SUMMARY
Variability among 59 isolates of S. rolfsii collected from groundnut growing areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra states of India was studied. Besides morphological characters (growth rate, colony type, number, size and colour of sclerotia) vegetative compatibility and virulence of the isolates were considered for study of variability. The results revealed that out of 59 isolates, colonies of 35 isolates were fluffy, whereas 24 were compact. Twenty nine isolates were fast growing (diam. >80-90 mm), 24 moderately fast growing (61-79 mm) and 6 were slow growing (<60 mm). Twelve isolates produced a large number of sclerotia (>500 sclerotia/plate) but smaller in size (0.5-1.4), while 9 isolates produced relatively fewer sclerotia (140-286 sclerotia/plate) but larger in size (2.1-2.5 mm). The colour of sclerotia was dark brown, reddish brown and light brown. Nine isolates were highly virulent causing more than 60% mortality of plants due to stem rot. Vegetative compatibility matrix revealed that out of 3481 combinations only 1512 were compatible (44%). On the basis of compatibility and virulence four, isolates viz., NRCG-SR 6, 7, 18 and 57 were identified that could be used in a consortium for development of sick plot.

Key words:
Groundnut, S. rolfsii, Virulence, Incompatibility, Stem rot

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