

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

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B.Sc. PART I PAPER I

CORE CONCEPT OF PHYTOPATHOLOGY

**INFECTION:** The establishment of the pathogen in the host tissue is known as infection. The infection is induced by the infective propagules collectively known as inoculum, produced by the pathogen, and insertion of inoculum in a body (plant and animal) or in any other suitable place is inoculation. The number of propagules and their capacity to cause infection known as inoculum potential which is determined by the type of pathogen, its genetic capacity to multiply rapidly and its nutrition which is again dependent upon host susceptibility. With proper inoculum potential the pathogen will complete the process

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of infection by: (i) penetration resulting from breaking down of physical and chemical barriers, and (ii) establishment of physiological relationship with the host. The infection proper followed by 'colonization' in which the pathogen advances through the host tissue in varying extents. The point at which the inoculum establishes itself inducing infection is the infection court or infection locus. Infection loci are local concentration of disease. They need not be conspicuous. A large number of small infection loci might appear simultaneously.

