



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695  
ISSN (P): 2349-8242  
NAAS Rating: 5.23  
TPI 2021; 10(5): 1267-1273  
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www.thepharmajournal.com  
Received: 22-03-2021  
Accepted: 27-04-2021

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## Review on Bakanae disease of rice and management

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### Abstract

The Bakanae disease of rice was first known to be discovered in 1828, but it was scientifically proven in 1898. The disease is previously believed to be caused by *Fusarium moniliforme* (Teleomorph stage: *Gibberella fujikuroi*), later then, it was found out the remaining other *Fusarium* sp., are also involved in this for disease causation. So, consequently, this review paper states about the following: (i) History of disease discovery (ii) Symptomatology of the disease (iii) Etiology and Epidemiological contexts (iv) The methods to control the disease. The disease controlling methods which are yet to be controversial after the attack of disease, nevertheless, the possible ways for controlling the disease have been discussed. The disease is likely to be found out that it's both soil and seed borne, and majorly confirmed by researchers that it is a seed borne, and has a long matter of survival for years. As the pathogen of this always boosts the excessive production of Gibberellic acid(GA), a growth hormone, leads to hypertrophy of abnormal elongation and ultimately rotting of plants with empty panicles, henceforth it's termed as "foolish seedling disease". In recent years, the occurrence of this disease in rice growing areas of the world is increasing, the proper management practices will help us to overcome this disease in future.

**Keywords:** Bakanae, rice, fusarium, seedling, soil borne, seed borne, disease management

### Introduction

Rice [*Oryza sativa*], mostly cultivated in Asian countries is a major staple food crop that fulfills the dietary requirement for half of the world and these days serious hazard to rice production is caused by a fungal pathogen known as *Fusarium fujikuroi*, causing a bigger constraint in rice production in Asia and rice producing countries of world. Even Though the disease is of less occurrence, it's notably the highly serious one [A.K. Gupta *et al.*, 2016] the disease is ubiquitous among the states of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. The disease mainly infects the plants through the roots and crowns and shows visible symptoms with abnormal elongation than the healthy plants in the field [Muhammad Naem *et al.*, 2016] <sup>[43]</sup>.

This disease is also called with so many names in many regions of the world such as root rot and white head disease, Fusarium blight, Fusariosis, Thin noodle seedling, Stupid rice crop, White stalk in China, Palay lalake (man rice) in British Guiana, Elongation disease, Foot rot in Phillipines, Otoke Nae (Male seedling) in Japan [Swamei H *et al.*, 2008] but the first report of this disease was from Japan in 1828, which scientifically proven was caused by fungi 1898 by Japanese researcher Shotaro Hori [Bishnu Maya Bashyal, 2018] <sup>[13]</sup>. Bakanae disease is known due to hypertrophy of plant with elongated seedlings but it ends up with empty panicles i.e, no edible grains, hence it's so called as "foolish seedling disease" [Suparyono *et al.*, 2009] <sup>[61]</sup>.

### History and Distribution

This disease is called with various names in many parts of the world as root rot and white head disease [Saremi H *et al.*, 2008] <sup>[57]</sup>, Fusarium blight, elongation disease, Fusariosis, White stalk in China, Palay lalake (man rice) in British Guiana, Foot rot in the Phillipines, Otoke nae (male seedling) in Japan, Bakanae in the USA, Africa and Australia, Foolish plants or Foot rot in India and Bakane in Africa, Ceylon, French Equatorial [Ram Singh, Sunder S. 1997] <sup>[52]</sup>.

This disease is extensively distributed among the virtually rice growing countries of the world such as Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, British Guiana, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Phillipines, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad, Uganda, USA and following so many rice cultivating areas. In India, it's largely found in these states as in Andhra pradesh, Assam, Uttar pradesh, Tamil nadu, Manipur, West Bengal [Ram Singh and Surendar S, 1997] <sup>[52]</sup>.

