## Focus Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Resistance to Fusarium head blight in wheat can be described as horizontal (Vanderplank's concept), except that in selected lines, resistance depends on a "strain-year combination," according to C. H. A. Snijders and F. A. Van Eeuwijk of the Center for Plant Breeding Research, Wageningen, Netherlands. (Theor. Appl. Genet. 81:239-244, 1991)

Fossil smut found in British Columbia in the anthers of an Eocene angiosperm thought to exist 48 million years ago is closely related to Microbotryum, according to R. S. Currah and R. A. Stockey of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. (Nature 350:698-699, 1991)

A tree decline in poplar plantations of northern Italy was attributed to moisture stress interacting with infection by Marssonina brunnea by N. Anselmi of the Università degli Studi, Torino, Italy. Among 21 associated wood decay fungi, Trametes trogii dominated. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 20:321-328, 1990)

Metalaxyl added to prairie grass (Andropogon spp.) soil augmented root colonization by vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae without increasing plant dry weight, report B. A. D. Hetrick and G. W. T. Wilson of Kansas State University, Manhattan. (Mycologia 83:97-102, 1991)

Quiescence of Colletotrichum gloeosporioides in unripe avocado fruit is attributable to fungitoxic concentrations of the antifungal diene on the subcuticular hyphae of germinated appressoria, report D. Prusky and associates at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel, and the Natural Resources Institute, Chatham, England. (Plant Pathol. 40:45-52, 1991)

Improperly stored medicinal plants can be invaded by toxigenic Aspergillus flavus, produce aflatoxins, and become hazardous for human use, report K. Abeywickrama and G. A. Bean of the University of Maryland, College Park. (Mycopathologia 113:187-190, 1991)

Introduction of cloned Erwinia chrysanthemi pelB or pelE genes enabled Escherichia coli to cause blackleg disease symptoms in potato, report L. Tsror and associates at the Gilat Experiment Station and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, and the University of California, Riverside. (Phytoparasitica 19:57-63, 1991)

O. E. Eriksson of the University of Umea, Sweden, and D. L. Hawksworth of the CAB International Mycological Institute, Kew, England, have provided 159 notes on taxonomy and nomenclature of ascomycetes at the rank of order, family, and genus. (Syst. Ascomycetum 9:1-271, 1991)

Tomato tissues remote from the site of infection by Meloidogyne incognita are more susceptible to infection by Fusarium oxysporum or Agrobacterium tumefaciens, report A. G. El-Sherif and M. A. Elwakil of Mansûra University, Al-Mansûra, Egypt. (J. Nematol. 23:239-242, 1991)

Leaf mold of tomato caused by Fulvia fulva is effectively controlled with the mycoparasite Hansfordia pulvinata plus fosetyl-Al, according to Y. Tirilly of the Laboratory for Microbiology, Brest, France. (Can. J. Bot. 69:306-310, 1991)

Regression analysis shows that root rot severity and stalk rot severity in corn correspond, according to W. Krüger of the Institute for Plant Protection, Ackerbau and Grünland, Germany. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 98:39-46, 1991)