Introduction
A survey by Mac Clement and Richards (1956) in Canada showed that the frequency with which some of the wild plants are infected with viruses is high. Virologists have been primarily concerned with viruses causing economic losses in cultivated plants overlooking wild species that grow in and around cultivated areas. These wild species may act as reservoirs of viruses. In all probabilities most economically important viruses have moved from wild plants to cultivated ones when new crops have been introduced into an area. Viruses that are introduced with cultivated plants often infect wild plants, which form a permanent reservoir of virus for forthcoming cultivated crops. Interest in viruses in wild plants may result in greater efforts to prevent virus spread from them.

*Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt being a wild plant of the family Cucurbitaceae has now been grown on large scale in many states of India for its fruits, roots etc. *Coccinia*, a wild plant occurring in India, specially in Uttar Pradesh was found infected with virus disease. The disease affecting *Coccinia* was investigated and the virus causing this disease was identified and characterized.
The genus *Coccinia* is represented by about 35 species distributed in tropical Africa and Asia. *C. grandis* is commonly found in India.

*C.indica* Wight & Arn., *C.cordifolia* Cogn., *Cephalandra indica* Naud. are synonyms of *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt. *C. grandis* is known by different names in India. In Sanskrit it called Bimba in Hindi, Kunduri in Bengali, Telakucha, in Marathi-Bimbi, tendli, in Gujarati-Ghobe, gluru, in Kannada-Tondekai, in Tamil-Kovaikai, in Telugu-Dondakaya.

It is a climbing or prostrate perennial herb, growing wild throughout India, with long tuberous roots and ovoid or elliptic fruits, 1-2 inches long and 1/2-1 inch in diameter. The fruits are smooth and bright with white stripes when immature, becoming bright scarlet when ripe. They are used as vegetable when green, and eaten fresh when ripe. They are sometimes candied. The tender shoots of the plant are used as pot herb (Ball, 1942). Few varieties have been recorded, one of them yielding bitter fruits.

The plant is propagated by its tuberous roots or by stem cuttings. On well-drained, well prepared, deep, friable loamy red soil, and under irrigated conditions, it
grows well and fruits from April to September giving heavy yields (Joga Rao, 1932).

Analysis of tender fruits gave: moisture, 93.1; protein, 1.2; fat (ether extract), 0.1; fibre, 1.6; carbohydrates, 3.5; mineral matter, 0.5; calcium, 0.04; phosphorous, 0.30; iron 1.4 mg/100g; carotene evaluated as vitamin A, 260 I.U./100g; Vitamin C, 28 mg/100g.

Various preparations of roots, stems and leaves of C. grandis have been mentioned in indigenous systems of medicine as being efficacious in the treatment of skin diseases, bronchial catarrh, bronchitis and diabetes.

Being wild in and around Aligarh (U.P.) Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt is cultivated in different other states because of its medicinal value. Apart from being medicinally sounding Coccinia grandis is also used as a vegetable.

Leaves of Coccinia grandis are used to cure diabetes in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan & Gujrat. In the states of Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar & Orissa the leaves are used in filarial swell, loss of taste and as vegetable. (Chaudhari et al., 1985).
Fruits of *C. grandis* are used to cure throat effect in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In cold cough and diabetes, fruits are used in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. When the fruit is green (unripened), it is used as vegetable in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat (Shah & Gopal, 1986).

Roots of *C. grandis* are used in headache and to stop vomiting in Assam region. Roots are edible in Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. *C. grandis* is successfully used to cure convulsions, menorrhagia, scrofula, slow pulse, sores and syphilis in Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The plant part used is not specified (Singh & Maheshwari, 1985).

During the survey in and around Aligarh, *C. grandis* was found growing in wasteland in Aligarh. The plants were found severely infected with mosaic symptoms and mottling on leaves.

The present investigation is concerned with symptomatology, host range, transmission, properties in plant sap, purification, electron microscopy and serology of virus causing mosaic disease in *C. grandis*. 