Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Verticillium dahliae affects sunflower by reducing leaf area and expansion and not by reducing photosynthesis, stomatal conductance, or leaf dark respiration, report V. O. Sadras and associates at the Universidad de Mar del Plata-INTA, Balcarce, Argentina. (Ann. Bot. 86:1007-1015, 2000)

Armillaria mellea, causing sycamore white rot, degraded only fibers with intercellular spaces due to their gas exchange potential and degree of lignification, report F. W. M. R. Schwarze and associates at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany. (Mycol. Res. 104:1126-1132, 2000)

Capsid assembly in *Cowpea chlorotic mottle virus* is nucleated by a pentamer determined by size-exclusion chromatography, report A. Ziotnick and associates at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, and Montana State University, Bozeman. (Virology 277:450-456, 2000)

Alternaria leaf spot severity in sesame was negatively correlated with seed yield, 1000-seed weight, and seeds per capsule, according to P. S. Ojiambo and associates at the International Potato Center and the University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya. (Exp. Agric. 36:335-342, 2000)

Wild and genetically modified strains of *Sinorhizobium meliloti* increased biomass and root growth in mycorrhizal lettuce plants, report C. Galleguillos and associates at the Catholic University of Valparaiso, Chile; National University of Agriculture, Managua, Nicaragua; Zaidin Experiment Station, Granada, Spain. (Plant Sci. 159:57-63, 2000)

The *Glomus mosseae* 3-phosphoglycerate kinase gene encodes a peptide of 416 amino acids relevant to carbon metabolism and symbiosis, according to L. Harrier and J. Sawczak of the Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh, UK. (Mycorrhiza 10:81-86, 2000)

The subgenomic promotor sequence of *Turnip yellow mosaic virus* on a 494-nucleotide fragment functions on a molecule other than viral genomic RNA, according to J. Schirawski and associates at the Institut Jacques Monod, Paris Cedex, France. (J. Virol. 74:11073-11080, 2000)

The cassava bacterial blight pathogen was detected in true seeds by a nested polymerase chain reaction assay by S. Ojeda and V. Verdier of CIAT and the Institut de recherche pour le développement, Cali, Colombia. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 22:241-247, 2000)

Embryonic tissue culture enabled host-parasite study between *Gremmeniella abietina* and 27 lines of Scots pine, report M. Terho and associates at the University of Helsinki, Finland. (For. Pathol. 30:285-295, 2000)

Essential oils from two *Eucalyptus* spp. and *Ocimum basilicum* were highly toxic to *Meloidogyne incognita* at 250 ppm according to R. Pandey and associates at University of Bonn, Germany, and the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, India. (J. Phytopathol. 148:501-502, 2000)

Phytoplasmas causing severe decline on *Prunus* spp. were found for the first time in southern England by D. L. Davies and A. N. Adams of Horticulture Research International, Kent, UK. (Plant Pathol. 49:635-639, 2000)

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