Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Gray leaf spot was reported for the first time on corn in Kansas and was identified by W. Willis of Kansas State University, Manhattan. (Kans. Plant Dis. Surv. Rep. 21, 8 September 1989)

Strains of Pseudomonas syringae pv. glycinea carrying the avrB gene cause a hypersensitive (necrosis) reaction on blight-resistant soybean cultivars carrying the resistant gene Rpg1, report T. V. Huynh, D. Dahlbeck, and B. J. Staskawicz of the University of California, Berkeley. (Science 245:1374-1377, 1989)

A model in which a linear regression analysis predicted yield loss in rice from data on leaf blast severity was developed by A. Surin and associates of the Pathum Thani Research Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Regression accounts for 78% of the variability in yield loss. (Int. Rice Res. Newsl. 14[4]:35, 1989)

A lectin in nettle rhizomes acts synergistically with chitinase to inhibit fungal growth, according to W. F. Broekaert and associates of the University of Leuven, Belgium. The lectin has application in genetic engineering of disease-resistant crops. (Science 245:1100-1102, 1989)

Physiological specialization of Heterobasidion annosum on conifer hosts between and within tree species was demonstrated by T. Hsiang and R. L Edmonds of the University of Washington, Seattle. (Can. J. Bot. 67:2396-2400, 1989)

A new snow mold of barley and wheat, caused by Ceratobasidium gramineum, was described by S. Takamatsu of the Fukui Agricultural Experiment Station, Japan. This is the first report of this fungus as a cause of snow mold in cereals. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 55:233-237, 1989)

Gaeumannomyces incrustans and Magnaporthe poae are species newly described by P. J. Landschoot and N. Jackson of the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, that infect roots of several turfgrasses. Both species have a Phialophora anamorph. (Mycol. Res. 93:55-62, 1989)

Of 594 strains of fungi stored in water, 90% were viable after 20 years, report C. H. deCapriles, S. Mata, and M. Middelveen of the Central University of Venezuela, Caracas. Fragments of hyphae are stored in screw-cap tubes containing sterile distilled water kept at 25 to 28 C. (Mycopathologia 106:73-79, 1989)

In a polythetic generic definition of Fusarium presented by W. Gams and H. I. Nirenberg of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures in Baarn, Netherlands, and the Institute for Microbiology, Berlin, West Germany, the crucial point is the potential for every Fusarium to produce fusiform, septate "sporodochial" phialoconidia. (Mycotaxon 35:407-416, 1989)

Sweet potato plants can be freed from the witches'-broom agent by excision and culture of meristems (0.3 to 0.5 mm) with or without prior heat or tetracycline treatments, report S. K. Green, C. Y. Luo, and D. R. Lee of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center in Taiwan. (J. Phytopathol. 126:204-212, 1989)

Initially, taproots of susceptible and moderately resistant sugar beets respond similarly to infection with beet necrotic yellow vein virus, but in moderately resistant cultivars at later stages of infection, a barrier of suberized cells develops in the cortex, with no interruption of ring growth, according to C. P. Pollini and L. Giunchedi of the Università degli studi in Bologna, Italy. (Phytopathol. Mediterr. 28:16-21, 1989)

Salute to APS Sustaining Associates

This section is designed to help APS members understand more about APS Sustaining Associates. Information was supplied by company representatives. Each month different companies will be featured. A complete listing appears in each issue of *Phytopathology*.

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