Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Fusarium head blight resistance in European wheats, moderate in the field, was greater based on visual scabby kernels and deoxynivalenol content, report J. X. Zhang and associates at the USDA-ARS and University of Minnesota; Texas A&M Agricultural Research Center, Amarillo; and USDA-ARS, Aberdeen, ID. (Crop Sci. 48:223-235, 2008)

An inbred line of corn (Zea diploperennis) was resistant to Striga hermonthica by developing morphological barriers and incompatible responses to Striga, report I. O. Amusan and associates at Purdue University and IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria. (New Phytol. 178:157-166, 2008)

When Pseudomonas alcaligenes and Bacillus pumilus were combined with Glomus intraradices, galling and root rot (caused by Macrophomina phaseolina) of chickpea were reduced and fewer nematodes multiplied, report M. S. Akhtar and Z. A. Siddiqui at Aligarh Muslim University, India. (J. Gen. Plant Pathol. 74:53-60, 2008)

An RNA plant virus such as Rice yellow mottle virus evolves as rapidly as most RNA animal viruses, report D. Fargette and associates at UMR RPB, France; FOFIFA, Madagascar; Dar es Salaam University, Tanzania; INERA, Burkina Faso; Institut de Recherche Agronomique, Niger; and WARDA, Bénin. (J. Virol. 82:3584-3589, 2008)

Resistance of apple to blue mold in storage was found in germplasm from Kazakhstan, reports W. J. Janisiewicz at USDA-ARS in Kearneysville, WV. (HortScience 43:286-583, 2008)

Hyalesthes obsoletus living on nettles infected with stolbur phytoplasma transmits it to grape, based on RFLP analysis of nonribosomal DNA, report A. Bressan and associates at UMR PME INRA-CNRS-Université de Bourgogne, France; Universitá di Padova, Italy; and Biologische Bundesanstalt, Germany. (Ann. Appl. Biol. 150:331-339, 2008)

A generic PCR assay was developed to detect all known members of the genus Tobravirus with little or no degeneracy, using two forward and three reverse PCR primers, report D. Jones and associates at University of Auckland and MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. (Australas. Plant Pathol. 37:132-136, 2008)

The ferric uptake regulator is not solely responsible for iron stimulon modulation of Xylella fastidiosa, and iron seems to regulate pathogenicity determinants, report P. A. Zaini and associates at Universidade de São Paolo, Brazil. (J. Bacteriol. 190:2368-2378, 2008)

When appressoria in Colletotrichum acutatum on strawberry form under low nutrition and metabolic shifts, the reactive oxygen species production is an early response that may modulate pathogen development, report S. H. Brown and associates at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Volcani Center, Israel. (Mol. Plant Pathol. 9:171-190, 2008)

The Tomato bushy stunt virus co-opts the RNA-binding function of a host metabolic protein to convert the host cell into a virus factory, report R.Y.-L. Wang and P. D. Nagy at the University of Kentucky. (Cell Host Microbe 3:178-187, 2008)

A PCR-based molecular tool box to identify 15 Phytophthora spp. that damage forests and trees was developed by L. Schena and associates at the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria, Italy, and the Scottish Crop Research Institute, UK. (Plant Pathol. 57:64-75, 2008)

doi:10.1094/PDIS-92-5-0659