



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; 11(12): 5525-5528
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 01-11-2022

Accepted: 15-11-2022

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Epidemiological studies of powdery mildew of okra

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Abstract

Powdery mildew disease (*Erysiphe cichoracearum* DC) is one of the most widely spread and destructive disease of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench.), causing accountable quantitative as well as qualitative losses. The present studies on influence of weather parameters on powdery mildew during *Kharif*, 2018, the correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery mildew disease severity on two okra cultivars revealed that maximum and minimum temperature, RH-I and II, wind velocity and rainfall were negatively correlated with the disease severity in both okra cultivars. Whereas, during *Rabi*, 2019, the correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery mildew disease severity on two okra cultivars revealed that maximum and minimum temperature and wind velocity and rainfall were positively correlated with the disease severity in both okra cultivars.

Keywords: *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Erysiphe cichoracearum*

Introduction

Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench) is an economically important fruit vegetable crop grown from seed in tropical and subtropical and warm temperature regions especially in U.S.A., Africa, Asia, Nigeria, Sudan, Turkey, Australia, U.K. and other neighboring countries of the world. In India, okra popularly grown round the year and major states growing okra are Andhra Pradesh (20%), West Bengal (15%), Bihar (14%), Orissa (11%) and Maharashtra shared only 4 per cent.

It's the most popular fruit vegetable crop grown in India, but it's production and productivity on farmers field has been hindered by various biotic and abiotic stresses. Among various factors responsible for low productivity of okra, diseases caused by biotic agents are the major one. The major diseases affecting okra crop are fungal *viz.*, damping off (*Pythium debaryanum*), wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *vasinfectum*), powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*), Cercospora leaf spot (*Cercospora abelmoschi* and *C. malayensis*) and viral disease yellow vein mosaic. Among these diseases, powdery mildew (*E. cichoracearum*) is one of threats in profitable cultivation of okra crop.

Material and Methods

Present investigations were carried out in the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Dapoli and Central Experiment Station, Wakawali. For the purpose, standard meteorological week-wise data recorded on powdery mildew intensity/severity, in the field experiments during (2018-19 and 2019-20) recorded were correlated with corresponding weekly weather parameters, computed the correlation coefficient and assessed their effects on okra powdery mildew severity.

Results and Discussion

Effect of weather parameters on okra powdery mildew severity during *Kharif*, 2018

Results (Table.1 and 2) revealed that the weather parameters *viz.*, temperature (maximum and minimum), relative humidity (morning and evening), rainfall, rainy days and wind velocity etc. significantly influenced the powdery mildew disease severity in all two okra cultivars sown on 7th July during *Kharif*, 2018. From first appearance of the disease, its severity was found to be increased steadily in all two cultivars upto 90 DAS. For the purpose, observations on powdery mildew severity were recorded at weekly interval on two okra cultivars *viz.*, Varsha uphar and Parbhani Kranti 7th July *Kharif*, 2018 and correlated with corresponding weekly weather parameters.

Table 1: Effect of weather parameters on powdery mildew disease severity in okra cultivars during *Kharif*, 2018

MW	Av. PDS		Temperature °C		Relative Humidity	Relative Humidity	Wind Velocity	Rainfall (mm)
	Varsha Uphar	Parbhani Kranti	Max	Min.	Morn.	Eve.	(Km/hr.)	
36	2.03	4.04	33.91	22.61	92.6	81.48	1.42	68.40
37	3.25	6.41	34.07	22.72	90.64	71.18	1.22	0.00
38	6.88	7.84	34.34	22.89	92.29	79.57	1.22	80.40
39	7.34	8.66	35.04	23.36	93.58	71.3	0.9	61.50
40	8.05	9.25	34.13	22.75	92.38	62.14	0.9	31.00
41	12.19	13.45	35.2	23.47	92.38	62.14	0.9	31.00
42	13.09	14.38	33.91	22.61	93.51	64.49	0.52	11.30
43	13.69	14.89	32.36	21.57	93.87	64.6	0.76	34.30
44	16.14	18.23	30.24	20.16	84.26	46.57	0.63	0.00
45	17.78	18.98	32.68	21.79	85.1	44.57	0.87	0.00
46	18.97	20.45	27.82	18.55	86.04	60.84	0.8	0.00
47	21.34	22.98	31.28	20.85	85.53	33.03	0.7	0.00
48	29.52	33.86	24.38	16.25	83.5	45.82	0.9	0.00

