

Identification of purple blotch and thrips resistant lines of onion (*Allium cepa* L.)

ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted for Identification of purple blotch and thrips resistant lines of onion (*Allium cepa* L.). 36 elite genotypes were evaluated during winter season (*rabi*) 2022-23 at three different environments in 3 replications. RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1 genotypes had showed thrips population less than 22.90 and highly resistant to thrips infestation. Purple blotch disease, caused by *Alternaria porrii* the most common devastating disease of onion under field conditions throughout the globe. RO-1, Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × RO-59 and Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti were found resistant with grade scale of 1. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 1-10 per cent. The identified resistant genotypes can further be used for commercial cultivation or may be used as parents in future onion improvement programmes.

Keywords: Onion, *Allium cepa* L., germplasm, purple blotch disease, thrips

INTRODUCTION

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is a prime vegetable crop of the genus *Allium* belongs to the family alliaceae with chromosome number $2n (2x) = 16$ and it is confounded to be originated from Central Asia centre of origin and near East and Mediterranean regions are considered as secondary centers of origin (Vavilov, 1926 and Mccollum, 1976). Onions are used as raw as salad, vegetable and spice all over the world (Katyal, 1985). The bulb and greens are rich in vitamin C, dietary fiber, mineral potassium, folic acid and it is richest source of mineral vanadium. It is also contains calcium, iron and high quality protein with low sodium without fat (Roshania and Agrawal, 1981). Onion bulb contains 86.8 per cent of moisture, 11 g of carbohydrates, 1.2 g of protein, 0.6 g of fiber, 0.08 mg of thiamine, 11 mg of vitamin- C, 180 mg of calcium, 50 mg of phosphorus, 0.7 mg of iron, 0.4 mg of nicotinic acid and 0.01 mg of riboflavin per 100 g of edible portion (Nadkarni, 1993).

Onion is susceptible to foliar diseases that reduce bulb yield and quality (Cramer 2000), among foliar diseases purple blotch disease caused by *Alternaria porri*(Ellis). Cif. major threat for onion production, purple blotch infected leaves are reddish brown septate non-sporulatingmycelium (Datar 1994), air borne spores of *A. porri*were responsible for increased disease incidence of onioncultivar Creamish-golden coloured leaves with requiredleaf wetness duration at 5 °C for 16 h and 8 h at 10-25°C. The numbers of lesions are increased with increaseof leaf wetness duration and temperature reported bySuheri and Price (2001). It was first reported by Ajrekar(1921) from Bombay state of India, and it is a majoronion disease across the world (Cramer2000) prevalent in warm humidclimate (Suheri and Price 2001). The infestation causeson leaves and flower stalks, reduces oniontops yield by 62–92 % (Suheri and Price 2001), loss ofbulb yield by 30 % and seedyield by 10 % under congenial environmental conditions(Schwartz 2004), causing heavy yieldloss ranging from 2.5 to 87.8 % during *kharif* season(Srivastava et al. 1994).

Among several insect pest onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*Lindeman, Thysanoptera: Thripidae) pose severe problem(Gupta et al. 1994) and major limiting factor affectingyield,

larvae and adults were rasping of leaves and sucking of sap from plant parts could lead to the chlorotic spot of leaves, deformities of foliage and finally it led to reduced size and yield of bulb (Salas 1994). The highest infestation recorded from 35 to 100% thrips incidence and 3.5-30.3 nymphs per plant, both nymphs and adults of thrips by rasping of leaves, suck the exuding sap. *T. tabaci* Lindeman densities increased on matured plant and low on young plants on which higher numbers of larvae gathered than adults at the base of plants as hiding place (Mo et al. 2008), as cryptic life style stay under the leaf surface and places far from reach control problematic, and consequently difficult to control by means of cultural and chemicals and cause yield losses estimated due to the incidence of thrips in onion has to the tune of 40 to 50% (Gupta et al. 1994).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at Horticulture farm, SKN College of Agriculture, Jobner (Jaipur) (Rajasthan), during rabi season of 2022-23. Eight genetically diverse parents namely, RO-1, RO-59, Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Kashi No. 1 and Pusa Red were crossed in diallel fashion excluding reciprocals. All the 28 F₁s were evaluated in a randomized block design with three replications under 3 different date of sowing. The seedlings were planted in row 15 cm apart by hand dibbling method with a row to row spacing of 10 cm. The standard cultural practices were followed to raise the crop. Number of thrips (both nymphs and adults) was recorded from 5 randomly selected plants in each plot by keeping a white paper below the plant and then shaking the plants with finger. The tested genotypes were also grouped into four categories of resistance viz., highly resistant, resistant, susceptible and highly susceptible based on number of thrips per plant. For purple blotch disease incidence was recorded by using the disease scale given by Bhangale and Joi (1985). Disease incidence data was recorded after 75 days of transplanting on each cultivar by using following formula.

