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ADDENDUM

CLARIFICATION OF THE POINTS RAISED IN THE FOREIGN REPORT

1. It is true that wind is a crucial factor determining the reliability of data collected with Petri-dish method. Due to unavailability of the instrument (i.e. Anemometer), I failed to measure and correlate wind speed with the results from exposed plates. Moreover, it was difficult to install the instrument in the private crop fields where the survey was undertaken.

2. For each sampling, five plates were exposed irrespective of the various crops cultivated in different seasons of the year. The total CFUs appeared in the five plates were represented as results for analysis. It is also mentioned in page 40 (wheat).

   [Addition on page 19, line 9 - A total of five plates was exposed on the day of sampling to obtain total CFUs (colony forming units) of the plates.]

3. The different crops are cultivated in different seasons of the year, and each crop (except banana), is limited for a particular season. Hence, only fractions of weather data for respective crops are represented for analysis.

   Attempts were made to correlate between weather factors and air spora of particular crop fields. Spore counts were found to vary with the crop growth stage and with environmental factors have been given in page 20-23, pg 31 paragraph 3, pg 41 paragraph 1, pg 52 paragraph 3 and pg 60 lines 6-10, pg 62 paragraph 3, pg 71 paragraph 3, pg 80 paragraph 3 and in pg 92 paragraph 3.

   Regression analysis could be performed in this regard. The extent on which the weather variables may affect on fungus spores have been considered to some extent, as mentioned in pg 23 lines 20-22, pg 25 lines 11-14, pg 28 lines 13-21, pg 29 lines 9-15, pg 34 lines 3-6 and 14, pg 38 lines 11-14 and 21-23, pg 49 lines 23-25

and pg 50 lines 1-2 & 4-9, pg 79 lines 11-14, pg 83 lines 13-19, pg 85 lines 1-5 & 20-23, pg 88 lines 2-4, pg 89 lines 17-20, pg 90 lines 3-11, pg 100 lines 22-26 to pg 101 lines 1-6.

However, I am thankful to the examiner for suggestion to undertake multiple regression analysis to examine the effect of weather variables to CFUs. The test will be done during publication of papers as suggested by the examiner.

4. The major component of the air-mycoflora belonged to the Fungi Imperfecti, as evident in various reports from different corners of the globe. Hence, comparatively very few taxa on Ascomycetes were retrieved from the sample. Moreover, the sampling method was selective.

Regarding Basidiomycetes, some of them are not culturable. Those which appear on culture plates, never sporulate; hence identification is not possible, and an appreciable number was already grouped under "Sterile forms" in the thesis (pg 50-51).

5. The pictures which were not of good quality have been replaced in the corrected copy, submitted herewith.

6. The patients were selected on the basis of their allergic symptoms showing asthma or respiratory troubles. The number of patients treated with the antigens were according to the patients available in the clinic.

[Addition on page 194, line 6 - The patients selected for skin tests were sufferring from allergic symptoms showing asthma or respiratory troubles.].

CLARIFICATION OF THE POINTS RAISED

BY THE INDIAN EXAMINER

1. In the present aerobiological survey, the culture plate technique was followed throughout, mainly for easy and precise identification of the isolates, which was an important step in my research work. Moreover, since the survey was restricted over crop fields, the emphasis was laid on viable spores rather than non-viable, which play an important role in plant pathogenicity and epidemiology.
2. Photomicrographs lacking clarity have been replaced in the modified copy of the thesis.
3. Attempts were made to compare the air mycoflora with phylloplane mycoflora of different crops as evident from the thesis (page 151 lines 8-10, page 152 lines 4-9, page 153 last line to pg 154 second line; page 154 lines 4-8 and lines 16-21).
4. *Drechslera* could not be identified up to species level, hence it was not mentioned in the thesis.
5. In skin tests with mould allergens, the positive reactions could not be graded as 1+, 2+, 3+ and so on, as I had to depend on the data processed in the hospital concerned.