Focus

Although winterkill in Kansas wheat fields ranged from slight to severe, disease incidence and severity were below normal, reports J. A. Appel of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep. 2, 30 March 1989)

The natural amount (250 ppm) of fusaric acid produced by <u>Fusarium</u> species acts synergistically with allochemicals already present in corn to enhance preexisting plant defenses to earworm, reports P. F. Dowd of Northern Regional Research Center, Peoria, Illinois. (J. Chem. Ecol. 15:249-254, 1989)

An outbreak of soilborne wheat mosaic virus on wheat and on <u>Nicotiana benthamiana</u> (a new host) in southern Italy was reported by G. L. Rana of the University of Basilicata, Potenza, and R. Lafortezza of the University of Bari. (Inf. Fitopatol. 38[11]:46-48, 1988)

Monensin, a product of <u>Streptomyces cinnamonensis</u>, suppresses growth of <u>Hypomyces chlorinus</u>, <u>Neurospora crassa</u>, <u>Achlya bisexualis</u>, and <u>Taphrina deformans</u>, report J. Weete and associates at Auburn University, Alabama. (Exp. Mycol. 13:85-94, 1989)

Helicocephalum corniculatum, a new fungal species described by D. J. Kitz, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and R. W. Embree, University of Iowa, Iowa City, parasitizes eggs of Rhabditis species but not live, mature nematodes. (Mycologia 81:164-166, 1989)

Although fungi that infect plants or grow in lesions either release ethylene directly or stimulate host plants to do so, J. Wilkes, G. T. Dale, and K. M. Old of Australian National University and CSIRO, Canberra, report that in their work on Endothia gyrosa and Cytospora eucalypticola on eucalyptus, total ethylene content in infected tissue does not reflect the status of microbial invasion. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 34:171-180, 1989)

The two genes that control benomyl resistance in <u>Fusarium</u> <u>oxysporum</u> allow almost no resistance when present separately but are synergistic for high resistance when present together, report L. Hornok and associates of the Plant Protection Institute in Budapest, Hungary. (Acta Phytopathol. Entomol. Hung. 23:3-10, 1988)

Induction of B-glucanase in corn leaves in response to infection by Exserohilum turcicum may be a consequence of expression of resistance instead of, or in addition to, liberation of phytoalexin elicitors, according to D. J. Jondle and associates of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. (Can. J. Bot. 67:263-266, 1989)

The amino acid contents of coat proteins in strains of the tomato bushy stunt virus (TBSV) genome are similar and confirm the taxonomic classification of TBSV BS-3 and TBSV-cherry as strains of a single virus distinct from cucumber necrosis virus, report B. L. Hillman and associates at the University of California, Berkeley, and Agriculture Canada, Vancouver. (Virology 169:42-50, 1989)

Aluminum tolerance of ectomycorrhizae is exceptionally high, at least among eucaryotes. Three <u>Suillus</u> species are the most tolerant, according to V. Hintakka of the University of Helsinki, Finland, who concludes that aluminum cannot be regarded as an efficient poison for mycorrhizal species. (Karstenia 28:41-44, 1988)

Four cycles of recurrent selection led to increasing frequency of corn lines resistant to Diplodia stalk rot and the European corn borer, report K. A. Nyhus, Garst Seed Company, Woodburn, Indiana, W. A. Russell, Iowa State University, Ames, and W. D. Guthrie, USDA-ARS, Ankeny, Iowa. (J. Econ. Entomol. 82:239-245, 1989)