$$\text{Disease incidence \%} = \frac{\text{Total infected plants observed}}{\text{Total plants observed}} \times 100$$

Total plants observed

The genotypes were placed in different categories of resistance and susceptibility as follows on the basis of score method.

- Scale: 0 = (I) Immune
1 = (R) Resistant (1- 10%)
2 = (MR) moderately resistant (11- 20%)
3 = (MS) moderately susceptible (21- 40%)

- 4 = (S) Susceptible (41- 60%)
5 = (HS) highly susceptible (61% and above)

Results and Discussion

Screening of different genotypes of onion against purple blotch disease (*Alternaria porri*)

A total of 36 onion genotypes were screened in field under natural condition. The genotypes were grouped as per the scale of Bhangale and Joi (1985) and data is presented in Table 2.

The results revealed that at 75 DAP in E₁, among the genotypes none of them were found immune, while four genotypes *viz.*, RO-1, Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × RO-59 and Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti were found resistant with grade scale of 1. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 1-10 per cent. Thirteen genotypes RO-59, Pusa Madhavi, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red were grouped under in moderately resistant group and the grade scale was 2 with 11-20 per cent leaf area infection. Fifteen genotypes Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-1 × Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-1 × Pusa Red, RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red and Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1 were grouped under in moderately susceptible group and the grade scale was 3 with 21-40 per cent leaf area infection and three genotypes Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × Kashi No. 1 and Bhima Kiran × Pusa Red were susceptible with grade scale of 4. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 41-60 per cent and among the genotypes none of them were found highly susceptible group. In E₂, among the genotypes none of them were found immune, while one genotype *viz.*, RO-59 were found resistant with grade scale of 1. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 1-10 per cent. Twelve genotypes RO-1, Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red were grouped under in moderately resistant group and the grade scale was 2 with 11-20 per cent leaf area infection. Fifteen genotypes Bhima Shakti, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-1 × Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Pusa

Madhavi, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red and Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1 were grouped under in moderately susceptible group and the grade scale was 3 with 21-40 per cent leaf area infection and six genotypes Bhima Kiran, Pusa Madhavi, Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × Pusa Red, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1 and Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red were susceptible with grade scale of 4. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 41-60 per cent and among the genotypes none of them were found highly susceptible group. In E₃, among the genotypes none of them were found immune and resistant, while five genotypes RO-59, RO-1 × RO-59, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Madhavi, and Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha were grouped under in moderately resistant group and the grade scale was 2 with 11-20 per cent leaf area infection. Twenty four genotypes RO-1, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-1 × Pusa Shobha, RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red, Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red were grouped under in moderately susceptible group and the grade scale was 3 with 21-40 per cent leaf area infection and four genotypes RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-1 × Pusa Red and RO-59 × Kashi No. 1 were susceptible with grade scale of 4. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 41-60 per cent and three genotypes Bhima Kiran, Kashi No. 1 and RO-1 × Kashi No. 1 were found highly susceptible group and the grade scale was 4 with 61 per cent and more leaf area infection. Similar result were reported by Alimousavi et al. (2007), Kumari et al. (2011), Tripathy et al. (2013), Suhas et al. (2016) and Lakshmi pathi (2016).

