Focus

Race TPMK of <u>Puccinia graminis</u> f. sp. <u>tritici</u> is currently the predominant race of wheat stem rust in the U.S., as it was in 1994, and race QCCJ is well established in Texas, according to M. E. Hughes of the USDA-ARS Cereal Rust Laboratory, St. Paul, Minn. (Cereal Rust Bull. #7, 11 July 1995)

Passage of cucumber necrosis virus containing defective interfering RNAs through cucumber but not tobacco plants decreased accumulation of such RNAs to undetectable concentrations, report Y. C. Chang and associates at the National Taiwan University, Taipei. (Virology 210:41-53, 1995)

Arbuscular mycorrhizae can orchestrate metabolic changes in corn that enhance drought resistance, report K. S. Subramanian and C. Charest at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Organic solutes such as sugars and nitrogen compounds contribute to osmotic adjustment. (Mycorrhiza 5:273-278, 1995)

Heat-induced susceptibility of tomato is associated with reduced hypersensitivity to <u>Meloidogyne incognita</u>, report G. Zacheo and associates at the Istituto Biotecnologie Agroalimentari and the University of Leece, Leece, Italy; the Istituto di Nematologia Agraria, Bari, Italy; and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 46:491-507, 1995)

Plectosporium is a new genus for <u>Fusarium tabacinum</u> (≡ <u>Cephalosporium tabacinum</u>) described by M. E. Palm of the USDA-APHIS, Beltsville, Md.; and associates at the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, Netherlands; and the Institut für Mikrobiologie, Berlin, Germany. (Mycologia 87:397-406, 1995)

Rice spikelets were susceptible to bacterial grain rot from flowering to 3 days later at 95% relative humidity, report S. Tsushima and associates at the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences and the National Agricultural Research Center, both in Tsukuba, and the Kyushu National Agricultural Experiment Station, Nishigoshi, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 61:109-113, 1995)

A severe disease of horse chestnut caused by <u>Phytophthora</u> species was found in Germany for the first time by Von Sabine Werres and associates at the Institut für Pflanzenschutz im Gartenbau, Braunschweig, and the Landesanstalt für Pflanzenschutz, Stuttgart, Germany (Nachrichtenbl. Deut. Pflanzenschutzd. 47:81-85, 1995)

Ectomycorrhizal fungi prevented damping-off of <u>Pinus nigra</u> caused by <u>Fusarium solani</u>, report A. Zambonelli and associates at the University of Bologna and the University of Ancoma, Italy. (Inf. Fitopatol. 45[5]:58-61, 1995)

Zinc chelate fertilizer inhibits rather than stimulates hatching of <u>Meloidogyne</u> <u>glycines</u>, making it ineffective in control, report J. E. Behm and associates at Iowa State University, Ames, and the University of Missouri, Columbia. Inhibition is attributed to the chelating agent, not zinc. (J. Nematol. 27:164-171, 1995)

The same incompletely dominant gene in tomato controls hypersensitive reactions and field resistance to <u>Xanthomonas campestris</u> pv. <u>vesicatoria</u> race T3, according to J. W. Scott and associates at the University of Florida in Bradenton. (HortScience 30:822, 1995)

With adequate rainfall, soil populations of <u>Aspergillus flavus</u> and <u>A. parasiticus</u> are nearly constant during the season in Georgia peanut or corn fields, report B. W. Horn and associates at the USDA National Peanut Research Laboratory, Dawson, Georgia. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 61:2472-2475, 1995)