## Focus

Genomic diversity detected by random amplified polymorphic DNA analysis among and within Stemphylium species from alfalfa corroborates morphology-based taxonomy by distinguishing at least four of five species, according to C. Chaisrisook and associates at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, and Kansas State University, Manhattan. (Sydowia 47:1-9, 1995)

"Mosaico das nervosas" is a disease of grape caused by the grapevine fleck virus, report H. Kuniyuki and A. S. Costa of the Institute of Agronomy, Campinas, SP, Brazil. It was transmitted by tissue union but not by seed or by mechanical inoculation and no vector was found. (Summa Phytopathol. 20:152-157, 1994)

Potato lectin was degraded by a protease from <u>Erwinia carotovora</u>, supporting the thesis that protease helps degrade resistance-related proteins, report J. Heilbronn and associates at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dundee, and the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 47:285-292, 1995)

Ectomycorrhizal fungi in conifer plantations in Ireland enhance growth of Sitka spruce and Japanese larch seedlings when grown in soils also containing insoluble inorganic and organic phosphorus, report C. McElhinney and D. T. Mitchell of the University College of Dublin, Ireland. (Mycorrhiza 5:409-415, 1995)

A rapid (2 to 3 h) serological assay for <u>Plasmodiophora brassicae</u> in soil, using immunofluorescence and indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, was developed by J. G. White and A. J. Wakeham of Horticulture Research International, in Warwick, England. (EPPO Bull. 25:75-80, 1995)

Eggs may be important for survival in stored peanut seed by <u>Ditylenchus africanus;</u> so reducing egg number in seed may control disease outbreaks, report C. Vester and associates at Stellenbosch University; the Grain Crops Institute and the University for Christian Higher Education, both in Potchestroom, South Africa; and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Heverlee, Belgium. (J. Nematol. 27:284-291, 1995)

Tobacco rattle virus ("NM" types) was detected in potato tubers and roots by means of polymerase chain reaction, reports H.-L. Weidemann of the Institut für Biochemie und Pflanzenvirologie, Braunschweig, Germany. (J. Phytopathol. 143:455-458, 1995)

A selective medium for isolating <a href="Phellinus noxius">Phellinus noxius</a>, a tree brown root rot fungus, was developed by T. Chang of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, in Taipei, and consists (in g per liter) of 20 malt-extract, 10 benomyl, 10 dicloran, 0.1 ampicillin, 0.5 gallic acid, and 20 agar. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 25:185-190, 1995)

In the tomato bushy stunt virus genome, nested gene p22 governs cell-to-cell movement and nested gene p19 has a host-specific role in systemic invasion, but neither gene is needed for replication and transcription, report H. B. Scholthof and associates at the University of California, Berkeley. (Virology 13:425-438, 1995)

Inocula of Rhynchosporium secalis and Pyrenophora teres, applied together to barley leaves, altered symptoms of both scald and net blotch, and the effect was antagonistic; R. secalis affected P. teres more than the reverse, report A. G. Xue and P. A. Burnett of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in Morden, Manitoba, and Lacombe, Alberta, Canada. (Phytoprotection 76:1-7, 1995)

Quantitative analysis of cultivar-race interaction in populations is important to deploy plant resistance and stabilize populations or minimize damage, based on a model with wheat stripe rust developed by P. Sun and S. M. Zeng of Beijing Agricultural University, China. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 102:416-421, 1995)