Screening of different genotypes of onion against thrips (*Thrips tabaci*)

The different genotypes of onion were also grouped into four different categories of resistance viz., highly resistant, resistant, moderately resistant and susceptible are presented in Table 1.

At 75 DAP in E₁, RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1 genotypes had showed thrips population less than 22.90 and highly resistant to thrips infestation. However, genotypes RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi and Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red

showed thrips population more than 22.90 but less than 23.83 per plant were grouped into resistant. While, genotypes, Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-1 × Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × Pusa Red, RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red, Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red, Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red were found moderately resistant by recording thrips population more than 23.83 but less than 27.10 per plant. Whereas, none of the genotypes found susceptible by recording thrips population more than 27.10 per plants, In E₂, RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-59 × bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi and Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1 genotypes had showed thrips population less than 24.69 and highly resistant to thrips infestation. However, genotypes RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red and Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red showed thrips population more than 24.69 but less than 25.61 per plant were grouped into resistant. While, genotypes, Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Kashi No. 1, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-1 × Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × Pusa Red, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red were found moderately resistant by recording thrips population more than 25.61 but less than 29.31 per plant. Whereas, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1 and Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1 genotypes found susceptible by recording thrips population more than 29.31 per plants. In E₃, RO-1 × RO-59 genotype had showed thrips population less than 23.76 and highly resistant to thrips infestation. However, RO-1, RO-59, Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Kashi No. 1, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Bhima Kiran, RO-1 × Pusa Red, RO-59 × Bhima Kiran, RO-59 × bhima Shakti, RO-59 × Pusa Shobha, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1, RO-59 × Pusa Red, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha × Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Madhavi × Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi × Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 × Pusa Red genotypes showed thrips population more than 23.76 but less than 27.08 per plant were grouped into resistant. While, genotypes, RO-1 × Bhima Shakti, RO-1 × Kashi No. 1 and Bhima Kiran × Pusa Red were found moderately resistant by recording thrips population more than 27.08 but less than 28.24 per plant. Whereas, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Red, RO-1 × Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran × Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran × Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti × Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha × Kashi No. 1 and Pusa Shobha × Pusa Red genotypes found susceptible by recording thrips population more than 27.10 per plants. Similar result were reported by Alimousavi et al. (2007), Kumari et al. (2011), Tripathy et al. (2013), Suhas et al. (2016) and Lakshmipathi (2016).

CONCLUSION

RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 × RO-59, RO-1 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 × Kashi No. 1 genotypes had showed thrips population less than 22.90 and highly resistant to thrips infestation. Purple blotch disease, caused by *Alternaria porrii* the most common devastating disease of onion under field conditions throughout the globe. RO-1, Pusa Shobha, RO-1 × RO-59 and Bhima Kiran × Bhima Shakti were found resistant with grade scale of 1. The per cent leaf area infection ranged from 1-10 per cent. The identified resistant genotypes can further be used for commercial cultivation or may be used as parents in future onion improvement programmes.

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Genotypes	Plant Disease Index		
	E ₁	E ₂	E ₃
RO-1 (P ₁)	10	20	25
RO-59 (P ₂)	15	10	20
Bhima Kiran (P ₃)	35	45	65
Bhima Shakti (P ₄)	30	40	40
Pusa Shobha (P ₅)	10	20	25
Pusa Madhavi (P ₆)	20	30	25

Kashi No. 1 (P ₇)	45	55	65
Pusa Red (P ₈)	30	40	35
P ₁ x P ₂	10	15	20
P ₁ x P ₃	25	35	50
P ₁ x P ₄	15	15	25
P ₁ x P ₅	30	25	35
P ₁ x P ₆	30	40	60
P ₁ x P ₇	45	55	65
P ₁ x P ₈	40	45	50
P ₂ x P ₃	25	30	35
P ₂ x P ₄	15	20	25
P ₂ x P ₅	20	25	30
P ₂ x P ₆	25	15	30
P ₂ x P ₇	45	40	50
P ₂ x P ₈	25	20	30
P ₃ x P ₄	10	25	30
P ₃ x P ₅	15	25	20
P ₃ x P ₆	30	35	20
P ₃ x P ₇	40	45	30
P ₃ x P ₈	45	50	35
P ₄ x P ₅	15	25	20
P ₄ x P ₆	20	15	25
P ₄ x P ₇	25	35	40
P ₄ x P ₈	30	45	40
P ₅ x P ₆	15	20	25
P ₅ x P ₇	20	15	25
P ₅ x P ₈	20	25	30
P ₆ x P ₇	35	40	30
P ₆ x P ₈	20	15	25
P ₇ x P ₈	10	15	20