### Economic Importance

This notorious pathogen of this disease causes yield loss in many countries in considerable

percentage and mainly devastating in exporting rice varieties which earns substantial foreign exchange. Under favourable conditions it is known to cause 3.0-95.4% in almost to complete loss in India. The yield loss reported from other countries such as 6.7-58% in Pakistan [Yasin *et al.*, 2003], 20-25% yield loss in Japan, 40% in Kurnal-4 rice variety in Nepal [Desjardins *et al.*, 2000] [19], and In Asian countries remarkably as 20% yield loss [Cumagun *et al.*, 2011] [14].

In India, the yield losses are reported as 15% in Eastern Uttar Pradesh [Pavgi and Singh., 1964] [49], 15.4% in Assam [Rathaiiah *et al.*, 1991] [54], 5-7% in Manipur [Singh *et al.* 1996] [59], 3.0-95.4% in Haryana [Sunder *et al.*, 1997] [52].

### Symptoms

The fungal pathogen of Rice named *Fusarium fujikuroi* is a part of *Gibberella fujikuroi* complex species (GFSC) which leads to Foot rot disease [Husain H.M, S. Baharuddin and Z. Latiffan, 2011] [25], resulting in the symptoms as hyper or hypo elongation of roots, elongated growth, or stunted growth, infected plants shows hypertrophy, leaves get thinner with yellowish green colour and pale green flag leaves, which are visibly etiolated and shows chlorotic conditions than healthy ones, at early tillering the seedlings get to be dried and eventually leads to reduced tillering and drying of leaves at later stage of infection, in case of surviving plants at maturity stage it carries partially filled grains, sterile or mostly empty grains [Zainudin, N.A.I.M, A.A. Razak and B. Salleh, 2008] [68]. In Japan, infected panicles are in pink color and termed as pink panicles [Sharma VK, Bagga PS, 2007] [9]. These kinds of symptoms are produced due to the secretions of excessive amounts of Gibberellic acid. This well known pathogen also secretes many pigments following as Bikaverin, Fusarubins, Mycotoxins, Fusarins, Fusaric acid, Phytohormones, Gibberellic acid GA(3) and its precursors GA(4), GA(7) and also many unknown metabolites [Alberman, Tudzynski and Bettina 2013] [3].

### Host Range

This disease pathogen has a very wide host range. The primary host manifests the sexual cycle that have been reported in rice, maize, barley, sorghum, sugarcane, wheat, pye, rye and asparagus from Asia, Africa, South East Asia and the United States [Petrovic *et al.*, 2013] [50].

During favourable conditions pathogen survives in primary host and after for the successive life cycle completion it will come to secondary/alternate host those are reported wise such as tomato, cowpea, banana, subabul, proso millet, early water grass, and barnyard grass and these also act as reservoir for secondary inoculum in the field [Anderson and Webster 2005., Carter *et al.*, 2008] [5, 15]. During unfavourable conditions, pathogens also survive in some alternate hosts such as round gourd, cucumber, pine, fig, cotton, sapodilla.

### Disease Cycle

The fungus is mainly externally seed-borne but to some extent soil-borne, hence seed borne is comparatively significant and infectious because the soil borne inoculum disappears while the time passes- by. The pathogen main entry is observed as a hull. Embryo infection shows the range of 2-41% in different cultivars and the hull shows 75% isolation frequency from infected and untreated seeds of *G.fujikuroi* [Manandhar J., 2000] [40]. Severely infected seeds are discoloured. The stunting, elongation is determined by the degree of seed infection. Sprouting period was the most suitable time for disease development [Chan *et al.*, 2004] [16]. Soil moisture and

soil temperature influence the disease development, which develops best at the temperature of 25 - 35°C. Nitrogenous manuring aggravates the disease. The incidence of disease will be greater in wet nurseries than in dry ones [G. Rangaswami and A. Mahadevan, 2019] [20].

