

***Penicillium purpurogenum* Stoll, an Entomogenous Fungus of the
Snakegourd Semilooper *Anadevidia peponis* (Fb.)
(Noctuidae : Lepidoptera)**

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Anadevidia peponis (Fb.), the snakegourd semilooper, is a serious pest causing considerable crop loss in Kerala. Natural mortality of the larvae due to a fungus was observed in the vegetable garden of the Agricultural College Farm, Vellayani, during 1987-1988. The pathogen was isolated from the dead larvae in pure culture on potato dextrose agar and it was identified as *Penicillium purpurogenum* Stoll.

In artificial culture, the fungal colonies consisted of yellow to orange red mycelial felt, bearing abundant conidial structures initially, which later turned to deep slate green to dull greenish black in colour.

Pathogenicity test was conducted by spraying healthy first instar larvae (30 numbers) with spore suspension (100 spores/ml)

KEY WORDS : *Anadevidia peponis*, *Penicillium purpurogenum*

REFERENCES

MATHEW, M.P. 1980. Survey of the microbial diseases of important vegetable pests of Kerala and detailed studies on the pathogens affecting the snakegourd semilooper, *Anadevidia peponis* Fabricius

from five day-old culture. Larvae became sluggish one day after inoculation. Slow feeding was observed from second day onwards. The colour of the larvae changed to greenish yellow on the third day and later to yellow. The larvae became inactive and died on the sixth day after inoculation. Cent per cent mortality was observed.

Mathew (1980) reported *Fusarium* sp. on the larvae of *A. peponis* in Vellayani. This is the first report of *P. purpurogenum* as a pathogen on *A. peponis* in India.

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