

A NEW HOST RECORD OF A RUST IN CANADA

H.N.W. Toms'

Uromyces cillarum (Crev.) Lév., a foliar rust of Spanish bluebell, Scilla hispanica Mill., was collected twice on Vancouver Island, B. C. in April, 1961; by the author at Victoria and by W.R. Orchard at Saanichton. A brief note of its occurrence is of interest as only two previous North American records exist. Arthur (1) lists a collection by Blasdale from Berkeley, California on S. hispanica and Savile (2) cites its occurrence on Hyacinthus sp. at or near Sidney, B.C.

Uromyces scillarum occurs widely in Europe and on the Mediterranean coast of Africa, and is known to occur naturally on various species of Bellevalia, Hyacinthus, Muscari and Scilla eastward to central Asia. It has been sparingly introduced into other parts of the world with horticultural stock.

The lesions on the bluebell specimens from Victoria occurred on both sides of the leaf. The chocolate-brown telial pustules were separate at first but later coalesced. Lesions were seldom found on petioles and never on the inflorescence or its stem. Both the foliage and flowers of infected plants were of normal size and vigor at the time of collection, but it is suspected that infected leaves would yellow and age earlier than normally. The Victoria specimens were collected in an old private garden planted about seventy years ago.

The occurrence of this microcytic rust is more of academic than of economic interest.

Literature cited

1. ARTHUR, J.C. 1934. Manual of the rusts in United States and Canada. Lafayette, Purdue Research Foundation, p. 225.
2. SAVILE, D.B.Q. 1956. in Can. Plant Dis. Survey, 35th Ann. Rept. p. 123.

¹Plant Pathologist, Canada Agriculture Research Station, 6660 N. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B. C.