### Variability in Pathogen

#### Morphological, Physiological, Pathogenic Variability

Many scientists worked on this pathogen and found the greater variation (variability) in *F.fujikuroi* strains has been detected in the production of gibberellic acid, fusaric acid, pectic enzymes and their pathogenicity [Amatulli *et al.*, 2010] [4]. Many species are involved in the causing of foot rot, some of the observed isolates were identified as *F. fujikuroi*, *F. proliferatum*, *F. verticillioides*, *F. sacchari* and *F. subglutinans* depending upon their morphological characteristics. Out of these species *F. fujikuroi* is the only species observed as the capability to produce GA3 in higher levels in infected plants and this is considered as the main physiological variation among *Fusarium* species [Nur Ain Izzati Mohd Zainudin *et al.*, 2008] [45]. The var *F. fujikuroi* is observed with the formation of macroconidia (long, slender, almost straight and thin walled) and microconidia type (oval, obovoid with a truncated base produced in chains and in false heads from the conidiogenous cells) in rice, so it is almost distinguishable among morphological characters [Leslie J. and Summerall B., 2006] [34]. The morphological variation and pathogenicity of *F. fujikuroi* isolates also given by Bashya and Aggarwal, 2013. The 48 variants of *F. moniliforme* has been divided on the basis of variable growth rate [Thakur *et al.*, 1998] [62], and many other important pathogenic variations also found in *F. moniliforme* by many researchers [Sharma VK, Bagga PS 2007] [9].

All the isolates of *Fusarium* species produced gibberellic acid, but, even so the fusaric acid is produced by only 45% isolates [Kaur J *et al.*, 2014] [30]. The symptom variation in the *F. fujikuroi*, *F. proliferatum*, *F. verticillioides*, *F. sacchari* have also been observed [Sharma and Bagga, 2007] [9]. Recently, the important interrelationship between the seedlings length that is treated with GA3 and bakane injury has been found by Ma *et al.* in 2014.

#### Genomics of *Fusarium fujikuroi*

Between 2010 to 2017, nearly during one decade, the various multiple whole genomes of a *Fusarium spp.*, were collected, sequenced and studied, therefore, it helped for the understanding of host-pathogen interaction and their defense mechanism [King *et al.*, 2015] [32]. Yet now, totally thirteen genomes of *F.fujikuroi* have been published from different countries [Bashyal *et al.* 2017 [11]; Niehaus *et al.* 2017 [44]; Chiara *et al.* 2015 [17]; Wiemann *et al.* 2013 [66]; Jeong *et al.* 2013] [26] as described in Table 1. Out of these thirteen, eight genomes of *F.fujikuroi* are sequenced from different places of the world and studied the differences in their characteristics of producing asexual spores (microconidia and macroconidia), chromosome size, secondary metabolite gene cluster profile. Additionally, based on this gene profiling, the symptoms developed (rotting and stunting) isolates were drawn as two distinct pathotypes [Niehaus *et al.*, 2017] [44]. The evolutionary development analysis depending on the whole genome of 5 isolates (IMI58289, B14, KSU 3368, FGSC 8932 and KSU X-10,626) collected from various geographical locations of the world shows Indian isolate (F250) is nearer to the genome isolated from Taiwan (IMI58289).

**Table 1:** Various whole genomes of *F. fujikuroi* sequenced from different countries

Strain & species	Originated country and host	Genome size(MB)	References
F 250, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	India	42.4	Bashyal <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [111]
IMI 58289, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Taiwan, rice	43.9	Wiemann <i>et al.</i> , 2013 [66]
FGSC 8932, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Taiwan, rice	43.0	Chiara <i>et al.</i> , 2015 [17]
KSU 3368, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Thailand, rice (1990)	43.1	Chiara <i>et al.</i> , 2015 [17]
KSU X-10626, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Konza Prairie (USA), Schizachyrium scoparium (1997)	43.1	Chiara <i>et al.</i> , 2015 [17]
B 14, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	South Korea, rice	44.0	Jeong <i>et al.</i> , 2013 [26]
m 567, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Japan, infected rice	44.0	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
MRC 2276, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Philippines, infected rice	45.0	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
C 1995, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Taiwan, infected rice	45.8	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
E 282, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Italy, infected rice	46.1	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
FSU 48, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	Germany, maize	46.1	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
NCIM 1100, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	India, infected rice	45.3	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]
B 20, <i>F.fujikuroi</i>	South Korea, infected rice	44.3	Niehaus <i>et al.</i> , 2017 [44]

