# Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

The first report of immunolocalization of a plant virus in conifer tissue was shown for tomato mosaic tabamovirus in red spruce seedlings by G. D. Bachand and J. D. Castello of the State University of New York, Syracuse. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 28:75-83, 1998)

Collections of Puccinia recondita belong to two groups, according to Y. Anikster of Tel Aviv University, Israel, and associates at the University of Minnesota and USDA, St. Paul: Group I from cultivated wheats and wild emmer with aecia on Thalictrum speciosissimum and Group II on wild wheats and rye with aecia on several species in the Boraginaceae.(Can. J. Bot. 75:2082-2096, 1997)

Phylogenetically, the Oomycetes appear to belong with the protists rather than with the higher fungi, according to N. D. Weerakoon and associates at The Australian National University and CSIRO at Canberra, ACT, Australia, who worked on Phytophthora cinnamomi. (Mycologia 90:85-95, 1998)

The first incidence of pear blister canker viroid in pear orchards in Italy was reported by S. Loreti and associates at Istituto Sperimentale per la Patologia Vegetale, Rome, Italy. (J. Phytopathol. 145:541-544, 1997)

The large-tree type isolates of Gremmeniella abietina var. abietina caused devastating epidemics on pines in the first-thinning stage or middle age, similar to that on pines reported in northern Finland and in the Kola Peninsula, Russia, during the 1980s, according to J. Kaitera and associates at The Finnish Forest Research Institute, Rovaniemi, Finland. (Mycol. Res. 102:199-205, 1998)

Xerocomus badius is highly adapted to acidic soil, and its mycorrhizae on Picea abies are very efficient in uptake and storage of macronutrients, report I. Kottke and associates at Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Tübingen, Germany; the Institut für Bodenbiologie, Braunschweig, Germany; and Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, Republic of China. (Mycorrhiza 7:267-275, 1998)

Phytophthora boehmeriae, a species new to Europe, causes boll rot and threatens the cotton crop in the Mediterranean region, report K. Elena and E. J. Paplomatas of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Athens, Greece. (Phytoparasitica 26:20-26, 1998)

Ash strains of Pseudomonas syringae typically produce auxins, but at much lower amounts than olive and oleander strains, and they produce no cytokinins, report N. S. Iacobellis and associates at the Università degli Studi at Potenza, and at Bari, Italy; and the Università di Napoli, Portici, Italy. Three pathovars are proposed. (Plant Pathol. 47:73-83, 1998

Application of the plant activator Bion achieved systemic acquired resistance in bean against diseases caused by Uromyces appendiculatus, Rhizoctonia solani, Colletotrichum lindemuthianum, and Xanthomonas campestris, report J. Siegrist and associates at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 104:599-610, 1997)

Vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal (VAM) colonization of lettuce decreased with use of pesticides and fertilizers and the number of VAM spores in soil was correlated with number of host crops in rotation, weeds, and sampling date, report R. L. Miller and L. E. Jackson, University of California, Davis. (J. Agric. Sci. 130:173-182, 1998)

A polymerase chain reaction procedure to amplify DNA for quick identification of economically important species of the six taxonomic groups of Phytophthora was developed by J. B. Ristaino and associates at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 64:948-954, 1998)

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