Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Efficiency of the sORF A-mediated ribosome shunt is essential for infectivity of Cauliflower mosaic virus, report M. M. Pooggin and associates at Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Institute of Plant Science, Zurich, Switzerland; and Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 98:886-891, 2001)

Some Xylella fastidiosa strains from almond, grape, and oleander contain plasmids of different sizes according to M. Hendson and associates at the University of California, at Berkeley and Davis. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 67:895-903, 2001)

Several genes control resistance of soybean to Sclerotinia stem rot, and markers facilitate screening of segregating populations using quantitative trait loci, report V. S. Arahana and associates at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. (Crop Sci. 41:180-188, 2001)

A rainfall-based forecasting model for Black Sigatoka on banana that predicts an epidemic 4 weeks in advance was developed by L. Perez-Vicente and associates at Ministerio de Agricultura, Havana, and Estación de Protección de Plantas de Baraguá, Ciego de Avila, Cuba. (Rev. Mex. Fitopatol. 18:15-26, 2000)

Water-soaking plus air-drying of rice seeds followed by nematicide applications to seedlings before transplanting controls Aphelenchoides besseyi, report S. Hoshino and K. Togashi of the Hiroshima Prefectural Agricultural Research Center, and Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan. (J. Nematol. 32:303-308, 2000)

Oilseed rape mosaic virus and Tobacco mild green mosaic virus interfered with each other in the same host, and the interference was host-dependent according to I. Aguilar and associates at INIA, Madrid, Spain. (Plant Pathol. 49:659-665, 2000)

Potato stomata close at the onset then gradually open during the dark period when plants are less sensitive to SO_2 and O_3 than in the light period, and sensitivity increases near the end of the dark period, report A. B. Goknur and T. W. Tibbitts of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 126:37-43, 2001)

By ribosomal intergenic spacer region 1 fingerprinting, the fungal intersterility groups in North American strains of Heterobasidion annosum are identified, report T. Kasuga of Roche Molecular Systems, Alameda, California, and K. R. Mitchelson of the University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Australia. (For. Pathol. 30:329-344, 2000)

Epistomal chambers in needles of white pine serve as microhabitats for specialized fungi to influence response to air pollutants, transpiration, and prevent ingress of pathogens, report R. J. Deckert and associates at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. (Int. J. Plant Sci. 162:181-189, 2001)

Relative humidity around sweet pepper fruit influences incidence of blossom-end rot and mineral composition according to T. Tadesse and associates at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Low relative humidity promotes calcium accumulation. (J. Hortic. Sci. Biotechnol. 76:9-16, 2001)

The algal polysaccharide λ–carrageenan elicits defense-related genes in tobacco plants for protection against Phytophthora parasitica, report L. Mercier and associates at UMR CNRS-UPS, Auzeville and Castanet-Tolosan, and SECMA Biotechnologies Marines, Pontrieux, France. (New Phytol. 149:43-51, 2001)

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