**Disease occurrence, incidence, and yield losses in various countries**

Country	State	Disease Incidence	Yield Losses	References
India	Jammu and Kashmir (Major Basmati rice grown areas)	10 – 50	15 - 25%	Khokar, L.K, A.H. Jaffrey, 2002 [31]. Gupta, A.K, Y. Singh, A.K. Jain and D. Singh, 2014 [21]. Pannu, P.P.S, J. Kaur, G. Singh, 2012 [47]. Hossain, K.S, M. Mia, M.A. Bashar, 2013 [22].
	Uttar Pradesh	1.2 - 11.7		
	Andhra Pradesh			
	Tamil Nadu			
	Manipur			
	West Bengal	3 - 95.5		
	Haryana	2.1 - 2.8		
	Punjab	10.5 - 40		
	Assam			
Bihar	1.8 - 8.7			
Rajasthan	2.4 - 13.6			
Malaysia	Rompin	12.5		Zainuddin <i>et al.</i> , 2008 [45].
	Sungia Leman	5.3		
	Sekinchan	2.5		
Indonesia	East Java	5		Zainuddin <i>et al.</i> , 2008 [45].
	Padang	12		
USA	California			Zainuddin <i>et al.</i> , 2008 [45].
Bangladesh	Commonly all rice grown areas			Hossain <i>et al.</i> , 2013 [22].
Korea	Commonly all rice grown areas		26.7%	Hossain <i>et al.</i> , 2013 [22].
Thailand	Northern and Central Thailand		3.7 - 14.7%	Kanjanasoon, P., 1965 [28].

**Disease Management****A) Use of Resistant Varieties****Rice varieties with resistance behaviour against Bakanae**

Country	Resistant Varieties	References
India	Punjab mehak and PUSA Basmati No.1	Pannu <i>et al.</i> , 2013 [48].
	PAU 2343, PAU 2383, IR 67418, IR 67423, IR 67418, IR 58755, IR 64668, IR 66229, IR 67409	Bagga PS, Kumar V, 2000 [7].
	GSL-5, GSL-9, GSL-12, GSL-36, GSL-44, GSL-60, GSL-66, GSL-67, GSL-68	Ahangar <i>et al.</i> , 2012 [1]
	Co 18, Co 22, ADT 8, PTB 7, GEB 24, IR 20, IR 26, IR 32, IR 38, IR 44, IR 45	Ram Singh and Sunder, 2012 [53]

**B) Varietal Resistance**

Since the first report of foot rot disease was framed, many more attempts have been made to find out the resistant genotypic rice cultivars. Numerous resistant cultivars have been developed and identified but they only express the small inheritance of rice germplasm. The three Bakanae disease resistant cultivars that show minor resistance were recognized by Ito and Kimura in 1931. But, recently researched studies showing that thirteen genotypic cultivars invented have average and high resistance towards bakanae disease, out of those five cultivars show medium resistance, and one cultivar shows moderate resistance [W. N. A. W. A. Halim *et al.*, 2015] [64]. Among these thirteen resistant genotypes, found that the dwarf or semi-dwarf genes are contained in three

resistant rice genotypes. Adding to this, three qualitative trait loci managing resistance of rice basmati to *F.moniliforme* were revealed such as qBK1.1, qBK1.2, and qBK1.3 [R.A. Fiyaz *et al.*, 2016] [51]. Still, in the temperate climatic areas of rice cultivation, there is no report of resistant cultivars. Twelve commercial rice varieties have been grown and studied in greenhouse conditions for the initiation of resistance towards the bakanae disease [S. Matic *et al.*, 2016] [55]. These recently founded cultivars show some genes regulating resistance and to some extent to the resistance using healthy seeds is a preventive method. Some of the resistant genotypes found resistance to Bakanae disease are given in Table 2 [S. Sundar, Ram Singh, D.S. Dodan 2014] [56].



