EPICOCCUM NIGRUM ON LEAVES OF WINTER WHEAT

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On June 23 and 24, while visiting the Research Station at Harrow, Ont., Dr. D. J. Samborski and I examined several fields and some experimental plots of winter wheat, looking for rust. We found very light infections of leaf rust, but no stem rust.

Leaf lesions, apparently caused by Septoria infection, were numerous, especially on the lower leaves. Some of the lesions bore rows of black bodies, which under a hand lens appeared to be small and somewhat atypically grouped pycnidia.

When I examined the lesioned leaves critically at Winnipeg, I found that the "black bodies" were not pycnidia, but sporodochia of Epicoccum nigrum Lk. ex Wallr. Numerous typical, dark, muriform conidia were present.

Although E. nigrum does not seem to have been reported previously from wheat leaves in Canada, it is frequently isolated from seeds and roots of various crops at the Winnipeg Laboratory. Freeman Weiss reported Eoicoccum from Triticum as follows: "Epicoccum nigrum Lk. ex Wallr., glume spot, smudge, (saprophytic). Del., Ill., Ohio, Pa. Various other names as E. purpurascens Ehr., E. vulgare Cda. are probably synonyms."[2]

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[2] Weiss, Freeman, Check List Revision. Plant Disease Reptr, 29: 625. 1945.