

## New Diseases of Ornamentals in Egypt:

### II. Cut Flower Plant: Statice

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**S**tatice (*Limonium sinuatum* (L.) Mill.) is an annual, important cut flower used as a "filler" in arrangements or a dried flower. Owing to the increased demand to this kind of flowers in Egypt, new important, attractive cultivars are recently imported during the last five years to plant under both conditions of field and protected cultivations of Giza, Qalubya, Behera, Sharkyia and Alexandria governorates.

Three diseases namely: rust <sup>(1,2,6&8)</sup>, Botrytis blight <sup>(3,4,5&6)</sup> and Rhizoctonia crown rot <sup>(6&7)</sup> were found to significantly contribute to poor yield and quality of statice in its cultivations. Rust (*Uromyces limonii*) symptoms started to appear on both surfaces of the lower leaves, stem and branches, progressed upward on the entire plant foliage (Fig., 1). The infected stems, however, thickened, bent, dark violet and because of the presence of numerous pustules very close together, superficially rough. Swellings sometimes caused deformation or abortion of the inflorescences. While, Botrytis blight (*Botrytis cinerea* Pers. ex. Fr.) symptoms (Fig., 2) appear on seedlings, flower stalks and flowers, foliage and stubs left after harvesting flowers. The necrotic tissues may be partially or entirely covered with conidiophores and conidia of the fungus and this situation is correlated with the availability of the suitable environmental conditions for the fungal growth. Flower infection begins with the collapse and discoloration of the membranous calyces. The pathogen grows through the compact flower clusters. When the flowers dry they dehisce, causing the shattering of flower heads after harvest. As disease develops, portions of or entire inflorescences become necrotic (blight). On the other hand, Rhizoctonia crown rot (*Rhizoctonia solani* Kühn) appears as water-soaked gray lesions first develop in leaf petioles and midribs lying on or near the soil. The infected plants develop a severe rot at the crown and die.

The causal pathogens of the described diseases were isolated, purified and identified and Koch's postulates were adopted. According to the available literature these diseases and their fungal pathogens were reported for the first time in Egypt on Statice.

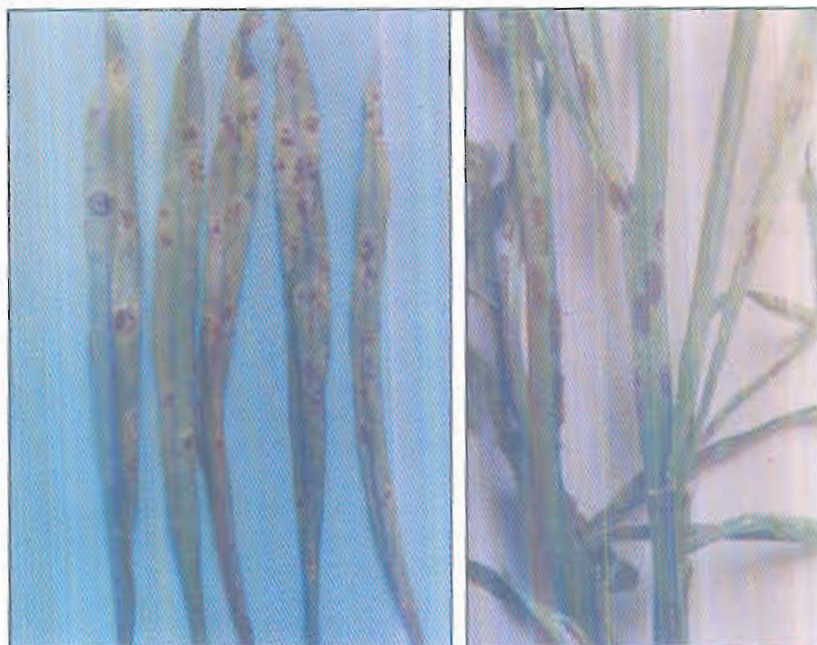


Fig. 1. Rust pustules of *Uromyces limonii* on Statice plants (leaves & stems).



Fig. 2. Showing symptoms of Botrytis blight on Statice plants.

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## الأمراض المسجلة حديثاً على نباتات الزينة في مصر:

## ٢. نبات أزهار القطف: الإستاتيس

عرفه عبد الجليل هلال

قسم بحوث أمراض نباتات الزينة والطبية والعطرية-

معهد بحوث أمراض النباتات - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزة.

الإستاتيس من نباتات أزهار القطف الحولية الهامة التي تم إدخالها  
زراعتها حديثاً في مصر لتلبية الزيادة في الطلب على الأزهار لخدمة  
كأزهار مائدة في التسميق أو كأزهار جافة. وقد ثبت ظهور ثلاثة أمراض جديدة  
جديدة وهامة في زراعتها المحمية في كل من محافظات: الجيزة، الغربية،  
البحيرة، الشرقية والأسكندرية هي:

١. الصدأ (*Uromyces limonii*): الذي تظهر أعراضه في البداية على الأوراق  
السفلية للنبات ثم نعم المجموع الخضري كله (المسوق، السوق، الساق  
والأوراق).

٢. لفحة البوطريستس (*Botrytis cinerea*): والذي تظهر أعراضه على  
البادرات والنباتات ولزهارها وأغصانها والأجزاء الخضرية المتبقية بعد  
الأزهار أيضاً.

٣. عفن قواعد السوق (التاج) الريزوكتونى والذي تظهر أعراضه عادة بالقرب من  
التربة مؤدياً إلى موت كلى اللبادرات وجزئى أو كلى للنباتات البالغة.