Aayushi International Interdisciplinary Research Journal (AIIRJ)

VOL- XI	ISSUE- X	OCTOBER	2024	PEER REVIEW e-JOURNAL	IMPACT FACTOR 8.02	ISSN 2349-638x

Taxonomy of Monocots and Its Implications on Disease Susceptibility and Resistance

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Abstract:

Monocots are one of the largest groups of flowering plants, comprise about more than 65,000 species, including many economically important crops such as rice, wheat, maize, and sugarcane. The taxonomy of monocots plays a vital role in understanding their susceptibility and resistance to disease. Monocotyledonous plants like cereals, grasses, and other economically important crops, are important for global food security and economic stability. However, their productivity and quality is significantly affected by various diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes. In this review, or aim is to discuss the taxonomic relationships among monocots and influence of these relationships on disease dynamics. We highlight key diseases affecting monocots, explore the role of taxonomic relatedness in disease susceptibility, and discuss disease management and resistance breeding.. The paper also discusses the economic importance of these crops, disease epidemiology, and control measures.

Introduction:

Overview of Monocotyledonous Plants:

Monocots are the plants characterized by one cotyledon in their seeds, These plants are classified into several sch as, Poales, Arecales, and Commelinales. The Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG) system provides a widely accepted framework for monocot classification. Disease susceptibility and resistance among monocots is strongly impacted by taxonomic relationships among them. The monocotyledons, is a major and distinct group, comprising about 56,000 species, which is 22% of all angiosperms which include the well-known aroids, arrow leaf, lilies, gingers, orchids, irises, palms, and grasses. Most of the grasses include economically important crop plants, as they include grain crops such as rice, wheat, corn, barley, and rye.(M.Simpson2010). Monocotyledonous plants comprise a significantly large portion of global agriculture including vital staple crops (Grassini et al., 2015).

Monocotyledonous plants an important component of global agriculture, comprising over 70% of the world's food energy((FAO, 2017)). Crops such as rice, wheat, maize, sugarcane, and bananas are vital for food security, living , and economic growth. However, these crops are susceptible to various diseases that can significantly reduce yields, affect quality, and threaten food security (Strange, R. N., & Scott, P. R. 2005).

Monocotyledonous plants are susceptible to diverse pathogens, including bacteria viruses and nematodes (Agrios, G.N. 2005). Various factors such as climate change, globalization, and rigorous agriculture have increased the spread and severity of these diseases, inducing the need for effective management strategies (Fisher, M. C., et al. 2012).

Effective disease management is important for maintaining crop productivity, quality, and sustainability. Integrated approaches combining chemical, biological, cultural, and resistance breeding strategies can reduce incidence and severity of the disease (5. Mundt, C. C. & Browning,J.A.1985). Recent advances in molecular breeding, genetic engineering, and precision agriculture offer promising opportunities for improving disease resistance and management in monocotyledonous crops (6. Wang, X., et al. 2020).

This review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of taxonomic relationships among monocotyledons and its impact on the major diseases affecting monocotyledonous economic plants, their causal agents, symptoms, and management strategies. The paper will also discuss the economic importance of these crops, disease epidemiology, and control measures, emphasizing recent advances and future suggestions for research.

1.Economic Importance of Monocots:

1.**Staple food :**

Monocots such as rice, wheat, and maize, are the staple foods all over the world and Vital for food security (Shewry, 2009; FAO, 2021). According to FAO data analyzed by Watson and colleagues (2020), cereals derived from monocots account for over half of the world's calorie intake. Monocots includin staple crops such as rice, wheat, corn, and barley, are fundamental to global food security (Smith & Jones, 2018). Corn, specifically, also serves as araw material for bio fuels and bio products (Davis et al., 2019).

2. **Industrial and Medicinal Uses**

Monocots are also sources of fiber crops like bamboo and sugarcane, whichare largely used in the paper, textile, and sugar industries (Brown et al., 2017*). Aloe vera,* another monocot, is used for its medicinal and cosmetic properties, contributing nearly $2 billion in global trade (Miller, 2016). Sugarcane, in particular, is an economic powerhouse,which provides not only sugar but also ethanol, which is vital in the energy sector (Thompson & Green, 2019).

3. **Horticultural and Ornamental Value**

Varios Monocots are integral to the ornamental industry, with plants like orchids, lilies, and tulips highly valued in landscaping and horticulture (Robinson, 2018). The global cut flower industry relies hugely on these monocots, contributing to both domestic and international economies, especially in the countries like the Netherlands and Colombia (Garcia & Harris, 2021).

