Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Periplastic vesicles and wall appositions in necrotic phloem of rubber trees in the Ivory Coast point to direct or indirect involvement of microorganisms, according to M. Nicole and associates at Forestry Canada, Sainte-Foy, Quebec. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 22:266-277, 1992)

Nonheterokaryotic mycelia in tufts of Rhizoctonia solani AG-8 are the result of transient heterokaryon effects and the translocation of metabolic products, which is much more efficient than nuclear migration, according to H. A. Yang and associates at the University of Western Australia, Nedlands; CSIRO, Wembley; and Murdoch University, Western Australia. (Exp. Mycol. 16:268-278, 1992)

Heterodera species were reported for the first time on wheat in South Africa by E. M. Jordaan and associates at the Grain Crops Research Institute in Potchefstroom and the Plant Protection Research Institute in Pretoria. Nineteen plant-parasitic nematode species were recovered from roots and rhizospheres of wheat in seven wheat-producing areas in South Africa. (Fundam. Appl. Nematol. 15:531-537, 1992)

Douglas-fir may fail to maintain dominance in mixed stands because of high rates in juvenile growth of red alder, which has the competitive advantage of faster colonization by ectomycorrhizae and nodulation with nitrogen fixation by Frankia, report S. L. Miller and associates at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and Oregon State University and the USDA in Corvallis. (Mycorrhiza 2:53-61, 1992)

Pseudomonas syringae pv. lachrymans was found in black zucchini squash seeds imported by Italy, and an epidemic occurred where the seed was sown, reports M. Scortichini of the Istituto Sperimentale per la Patologia Vegetale, Rome. (Inf. Fitopatol. 42[11]:55-58, 1992)

Tissue culture of clover embryos infected with the clover phyllody mycoplasmalike organism maintained infection in plants grown from them, report A. S. Denes of Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, and R. C. Sinha of Agriculture Canada, Nepean, Ontario. Leafhopper vectors could not transmit the pathogen from regenerated plants; loss or change of DNA was associated. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 14:189-196, 1992)

Stem rot caused by Pseudomonas corrugata was reported for the first time on chrysanthemum by M. Fiori of the Università degli Studi, Sassari, Italy. (Phytopathol. Mediterr. 31:110-114, 1992)

Yellowing and reddening of leaves and stems, stunting, and flower phyllody of winged everlasting, an ornamental marketed for its dried flowers, were caused by mycoplasmalike organisms harbored in phloem elements, report K. F. Chang and associates at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Center, Edmonton, Canada. (J. Phytopathol. 136:257-261, 1992)

Bacteria may be present in tissue of plants propagated from tissue culture, despite aseptic conditions, and produce symptoms months later, according to D. L. Cooke of Nottingham Polytechnic, W. M. Waites of the University of Nottingham, and C. Leifert of the University of Manchester, England, who studied four bacterial species and five ornamentals. Conversely, some bacteria detected initially do not survive as plants grow. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 99:469-481, 1992)

Resistance to cucumber mosaic virus satellite RNA introduced into tobacco plants by the binary vector system of Agrobacterium tumefaciens is maintained for five generations, report Y. Takanami and associates at Japan Tobacco Inc., Yokohama and Shizuoka, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 58:522-527, 1992)