

Hawker's Medium 'A', and showed the following morphological characters.

Septate mycelium; branched hyaline hyphæ; sclerotia soft and light brown when young, mature sclerotia olive brown to clove brown, 500 μ to 800 μ , globose, hard; cells of sclerotial wall hyaline, globose or polyhedral, 6-8 μ in diameter.

The fungus has been identified as *Sclerotium rolfsii* Sacc. and it has been confirmed by C.M.I., Kew, Surrey, England. The pathogenicity of the isolate has been confirmed by various inoculation experiments. Under artificial inoculations the symptoms similar to those found in the stored bulbs are produced after 6 to 10 days. Reisolations from these artificially inoculated diseased materials produced cultures identical to the original ones.

This disease of onion has not yet been recorded in India. Recently Thakur *et al.* (1962) have described a rot of stored garlic bulbs by *Sclerotium cepivorum* Berk.

Our grateful thanks are due to Dr. J. C. F. Hopkins of Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England, for his help in identification of the fungus.

Plant Path. Laboratory,
Botany Department,
University of Allahabad,
Allahabad, April 18, 1964.

SUDHIR CHANDRA.
R. N. TANDON.

-
1. Thakur, R. N., Singh, B. and Lal, S. B., *Sci. and Cult.*, 1962, 28, 177.
-

A SOFT ROT OF STORED ONION BULBS

THE attention of the authors was drawn towards a rot of bulbs of onion stored in the local markets. Occasionally a large percentage of stored material was found to be affected. The disease was observed throughout the year. It was, however, more severe in the months of July, August and September.

The disease first appears as dirty white spots on the outer scales giving a water-soaked appearance to the affected area. Gradually the spots increase in size and the spotted region becomes soft. Finally the whole bulb becomes pulpy. At this stage the rotted bulb can easily be distinguished from a healthy one.

The causal organism was isolated by the usual methods. It grew well on solid Asthana and