Table 1: Screening of different genotypes of onion against Purple blotch disease

Scale: 0 = (I) Immune

1 = (R) Resistant (1-10%)

2 = (MR) Moderately resistant (11-20%)

3 = (MS) Moderately susceptible (21-40%)

4 = (S) Susceptible (41-60%)

5 = (HS) Highly susceptible (61% and above)

Table 2: Screening of different genotypes of onion against thrips

Category of resistance	Scale (Thrips population)	Screening of different genotypes of onion against thrips
Highly resistant in E ₁	< 22.90	RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 x RO-59, RO-1 x Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 x Pusa Madhavi and RO-59 x Kashi No. 1
Resistant in E ₁	> 22.90 < 23.83	RO-1 x Bhima Kiran, RO-59 x Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti x Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha x Pusa Madhavi and Pusa Madhavi x Pusa Red

Moderately resistant in E₁	>23.83<27.10	Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Red, RO-1 x Bhima Shakti, RO-1 x Pusa Shobha, RO-1 x Kashi No. 1, RO-1 x Pusa Red, RO-59 x Bhima Kiran, RO-59 x bhima Shakti, RO-59 x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran x Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran x Kashi No. 1, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha x Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha x Pusa Red, Pusa Madhavi x Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi x Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 x Pusa Red
Susceptible in E₁	>27.10	-
Highly resistant in E₂	< 24.69	RO-1, RO-59, RO-1 x RO-59, RO-1 x Bhima Kiran, RO-1 x Bhima Shakti, RO-59 x bhima Shakti, RO-59 x Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 x Pusa Red, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Madhavi and Pusa Madhavi x Kashi No. 1
Resistant in E₂	> 24.69 <25.61	RO-59 x Bhima Kiran, RO-59 x Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Red and Pusa Shobha x Pusa Red
Moderately resistant in E₂	>25.61 <29.31	Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Kashi No. 1, Pusa Red, RO-1 x Pusa Madhavi, RO-1 x Kashi No. 1, RO-1 x Pusa Red, RO-59 x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran x Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha x Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Madhavi x Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 x Pusa Red
Susceptible in E₂	>29.31	Bhima Kiran x Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti x Kashi No. 1 and Pusa Shobha x Kashi No. 1
Highly resistant in E₃	< 23.76	RO-1 x RO-59
Resistant in E₃	> 23.76 <27.08	RO-1, RO-59, Bhima Kiran, Bhima Shakti, Kashi No. 1, RO-1 x RO-59, RO-1 x Bhima Kiran, RO-1 x Pusa Red, RO-59 x Bhima Kiran, RO-59 x bhima Shakti, RO-59 x Pusa Shobha, RO-59 x Pusa Madhavi, RO-59 x Kashi No. 1, RO-59 x Pusa Red, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Shakti x Kashi No. 1, Pusa Shobha x Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Madhavi x Kashi No. 1, Pusa Madhavi x Pusa Red and Kashi No. 1 x Pusa Red
Moderately resistant in E₃	>27.08< 28.24	RO-1 x Bhima Shakti, RO-1 x Kashi No. 1 and Bhima Kiran x Pusa Red
Susceptible in E₃	>28.24	Pusa Shobha, Pusa Madhavi, Pusa Red, RO-1 x Pusa Shobha, RO-1 x Pusa Madhavi, Bhima Kiran x Bhima Shakti, Bhima Kiran x Pusa Shobha, Bhima Kiran x Kashi No. 1, Bhima Shakti x Pusa Red, Pusa Shobha x Kashi No. 1 and Pusa Shobha x Pusa Red