**Table 2:** Genotypes that are found resistant to Bakanae disease

Disease Rate (Score)	Genotypes	References
0 (Highly Resistant)	HKR 96-561, HKR 96-565, HKR 07-40, HKR 07-53, HKR 08-13, HKR 08-21, HKR 08-22, MAUB 2009-1, PAU 3456-46-6-1-1, PNR 600, RDN 01-2-10-9	S. Sundar <i>et al.</i> , 2014 [56]
1 (Resistant)	Nil	S. Sundar <i>et al.</i> , 2014 [56]
3 (Moderately Resistant)	HKR 90-403, HKR 92-401, HKR 92-447, HKR 93-401, HKR 93-402, HKR 94-414, HKR 94-415, HKR 94-417, HKR 94-418, HKR 94-419, HKR 94-416, HKR 95-435, HKR 95-436, HKR 95-449, HKR 95-514, HKR 95-515, HKR 96-437, HKR 96-501, HKR 96-523, HKR 96-538, HKR 96-539, HKR 96-540, HKR 96-574, HKR 07-34, HKR 07-35, HKR 07-36, HKR 07-50, HKR 08-5, HKR 08-9, HKR 08-11, HKR 08-14, HKR 08-16, HKR 08-17, HKR 08-43, HUBR 10-9, NDR 6271, RP 3138-60-9-6-6, UPR 3385-20-1-2	S. Sundar <i>et al.</i> , 2014 [56]

### C) Plant Extracts

As bakanae disease is significantly caused due to seed borne pathogen, the primary inoculum for the bakanae is infected seed, therefore to reduce the disease incidence and even the germination of seed after the incidence is using botanical

extracts show greater results [Anderson, 2005] [6]. Effect of Botanical extracts on seed germination and infection rate of *F.moniliforme* in rice was represented below [M. S. Hossain *et al.*, 2018] [42].

Botanical Name	Germination (%)	Infection (%)
Garlic	85.00	0.00
Ginger	72.00	3.50
Onion	71.75	4.75
Gada	70.50	21.25
Basak	69.75	6.50
Neem	69.00	11.75
Tulsi	67.50	27.75
Mehandi	66.75	0.00

From the above table, Garlic and Mehandi show the complete inhibition of the mycelial formation and germination percentage as high as 85% recorded in Garlic. Therefore the management of the botanical extracts reduces the infection rate frequency of *F.moniliforme*, naturally.

### D) Bio Control

Several fungal antagonistics and some bacterial strains are helpful in suppressing the fungal mycelial growth, asexual spores formation (macroconidia & microconidia) and germination of *F.fujikuroi* in effective method decreases disease incidence significantly. Surfactin A purified from Bacillus NH 100 and NH 217, reduces considerably 80% of the disease incidence and restores maximum antifungal activity can be used as biocontrol agent against bakanae disease [Sarwar *et al.*, 2018] [58]. Induction of strain YC7007 of bacterium *Bacillus oryzae* can be applied and used as a biocontrol agent for bakanae disease [Hossain *et al.*, 2016] [24]. The hyphae of Gibberella fujikuroi gets perforated, parasitized and subjected to anti-growth activity by the mechanism of action of KNB-422, which is isolated from the rice seedlings [Miyake *et al.*, 2012] [29]. The bio-control agent *Pseudomonas fluorescens* isolates PF-9, PF-13 and *Bacillus thuringiensis* isolate B-44 acts as a antagonistic against bakanae produced lytic enzymes (Chitinase and -1,3-glucanase {endo-1,3(4)-glucanase), siderophores, SA and HCN and suppressed fungal growth & bakanae incidence [Kumar *et al.*, 2007] [33]. The biocontrol agents like *Bacillus subtilis*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, *T.virens* are most effective in reducing bakanae. Some of the bio control agents are also useful in preventing fungal growth are *Trichoderma asperellum* SKT-1 [Watanabe *et al.*, 2007] [65], *Talaromyces sp* [Kato *et al.*, 2012] [29], *Bacillus subtilis* and *B.megaterium* [Li *et al.*, 2006, Luo *et al.*, 2005] [35, 37].

