DISEASE NOTE

NEW HOST OF PUCCINIA CORONATA var. CORONATA FROM PAKISTAN

A. Ishaq1, N.S. Afshan2 and A.N. Khalid1

1 Department of Botany, Faculty of Life Sciences, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
2 Centre for Undergraduate Studies, Faculty of Science, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

During an uredinological survey carried out in August 2009 in Sharan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan), leaves of Stipa sibirica infected with a rust fungus were found. Uredinia were abaxial, brown, 0.2 to 0.25 mm wide and 0.08 to 0.12 mm long. Urediniospores were globose to subglobose, hyaline, 18-24 × 21-28 μm in size, with 1.5-2.5 μm thick echinulated wall, and up to 5 scattered germ pores. Telia were abaxial and measured 0.1-0.2 × 0.07-0.09 mm. Teliospores were 1-2 celled with a prevalence of the 2-celled ones. They were oblong to clavate, hyaline to light brown, had 2-5 digitations, were 14 -19 × 38-57 μm long excluding digitations, and 36-68 μm long including digitations, 3-6 μm thick apically excluding the crown (7-20 μm thick including the crown). Spore walls were 2-3 μm thick. Based on these morphological traits and spore dimensions, the rust was identified as *Puccinia coronata* var. *coronata*, a sample of which was deposited in LAH Herbarium (LAH Herbarium No. AM1175) of the University of the Punjab, Lahore. *P. coronata* var. *coronata* has previously been recorded in Pakistan on *Agrostis gigantea*, *Festuca* sp., *Lolium persicum* and *Themeda anathera* (Ahmad et al., 1997; Afshan et al., 2011) but, to the best of our knowledge, this its first report on *S. sibirica* in this country.

The authors are highly obliged to the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for funding this research.

Ahmad S., Iqbal S.H., Khalid A.N., 1997. Fungi of Pakistan. Sultan Ahmad Mycological Society of Pakistan, Department of Botany, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