MW: Meteorological Week, Av.: Average, PDS: Per cent Disease Severity, Max.: Maximum, Min.: Minimum, Mor.: Morning, Eve.: Evening, * Sowing Date: 2.07.2018, * Mean of three replications

During *Kharif*, 2018 season (Table 1.) from sowing to physiological maturity of the okra crop, the major weather parameters prevailed were total rainfall 317.9 mm (7 rainy days), relative humidity RH-I in the range of 83.5-93.58 per cent and RH-II 33.03-81.48 per cent, temperatures maximum in the range of 24.38-35.2 °C and minimum in the range 16.25-23.36 °C. During the season, the disease appeared 1st at (36 MW) the okra cultivar Varsha uphar (4.04%), and on Parbhani Kranti (10.56%), which further progressed at steady rate and continued to increase upto physiological maturity of the crop.

The results (Table 2) indicated the correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery mildew disease severity on two okra cultivars during *Kharif*, 2018. The study indicated that maximum and minimum temperature, RH-I and

II, and wind velocity and rainfall were negatively correlated with the disease severity in all okra cultivars.

Table 2: Correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery Mildew severity on okra cultivars during *Kharif*, 2018

Weather Parameters	Correlation Coefficient (r)	
	Varsha Uphar	Parbhani Kranti
Temperature (Max.) °C	-0.832	-0.867
Temperature (Min.) °C	-0.833	-0.867
Relative humidity (RH-I) %	-0.766	-0.786
Relative humidity (RH-II) %	-0.827	-0.812
Wind velocity (km/hr)	-0.604	-0.552
Rainfall (mm)	-0.649	-0.666

