

## Identification of *sclerotium delphinii* causing seed rot and seedling rot in cotton

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While surveying the cotton fields of Wardha, Nagpur, during 2011-12 crop season, few wilted seedlings were observed. Similar symptoms were observed in mature plants of Saoner, Maharashtra. The fungus was isolated and purified. The pathogen showed typical hyphal growth giving initially anticlockwise mycelia growth and producing very big and irregular size of sclerotia in potato dextrose agar. The pathogenicity was tested in pot using PKV-081 seeds and it was observed that it is reducing the germination by 50% by either rotting of seeds or seedlings. The pathogen was identified as *Sclerotium delphinii* using the sequences of internal transcribed spacer regions amplifying by polymerase chain reaction technique.



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