Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

[Correction to a September entry:] Phyllachora proteae, a leaf pathogen of Protea spp., has been redescribed as Botryosphaeria proteae by S. Denman and associates at the University of Stellenbosch, Matieland, and the University of Pretoria, South Africa. (Mycologia 91:510-516, 1999)

Wildfire either stimulated or provided a competitive advantage to Rhizopogon olivaceotinctus of the mycorrhiza spp. that colonize roots of Pinus muricata in California, according to J. Baar and associates at the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and associates at Oregon State University, Corvallis, and the University of California, Berkeley. (New Phytol. 143:409-418, 1999)

Phoma sojicola comb. nov. (= Ascochyta sojicola) was the predominant pathogen of hyaline-spored coelomycetes on soybean leaves and pods, report G. J. Kövics and associates at Debrecen Agricultural University, Hungary, and the Plant Protection Service, Wageningen, and Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, The Netherlands. (Mycol. Res. 103:1065-1070, 1999)

At moderate temperatures, supercritical carbon dioxide was as effective as ethylene oxide, gamma radiation, or steam sterilization in bacteria inactivation, report A. K. Dillow of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and associates at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, and MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 96:10344-10348, 1999)

Of 600 strains of wood-rotting fungi, 21 strains of Galerina fasciculata and G. helvoliceps contained amanitins and so must be handled as poisonous mushrooms, report S. Muraoka and associates at Gunma University, Gunma; Kitasato University, Tokyo; and Mori & Co., Gunma, Japan. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 65:4207-4210, 1999)

The external layer of the Fusarium oxysporum cell wall consists of glycoproteins that determine antigenic and adhesive properties of hyphae important in tomato wilt infection, report E. A. M. Schoffelmeer and associates at the Institute of Molecular Cell Biology, Amsterdam, and the University of Groningen, Haren, The Netherlands. (Fung. Genet. Biol. 27:275-282, 1999)

A direct immunostaining assay to detect tobamoviruses on Capsicum annuum seeds was developed by S. Takeuchi and associates at Kochi University, and the Kochi Agricultural Research Center, in Nankoku, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 65:189-191, 1999)

The ability of Pseudomonas syringae to accumulate salicylic acid was not predictive of ability, nor sufficient, to elicit a systemic acquired resistance response in Arabidopsis plants, report R. K. Cameron and associates at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma, and The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 55:121-130, 1999)

Shredded leaves of Brassica spp. that contain allyl isothiocyanate can, when incorporated into soil, inhibit Pythium and Rhizoctonia spp. that attack tomato, according to C. S. Charron and C. E. Sams of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (J. Am. Soc. Hort. Sci. 124:462-467, 1999)

Pseudomonas chloroaphis that contains the lacZY marker genes in its chromosomes, used to study field-released genetically engineered organisms, colonizes not only roots and soil but also internal tissues of wheat roots, report J. D. Nairn and C. P. Chanway of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. (Can. J. Microbiol. 45:612-615, 1999)

It is more efficient to screen soybean for resistance to race 2 only of the cyst nematode than to screen also for resistance to race 5 or both when resistance is sought from crosses involving the cultivar Hartwig, reports L. D. Young of the USDA-ARS, Jackson, Tennessee. (Crop Sci. 39:1248-1249, 1999)

Growing tomato under mesh increases incidence of the spotted wilt virus over growing tomato in the open field; however, the environment under the mesh stimulates plant growth to neutralize the disease, report M. J. Díez and associates at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Valencia, and the Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Agrarion, Murcia, Spain. (HortScience 34:634-637, 1999)

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