Table value r at 5% = 0.553, * Crop sown on 2.07.2018

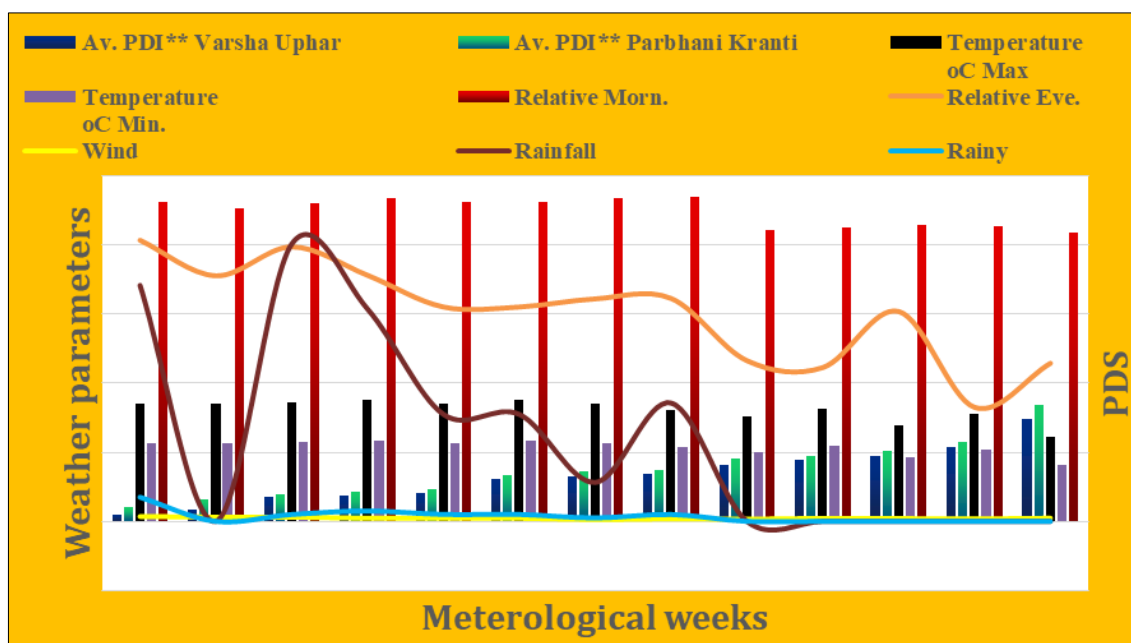


Fig 1: Effect of weather parameters on powdery mildew disease severity in okra cultivars during *Kharif*, 2018

Effect of weather parameters on okra powdery mildew severity during *Rabi*, 2019

During *Rabi*, 2019 season (Table 3.) from sowing to physiological maturity of the okra crop, the major weather parameters prevailed were relative humidity RH-I in the range of 82.0-90.03 per cent and RH-II 52.0-65.3 per cent,

temperatures maximum in the range of 31.0-34.8 °C and minimum in the range 12.7-23.4 °C.

During the season, the disease appeared 1stat (7 MW) the okra cultivar Varsha uphar (3.31%), and on Parbhani kranti (6.56%), which further progressed at steady rate and continued to increase upto physiological maturity of the crop.

The results (Table 4.) indicated the correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery mildew disease Severity on two okra cultivars during *Kharif*, 2019. The study indicated that maximum and minimum temperature and wind velocity and rainfall were positively correlated with the disease severity in all okra cultivars.

However, maximum temperature (r value: 0.572 and 0.514) and minimum temperature (r value: 0.828 and 0.773) and wind velocity (r values: 0.826 and 0.790) were significant and positively correlated with the powdery mildew disease severity in all two okra cultivars viz., Varsha upha and Parbhani Kranti, respectively.

Table 3: Effect of weather parameters on powdery mildew disease severity in okra cultivars during *Rabi*, 2019

MW	Av. PDS		Temperature °C		Relative Humidity Morn.	Relative Humidity Eve.	Wind Velocity (Km/hr.)
	Varsha Uphar	Parbhani Kranti	Max.	Min.			
7	3.31	6.56	32.1	12.8	88.3	62.3	3.8
8	6.41	7.68	32.6	14.9	89	59.6	3.8
9	7.74	9.51	31.2	12.7	89.8	65.3	4.6
10	8.15	10.45	31	14	90.3	64.3	4.7
11	12.33	14.36	32.4	14.5	84.6	55.6	4.8
12	15.05	16.57	33	14.6	89.4	52	4.4
13	15.96	17.98	34.6	20.5	88.4	63.6	4.7
14	17.65	18.21	33.2	20.1	89.3	53.1	5
15	18.57	18.85	33.7	21.7	90.3	51.8	5.7
16	19.39	19.85	33.6	19.6	90.3	55.8	5.7
17	20.88	21.65	34.8	23.4	85.1	65.1	6
18	28.39	29.98	33	21.1	84.8	59.6	5.2
19	35.94	41.58	33.5	22.5	82	60.1	6.2

MW: Meteorological Week, Av.: Average, PDS: Per cent Disease Severity, Max.: Maximum, Min.: Minimum, Mor.: Morning, Eve.: Evening,* Sowing Date: 17.01.2019, * Mean of three replications

Thus, overall results indicated that temperatures (maximum and minimum), and wind velocity had significantly positive correlation development and spread of disease in okra crop.

