding programme for developing high yielding groundnut cultivars resistance to Alternaria leaf blight.

Keywords: Alternaria leaf blight, Genetic variability, Genotypes, Groundnut

Groundnut (Arachis hypogaea L.) is an important self-pollinated oilseed crop grown in 117 countries with different agro-climatic conditions between 40oN to 40oS latitudes. In India, last 4-5 years it has been observed that incidence of Alternaria leaf blight has continued to increase in farmers field of summer groundnut in Gujarat. Alternaria leaf blight is becoming a major disease in rabi-summer groundnut particularly in major groundnut growing states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra. These five states account for about 80% area of total rabisummer groundnut area of country. It has been reported that Alternaria leaf blight reduced 13-22% pod yield, 24-63% haulm yield and it also affects kernel quality in groundnut (Kumar et al., 2012). The objective of this investigation was to evaluate groundnut genotypes for resistance to Alternaria leaf blight and to identify resistance sources.

A total of 50 genotypes including advanced breeding lines, interspecific derivatives and cultivars recommended for summer season were screened for resistance to Alternaria leaf spot during three successive summer seasons during 2013 to 2015 following RBD with three replications and disease was scored using modified 1-9 scale. Data on pod yield (kg/ha), shelling out-turn (%), days to maturity and 100 kernel weight (g), SPAD chlorophyll meter reading (SCMR) and Specific leaf area (cm2/g) at 50 and 80 DAS were recorded. Analysis was performed using DSAASTAT (Onofri, 2007).

Pooled analysis of variance indicated significant genotypic differences observed for all the traits. Disease incidence ranged between 3 and 9 on 1-9 scale.

Maximum average disease score was observed in an advanced breeding line PBS 12092 (8.7 on 1-9 scale). Two advanced breeding lines viz., PBS-12169, PBS-12190 had disease score ≤4.3 which was at par with resistant check NRCGCS 349 (with 4.3 score). High heritability along with high genetic advance as per cent of mean observed for Alternaria leaf blight indicated that this disease is least influenced by environmental effect. Hence selection would be rewarding for improving this trait due to additive effect. Based on pod yield (kg/ha), top five high yielding and low yielding genotypes were selected and observed difference between these two groups for all characters. High yielding genotypes had tolerance to Alternaria leaf blight (≤ 6.0 on 1-9 scale), high shelling out-turn (68%), short duration (114 days), high HKW (39g), high SCMR (33), low SLA (176 and 160 cm²/g at 50 and 80 DAS respectively) while low yielders were susceptible to Alternaria leaf blight and were also having lower value of all the studied traits except SLA.

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Evaluating bio-safety of newer and conventional insecticides against parasitoids and predators of castor whitefly

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ABSTRACT

This investigation was carried out to evaluate the bio-safety of newer and conventional insecticides tested against *Eretmocerus mundus*, *Nephus regularis*, *Chilocorus nigirita* under laboratory conditions at Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur. The results showed that diafenthiuron 50 WP @ 0.8g/l and buprofezin 25 SC @ 0.8 ml/l recorded lowest adult mortality of *Eretmocerus mundus* (60 and 65 percent), *Nephus regularis* (40.60 and 39.40 per cent) and *Chilocorus nigirita* (39.20 and 34.60 per cent) respectively and highest adult emergence (74.41 and 73.49 percent) in *Eretmocerus mundus*. However, thiomethaxam 25 WG0.4 g/l and dimethoate 30 EC1.7 ml/l were very harmful to parasitoid and predators.

Keywords: Bio-safety, Castor, Insecticides. Parasitoids, Predators, Whitefly