## Focus

The causal agent of reversion disease in black currant has been named the black currant reversion virus by A. Lemmetty and K. Lehto of the Agricultural Research Centre, Jokioinen, Finland. (Eur. J. Plant Pathol. 105:297-301, 1999)

Root-lesion nematode populations in potato tubers dropped below the level posing a threat in planting another crop when tubers were stored below 5°C for 8 months, but could be a source of a new infestation, report T. H. A. Olthoff and Q. Yu at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Vineland, Ontario, Canada. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 21:154-158, 1999)

The first cytological visualization and characterization of a supernumerary chromosome in fungi was shown for <u>Nectria haematocca</u> by M. Taga and associates at Okayama University, Okayama and Kurashiki, Japan, and the University of Arizona, Tucson. (Fungal Genet. Biol. 26:169-177, 1999)

German isolates of the sugarcane mosaic virus are defined as a new strain based on molecular, serological, and biological characteristics, according to U. Oertel and associates at the Martin-Luther-University Halle, Wittenberg, Germany. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 106:304-313, 1999)

Root rot of avocado caused by <u>Phytophthora cinnamomi</u> ( $A_2$  mating type) was reported in Italy for the first time by A. O. Cacciola and associates at the Università degli Studi di Palermo, Università di Catania, and the Università di Reggio Calabria, Italy. (Inf. Fitopatol. 49[6]:23-29, 1999)

<u>Helminthosporium</u> <u>spiciferum</u> causes symptoms on rice different from those caused by <u>H. oryzae</u> and <u>Pyricularia oryzae</u>, according to B. Ennaffah and associates at the Université Ibn Tofail, Kénitra, Morocco, and all six cultivars tested were susceptible. (J. Phytopathol. 147:377-379, 1999)

Lipoxygenase activity is enhanced in pepper leaves during the collapse phase of the hypersensitive reaction induced by <u>Xanthomonas</u> <u>campestris</u> race 2, according to R. Buonaurio and M. Servili of the Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 54:155-169, 1999)

A new species, <u>Meloidogyne petuniae</u>, found for the first time in Brazil on petunia can parasitize bean, carrot, corn, pea, and potato, report J. M. Charchar and associates at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, and North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (J. Nematol. 31:81-91, 1999)

Molecular evidence supports <u>Phytophthora</u> <u>quercina</u>, associated with oak decline in Europe, as a distict species, report D. E. L. Cooke and associates at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dundee, Scotland; Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Freising, Germany; and the Institute for Biochemical Plant Pathology, Neuherberg, Germany. (Mycol. Res. 103:799-804, 1999)

Fusarium graminearum Group 1 has been described as  $\underline{F}$ . pseudograminearum by T. Aoki of the National Institute of Agrobiological Resources in Tsukuba, Japan; and K. O'Donnell of the USDA-ARS, Peoria, Illinois. (Mycologia 91:597-609, 1999)

Seedlings of <u>Pinus sylvestris</u> colonized by <u>Suillus variegatus</u> tend to be more efficient in uptake of potassium from biotite, report H. Wallender of the University of Lund, and T. Wickman from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. (Mycorrhiza 9:25-32, 1999)