

Research Article**On the *in vitro* Morphology and Biology of *Ustilaginoidea virens*, the Causal Agent of False Smut of Rice****C R Rashmi¹, C Gokulapalan² and V K Girija²**¹College of Agriculture, Padannakkad, Kasaragode, Kerala Agricultural University, ²College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Trivandrum, Kerala Agricultural University, Email: rashmicr@gmail.com**Abstract**

False smut of rice caused by the ascomycetous fungus, *Ustilaginoidea virens*, the perfect stage being *Villosiclava virens* is an emerging disease worldwide. The pathogen is a slow grower and is difficult to culture. Studies were made on suitable isolation method for the fungus and observations on the pathogen biology under *in vitro* were done. The chlamydospores of the pathogen on germination produced germ tubes or secondary conidia and after one month of incubation it produced pseudosclerotia in culture, containing chlamydospores. The perfect stage of the pathogen, *Villosiclava virens* was observed under artificial culture conditions for the first time.

Key words: Biology, false smut, isolation, Rice, sequence of sporulation, *Ustilaginoidea virens*, *Villosiclava virens*

Citation: Rashmi CR, Gokulapalan C and Girija VK. 2016. On the *in vitro* morphology and biology of *Ustilaginoidea virens*, the causal agent of false smut of rice. *J Mycol Pl Pathol* 46 (4): 374-380