

Focus

The hot, dry weather and lack of inoculum buildup in overwintering sites of the southern United States resulted in light stem and leaf rust of wheat during 1988. The predominant race of stem rust was 15-TNM. Increases in virulence to leaf rust race Lr24 and 26 were noted. (USDA Cereal Rust Bull., Rep. 7, 28 July 1988)

Of 50 entries of rice genotypes, 15 proved resistant and 27 moderately resistant to bacterial blight when tested at the Fuyang Experiment Station in China, report Shen Ying and associates at the China National Research Institute and Zhejiang Agricultural University in Hangzhou. Xanthomonas campestris isolates in groups 1, 2, and 4 were used. (Int. Rice Res. Newsl. 13[3]:11-12, 1988)

Polymyxa graminis and P. betae were the fungal vectors of barley yellow mosaic virus and beet necrotic yellow vein virus in 1,523 fields and 732 soil samples analyzed, report U. Kastirr and A. Widera of the Institut für Phytopathologie Ascherleben in East Germany. (Arch. Phytopathol. Plant Prot. 24:93-101, 1988)

The mycorrhizae that Rhizopogon luteolus forms on Pinus sylvestris are corralloid, with a two-layered mantle and a differentiated autofluorescence in mantle, Hartig net, and rhizomorphs, according to M. Uhl of the University of Munich, West Germany. (Persoonia 13:449-458, 1988)

The fungus originally described as a species of Cercospora and introduced into Hawaii to control the weed Ageratina riparia has been identified as a white smut Entyloma ageratinae sp. nov. by R. W. Barreto of the University of Reading and H. C. Evans of the CAB International Institute of Biological Control in England. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 91:81-97, 1988)

The mass dieback of young shoots of Pinus sylvestris in Poland was reported by S. Domanski and T. Kowalski of the Agricultural Academy in Krakow to be caused first by Melampsora pinitorqua and then by Botrytis cinerea, both being necessary. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 18:157-160, 1988)

Root rot of cabbage was reported for the first time to be caused by Phytophthora drechsleri by A. H. Thompson and A. J. L. Phillips of the Plant Protection Research Institute in Pretoria, South Africa. (Plant Pathol. 37:297-299, 1988)

Pectinases are probably virulence factors and not determinants of pathogenicity in Verticillium wilt of tomato, because tissue colonization occurs in the absence of endopectin lyase, according to P. K. Durrands and R. M. Cooper of the University of Bath, England. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 32:363-371, 1988)

An alternative to agar as a culture medium developed by M. P. Ko of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and S. D. Van Gundy of the University of California at Riverside consists of a polyol, a block copolymer of propylene oxide and ethylene oxide. The medium, which is more transparent than agar and less susceptible to contamination under aseptic conditions, was tested for nematodes, bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes, plant tissues, and seedlings. (J. Nematol. 20:478-485, 1988)

Myzus nicotianae vectors tobacco etch virus efficiently to tobacco but poorly to sicklepod, a weed reservoir of the virus, report E. P. Lampert and associates at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (J. Agric. Entomol. 5:45-53, 1988)

Bacteria agglutinated by pea root exudates follow the downward growth of the pea root and have high rhizosphere-colonizing ratios, report W. Chao and associates of Soochow University, Taiwan. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 54:1838-1841, 1988)