

# *Sclerotinia minor* as the cause of lettuce drop in southwestern Ontario

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*Sclerotinia minor* is recorded as a cause of lettuce drop in southwestern Ontario, where it occurred together with *S. sclerotiorum* and *Botrytis cinerea*

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*Sclerotinia minor* est mentionné comme la cause de l'affaissement sclérotique de la laitue dans le sud-ouest de l'Ontario, où on le retrouve accompagné de *S. sclerotiorum* et de *Botrytis cinerea*.

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*Sclerotinia minor* Jagger as such has apparently not been previously recorded as a pathogen of lettuce in Canada but during the summer of 1984, 3 field crops of leaf and 2 of butterhead lettuce in Essex County were found to have up to 50% of heads affected by lettuce drop. In most cases, small aggregated sclerotia on a white mycelium indicated the presence of *S. minor*. Other lettuce heads nearby had the large separate sclerotia typical of *S. sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary, while others had abundant conidiophores of *Botrytis cinerea* Pers.: Nocca & Balbis. In all cases, the gross symptoms were very similar; wilting and death of the outer leaves and a general flaccidity and loss of brightness in colour of the head. Occasionally, *B. cinerea* occurred on the same heads as either *S. minor* or *S. sclerotiorum*. Exiccata of *S. minor* on lettuce were deposited at DAOM.

The three organisms were readily isolated and produced typical sclerotia on potato dextrose agar, and in the case of *B. cinerea*, typical conidia as well. While *S. sclerotiorum* is well-known from British Columbia to Newfoundland, and so report-

ed by Conners (1), *S. minor* is known in the Canadian literature by one of its synonyms, *S. sativa*, (2), and from herbarium material (3). Both species are plurivorous and lettuce is a common host (3).

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## Literature cited

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3. Kohn, L. M. 1979. A monographic revision of the genus *Sclerotinia*. *Mycotaxon* 9: 365-444.

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