Focus

A molecular diagnostic key to identify the seven most economically important species of <u>Meloidogyne</u> was developed by M. A. M. Adam and associates at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dundee, UK. (Plant Pathol. 56:190-197, 2007)

Overexpression of a protein from seeds of <u>Leonurus japonicus</u> enhanced resistance in tobacco to <u>Alternaria alternata</u> and to <u>Ralstonia solanacearum</u> with no plant growth effects, report X. Yang and associates at Southwest University, Chongqing, China. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 73:939-946, 2007)

Neonectria faginata on beech is a species distinctly different from N. coccinea and should not be given as N. coccinea var. faginata, report L. A. Castlebury and associates at USDA-ARS, Beltsville. (Can. J. Bot. 84:1417-1433, 2006)

Quantitative assay of virus seed antigen aids identification of field resistance of soybean to Bean pod mottle virus and Soybean mosaic virus, report J. H. Hill and associates at Iowa State University and University of Wisconsin. (Crop Sci. 47:212-218, 2007)

Transcriptional regulator <u>hpaR</u> is involved in hypersensitivity, pathogenicity, and extracellular protease production in <u>Xanthomonas campestris</u> pv. <u>campestris</u>, report K. Wei and associates at Zhejiang University and Guangxi University, China. (J. Bacteriol. 189:2055-2062, 2007)

The 33.9-megabase genome of <u>Aspergillus niger</u> was sequenced, and the presence of putative gene clusters for fumonisin and ochratoxin A synthesis was deemed noteworthy, report H. J. Pei at DSM Food Specialties, Netherlands, and 68 associates at 29 European institutions. (Nature Biotechnol. 25:221-231, 2007)

A new strain of <u>Capsicum chlorosis virus</u> from peanut in China infected 24 of 31 plant species, report K. Chen and associates at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and at Huazhong Agricultural University, China. (J. Phytopathol. 155:178-181, 2007)

Of 200 international accessions of <u>Vicia narbonensis</u>, eight were identified as resistant to <u>Orobanche crenata</u>, report S. Nadal and associates at IFAPA-CICE and ETSIAM UCO, Cordoba, Spain. (Plant Breed. 126:110-112, 2007)

Both <u>Cacopsylla qianli</u> and <u>C. chinensis</u> transmit pear decline phytoplasma in Taiwan, report H.-L. Liu and associates at National Taiwan University (Taipei), and Taichung District Agricultural Improvement Station (Changhua), Taiwan, ROC. (Eur. J. Plant Pathol. 117:281-291, 2007)

A specific PCR assay to detect <u>Rhizoctonia solani</u> AG 1-IB in plant and soil using SCAR primers was developed by J. H. M. Schneider and associates at the Institute for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Germany; Institute of Sugar Beet Research, Netherlands; and McGill University, Canada. (J. Appl. Microbiol. 101:806-819, 2007)

Salt stress and β -aminobutyric acid (low concentrations) were synergistic and induced systemic resistance of tomato to bacterial speck, report O. Baysal and associates at BATEM, Bornova Plant Protection Research Institute, and Ege University, Turkey; and Kagawa University, Japan. (Physiol. Plant. 129:493-506, 2007)