

Documentation Of *Sclerotinia* White Rot On Two 'Jewel Orchids' From Darjeeling, W.B.

Goodyera and *Anoectochilus* are terrestrial leafy herbaceous orchids. They are also known as 'Jewel orchids' as they have beautiful shiny, multicoloured decorated foliage with prominent veins in elaborate patterns. They are distributed in Khasia hills in Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and in the hills of Sikkim Himalayas including Darjeeling, India. During August of 2005, severe white rot and blight was observed in the beds of *Goodyera schlechtendaliana* Reichb. and *Anoectochilus lanceolatus* Lindl. in the orchidarium of National Research Centre for Orchids (ICAR), Darjeeling Campus, Darjeeling (2200 M MSL), India. Plants were chlorotic, wilted and collapsed (Fig.1a & b). There was a soft watery rot at the basal portion, which gradually rot the whole plants. Sometimes, several plants infected at a time and all the plants fall down showing damping off symptoms. White mycelium gradually covered the collapsed plants. Black small sclerotia formed on the rotted stem tissues. The rot caused death of 5% and 2% of *Goodyera schlechtendaliana* and *Anoectochilus lanceolatus* plants in the bed respectively.