### E) Chemical Control

The most followed management in control of bakanae is by

using chemicals. There should be continuous attempts to study about the effective fungicides for this bakanae disease. Some fungicides such as benzimidazoles are effective in controlling the fungal mycelial growth in in-vitro and as well as in field condition.

Derosal has the inhibitory property of fungal mycelial growth therefore treating the rice seeds with Derosal at 4g/kg and soil drenching the artificially inoculated soil in pot at 500 ppm shows the complete control of this disease [Bhalli JA *et al.*, 2001] [12]. Seed treatment with Benomyl or Bavistin at 0.1% for 6 - 8 hrs is reported for effective disease control [Bagga P S, Sharma V K., 2006] [8]. Seedling dip treatment with Carbendazim at 0.2% is also efficient in managing the disease and Propiconazole checked the spread of the disease and protected the grains from infection [Pannu PPS *et al.*, 2009] [46]. While applying Benzimidazoles (Benomyl and Carbendazim) as foliar spray at 0.1% efficiently decreases the disease incidence and promotes grain yield and quality without obstruction [Biswas S, Das SN. 2002] [14]. The thermal treatment of Carbendazim at 72°C for 5 min gives 98% disease control [Titone P *et al.*, 2003] [63]. Hossain *et al.* in 2015 [23] investigated the effect of 15 fungicides in in-vitro conditions, all the 15 fungicides showed the efficacy in various degrees against the pathogen. Phenamacril at 0.1544 µg/ml concentration and Iaconazole at 0.0472 µg/ml have been reported for reducing the disease in an effective manner [Li *et al.*, 2018] [36]. Seed treatment followed seedling dip treatment of Bavistin at 50WP @ 0.2% with pulling up the infected seedlings in nursery reduces 92.2% effectively of disease incidence [Bal *et al.*, 2018] [10]. The chitosan oligosaccharides (COS) showed the fungicidal effect on hyphal growing cells and Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA) exhibited fungistatic effect on growth inhibition of fungal hyphal cells [Kang *et al.*, 2016] [27].

### Conclusion and Future Aspects to Control the Disease

As bakanae disease is spread all over the world, it causes substantial economic losses in many aspects and particularly in scented rice in quality export to other countries. To control this bakanae, still there should be continuous progress of attempting, researching, studying the various isolates from all the world should need to in upcoming times in future. Phylogenetic analysis should be in continuous research to study the pathogen evolutionary changes so that we can prevent and escape from the disease by suitable management. Despite these studies, further research on genomic sequences of pathogens for resistance development, gene mapping for virulence, pathogenic variability, biochemical and molecular aspects of pathogenesis are necessary to manage the disease. Besides this cultural and chemical control should need to be managed perfectly to prevent the occurrence of disease. Efficacy strains of bio-control agents are also required to be commercialized for disease management. Soil solarization subjected to be practiced, additionally, seed borne inoculum and epidemiology also need to be investigated consistently. The pathogen of this disease is mostly seed borne, so by undergoing seed treatment with Bavistin, Sunphanate, Nativo and Carzeb completely eradicate the pathogen from the seeds. These methods of management are important in controlling the disease, by providing the certified seeds on the basis of field inspection. Eventually, many controlled experiments and more studies based on future strategies have to be done to draw more management practices to prevent major yield losses.

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