Taxonomic Relationships and Disease Susceptibility:

1. Poales: This order includes grasses like wheat, barley, oats and cereals like rice, maize. Many diseases such as such as powdery mildew, rusts, and smuts affect Poales, (Soreng et al., 2015). Taxonomic relatedness within Poales facilitates disease spread and susceptibility, as observed in the spread of wheat rusts (Kumar et al., 2020).

2. **Arecales:** This order includes Palms (e.g., coconut, date) and bamboo Diseases like lethal yellowing and root rot affect the plants of this order (Stevenson et al., 2019). The relatively small size of this order limits disease spread.

3. **Commelinales:** This order includes commelinid monocots (e.g., sugarcane, spiderwort). Diseases like rusts and leaf spots affect Commelinales (APG, 2016). Taxonomic relatedness within Commelinales contributes to disease susceptibility.

Scope of Diseases in Monocots:

These crops are affected by diverse pathogens, ranging from fungal to viral agents, each with unique management needs (Strange & Scott, 2005).

2. Major Diseases of Economic Monocot Crops

Fungal Diseases:

1. **Rice Blast**: Magnaporthe oryzae (Talbot, 2003) - Symptoms: Lesions on leaves, nodes, and panicles; can lead to defoliation and reduced yield.
2. Maize Leaf Blight: Exserohilum turcicum (Levy and Correa, 2017) - Symptoms: Long, elliptical lesions on leaves; can lead to premature defoliation.
3. **Wheat Powdery Mildew:** Blumeria graminis f. sp. tritici (Müller and Fischer, 2017) - Symptoms: White, powdery growth on leaves; can reduce yield.
4. **Sugarcane Rust:** Puccinia melanocephala (Raid, 2015) - Symptoms: Orange or brown pustules on leaves; can reduce yield.
5. **Barley Powdery Mildew:** Blumeria graminis f. sp. hordei (Hovmøller and Justesen, 2007) - Symptoms: White, powdery growth on leaves; can reduce yield.
6. **Corn Smut:** Ustilago maydis (Lau and Kolmer, 2018) - Symptoms: Large, black spore masses on ears and leaves.
7. **Wheat Scab:** Fusarium graminearum (Goswami and Kistler, 2004) - Symptoms: Discoloration and decay of wheat heads.

8. Sorghum Leaf Spot: Cercospora sorghi (Reis and Casa, 2018) - Symptoms: Small, circular lesions on leave

Bacterial Diseases:

1. **Bacterial Leaf Blight of Rice** (Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae) (Ou, 1985) - This disease causes significant yield losses in rice crops worldwide.
2. **Bacterial Soft Rot of Potato** (Pectobacterium carotovorum) (Perombelon, 2002) - A major disease affecting potato tubers.
3. Bacterial Leaf Stripe of Wheat (Xanthomonas translucens) (Duveiller and Maraite, 1990) - Causes significant losses in wheat yields.
4. **Bacterial blight**, caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae*, significantly impacts rice yields in Asia (Niño-Liu et al., 2006).

Viral Diseases:

Viral pathogens such as rice tungro virus lead to severe yield losses in tropical Asia (Hibino, 1983; Jones, 2014).

1. **Rice Tungro Disease** (Rice tungro bacilliform virus and Rice tungro spherical virus) ,Significant yield losses in rice crops. (Hibino and Cabauatan, 1986
2. **Wheat Streak Mosaic** (Wheat streak mosaic virus) Causes significant losses in wheat yields. (Seifers, Harvey, and Martin, 1995)
3. **Sugarcane Mosaic** (Sugarcane mosaic virus) (Hughes and Robinson, 1966) - A major disease affecting sugarcane

Nematode Diseases:

Nematodes affect a variety of crops, damaging roots and decreasing productivity (Sasser, 1980). Rice, wheat, barley, oats, maize, sugarcane are affected

1. Root-knot: Nematode (Meloidogyne spp.)
- **Symptoms:** Root galls, reduced plant growth, yellowing leaves [Jones & Dropkin, 1975]

2. Cyst: Nematode (Heterodera spp.)
- Disease: Cyst formation affects Wheat, barley, oats, rice
- Symptoms: Yellowing leaves, stunted growth, reduced yield [Sasser & Carter, 1982]

