

Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Verticillium lecanii, a pathogen of insects and fungi, penetrated eggs of the potato cyst nematode and showed potential for biological control, report A. Uziel and R. A. Sikora, University of Bonn, Germany. (Nematologica 38:123-130, 1992)

Evaluation of 25 isolates from five Pythium species by polymerase chain reaction and restriction fragment length polymorphism showed that P. arrhenomanes and P. graminicola are not distinct species, report W. Chen and associates at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. (Exp. Mycol. 16:22-34, 1992)

A disorder on peach similar to that caused by peach latent mosaic viroid was reported in Ravenna, Italy, by L. Giunchedi and associates of the University of Bologna, the University of Catania, and the provincial agriculture service in Cesena. (Inf. Fitopatol. 42[3]:47-49, 1992)

Geotrichum mycoparasitica is destructive to 27 fungi grown in culture, according to S. S. Tzean of National Taiwan University, Taipei, and R. H. Estey of McGill University, Quebec, Canada. (Mycol. Res. 96:263-269, 1992)

Ophiostoma polonicum was the first to colonize (both phloem and sapwood) Norway spruce trees infested by the bark beetle Ips typographus, reports H. Solheim, Norwegian Forest Research Institute, Ås, Norway. (Can. J. Bot. 70:1-5, 1992)

When testing peanut plants for resistance to root-knot nematodes, S. R. Koenning and K. R. Barker of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, found that eggs of Meloidogyne arenaria race 1 encapsulated in calcium alginate served as effective inoculum for infesting the fields. (J. Nematol. 24:183-186, 1992)

Decline of five Prunus species in fruit-growing areas of southwestern Germany is attributable to a mycoplasma, report W. Lederer and E. Seemüller of the Institute for Plant Protection, Dossenheim, Germany. This is the first report of mycoplasma on Prunus species in Germany. (J. Phytopathol. 134:89-96, 1992)

Myrothecium roridum, a pathogen of muskmelon and tomato, produces macrocyclic trichothecenes (myrotoxins) that may play a role in pathogenesis, according to B. B. Jarvis and associates at the University of Maryland, College Park. (Mycotoxin Res. 7:73-78, 1991)

Preventing flower formation in hawthorne significantly reduced the incidence of fire blight in the hawthorne but not in nearby pear orchards during a 3-year study, according to H. J. Schouten, Wageningen Agricultural University, Netherlands. Apparently, the pear orchards had considerable residual inoculum. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 98:21-32, 1992)

A mucilaginous interface, mainly polysaccharides having a fibrillar structure, mediates transfer of nutrients from soil to garlic root cells, report C. Gessa and S. Deiana of the University of Sasari, Italy. The mucilage may support nitrogen-fixing bacteria and organisms antagonistic to root pathogens. (Plant Soil 140:1-13, 1992)

Treatment of wheat plants with the fungicides triadimefon and propiconazole decreased the incidence of scab, caused by Fusarium graminearum, by 39-61% and the amount of deoxynivalenol in plants by 34-79%, according to D. Boyacoglu, N. S. Hettiarachchy, and R. W. Stack of North Dakota State University, Fargo. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 72:93-101, 1992)