Table 4: Correlation-coefficient between weather parameters and powdery mildew Severity* on okra cultivars during Summer, 2019

Weather Parameters	Correlation Coefficient (r)	
	Varsha Uphar	Parbhani Kranti
Temperature (Max.) °C	0.572	0.514
Temperature (Min.) °C	0.828	0.773
Relative humidity (RH-I) %	-0.645	-0.701
Relative humidity (RH-II) %	-0.189	-0.128
Wind velocity (km/hr)	0.826	0.790

Table value r at 5% = 0.553, * Crop sown on 17.01.2019

These results of the present study are in conformity with earlier several workers Padgi (2016) [4] reported that relative

humidity, rainfall, and rainy days had negative correlation with okra powdery mildew (*E. cichoracearum*) disease incidence and severity, except temperature maximum (0.891) and minimum (0.806), which were positively correlated with disease incidence / severity. Shah *et al.* (2016) [7] reported significant and positive correlation between temperature max. (36.6 - 44.7 °C) and min. (22.6 - 29.1 °C), whereas, relative humidity and rainfall were non-significant with sunflower powdery mildew (*E. cichoracearum*) disease development. Naik and Kulkarni (2018) reported that rate of disease development and severity as positively correlated with maximum temperature (0.606), whereas, minimum temperature (-0.471), morning relative humidity (-0.531) and evening relative humidity (-0.531), rainfall (-0.421) and rainy days were negatively correlated with per cent disease severity / intensity of cucumber powdery mildew (*E. cichoracearum*).

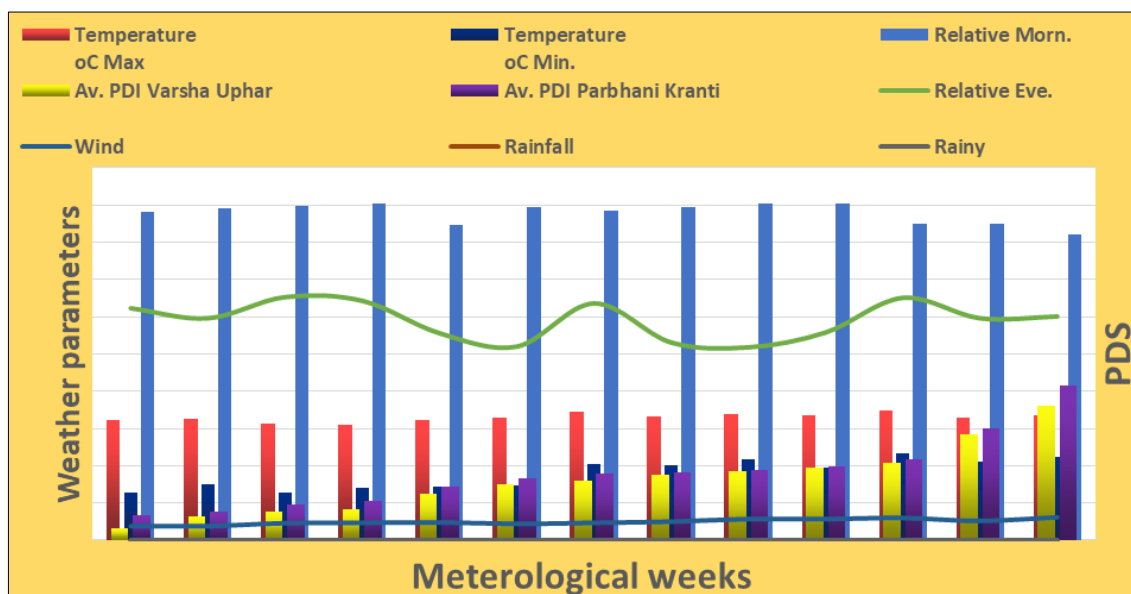


Fig 2: Effect of weather parameters on powdery mildew disease severity in okra cultivars during *Rabi*, 2019

Similar results on influence of weather parameters *viz.*, temperature, relative humidity and rainfall on severity of powdery mildew (*E. cichoracearum*) disease in okra (Prabhu *et al.* 1971; Ramkrishnan 1976; Spencer 1978; Deka 1995; Band 2007; in sesamum Jagtap *et.al.* (2019) ^[5, 6, 8, 2, 1, 3].

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