EVALUATION OF SOME ADVANCE AND ELITE LINES OF WHEAT TO BLUMERIA GRAMINISF. SP. TRITICI IN NORTH WEST PLAIN ZONE OF INDIA

Vipin Kumar Sharma*, M.S. Shahran² and S.S. Karwasra¹

¹Department of Plant Pathology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004, India ²Indian Institute of Agricultural Research-110012, India Email: mr.vipinsharma007@gmail.com

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Abstract: Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) powdery mildew, caused by the biotrophic fungus *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *tritici*, is one of the most severe foliar diseases attacking this crop, reducing grain yields by 10% to 62% in India. The disease can be controlled by genetic resistance of the host, but the pathogen has physiological specialization, which enables it to infect wheat cultivars that have remained resistant for years. The objective of this work was to evaluate the variability of pathogenic strains of *B. graminis* f. sp. *Tritici* collected in northen part of India and the effectiveness of wheat resistant varieties/ lines to powdery mildew in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 crop season. It is an important disease of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) in the plains north eastern region of Haryana and adjoining areas of states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Studies was carried out at IIWBR, Karnal and Regional Research Station, Dhaula kuan duing *rabi* 2012-13 and 2013-14. Out of 203 entries evaluated, 67 were found tolerant and 37 were found resistant at both the location. Among all lines/varieties 27 were found susceptible and only seven were found highly susceptible at Karnal and 36 were found highly susceptible, whereas 43 were susceptible at Dhaula kuan, H.P. The resistant genotypes evaluated in the study can be utilized by the breeder while conducting the breeding programme.

Keywords: Foliar diseases, Fungus, Variety, Wheat

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*Corresponding Author

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