3. Lesion Nematode (Pratylenchus spp.)
- Disease: Lesion formation, affects Monocot hosts: Maize, wheat, barley, rice
- Symptoms: Lesions on roots, reduced plant growth [Royer et al., 1988]

4. Stem and Bulb Nematode (Ditylenchus dipsaci)
- Disease: Stem and bulb damage affects Monocot hosts: Wheat, barley, oats, garlic, and onion
- Symptoms: Swelling, twisting, and cracking of stems and bulbs [Barker & Davis, 1996]

5. Burrowing Nematode (Radopholus similis)
- Disease: Burrowing affects Monocot hosts: Rice, sugarcane, maize
- Symptoms: Root damage, yellowing leaves, stunted growth [Prot & Rahman, 1994]

6. Lance Nematode (Hoplolaimus spp.)
- Disease: Lance damage affects Monocot hosts: Wheat, barley, oats, rice, maize
- Symptoms: Reduced plant growth, yellowing leaves [Noel, 1992]

7. Stunt Nematode (Tylenchorhynchus spp.)
- Disease: Stunting, affects Monocot hosts: Maize, wheat, barley, oats, rice
- Symptoms: Reduced plant growth, yellowing leaves- [Fortnum et al., 2001]

3. Impact of Monocot Diseases on Agriculture:

Diseases in monocots account for significant economic losses and contribute to food insecurity in developing regions (Oerke, 2006).

Yield reductions in crops like wheat and maize are often due to prevalent diseases, with some pathogens capable of reducing yields by 20-40% (Savary et al., 2019).

Quality deterioration from pathogens like Fusarium can affect both yield and marketability (Miller, 1995).

4. Current Management Strategies

Cultural Practices

- Crop rotation and field sanitation have long been recommended to reduce disease pressure (Cook, 2000).

Chemical Control:

While fungicides are widely used, their application must be carefully managed to prevent resistance (Lucas et al., 2015).

Biological Control:

Biocontrol agents such as *Trichoderma* species are increasingly popular for sustainable management (Harman et al., 2004).

Genetic Resistance:

Breeding programs have made progress in developing disease-resistant varieties, though durability is an ongoing challenge (Liu et al., 2020).

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

IPM combines multiple strategies for sustainable disease control (Kogan, 1998).

5.Emerging Management Approaches and Technological Advances

Biotechnological Approaches:

Genetic engineering, such as CRISPR/Cas9, is gaining traction for developing resistant monocots (Chen et al., 2019).

Precision Agriculture:

Remote sensing and machine learning are transforming disease detection (Mahlein, 2016).

Nanotechnology in Disease Management:

Nanotechnology shows promise for targeted pest control (Kah, 2015).

6. Challenges in Disease Management

- Resistance development in pathogens is a major issue, especially with widespread chemical usage (McGrath, 2004).
- Climate change is expected to exacerbate disease pressures in many regions (Chakraborty & Newton, 2011).
- There is a need to balance effective management with sustainability concerns (Tilman et al., 2002).

7. Future Perspectives

- Future research should focus on understanding pathogen evolution and disease mechanisms (Savary et al., 2019).
- Policy support is essential for implementing sustainable practices (Paarlberg, 2010).
- Integrated approaches are critical for the future of monocot disease management (Bailey et al., 2010).

8. Conclusion:

The taxonomy of monocots significantly influences disease susceptibility and resistance. Understanding these relationships is important for effective disease management and resistance breeding. Future research should focus on:

1. Phylogenetic analysis: Integrating phylogenetic data with disease susceptibility and resistance studies.
2. Comparative genomics: Investigating genetic basis of disease resistance in monocots.
3. Disease monitoring: Establishing surveillance systems to track disease spread across related species.

In addition, sustainable disease management in monocotyledonous crops is a challenge l for future food security. Monocotyledonous crops, such as wheat, rice, and maize, are staple foods for billions. Diseases cause significant loss to these crops, impacting yields and food availability. Innovative Technological approach is essential to combat disease pressures. Conventional and modern approaches should be integrated to offer effective solutions. These include precision agriculture, disease forecasting models, and genetic engineering. Resistant cultivar development, biological control, and cultural practices also play vital roles. Adopting sustainable disease management practices minimizes environmental impact. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) emphasizes the need for holistic approaches. By embracing innovation and integration, we can ensure global food security and meet growing demands. Effective disease management will be critical in achieving sustainable agriculture and food systems.

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