## Focus

Gliotoxin produced by Gliocladium virens inhibits growth of Rhizoctonia solani and Pythium ultimum by selective binding to cytoplasmic thiol groups, report R. W. Jones and J. G. Hancock of the University of California at Berkeley. (J. Gen. Microbiol. 134:2067-2075, 1988)

Transgenic tobacco plants conferred resistance to the herbicide bromoxynil by transfer of a chimeric gene with the expression of a bromoxynil-specific nitrilase in leaves to produce herbicide resistance in a given crop, report D. M. Stalker and associates at Calgene, Davis, CA. (Science 242:419-423, 1988)

Two formae speciales have been proposed for poplar leaf rust Melampsora medusae, one on cottonwood and one on aspen, reports L. Shain of the University of Kentucky, Lexington. (Mycologia 80:729-732, 1988)

Soil organic layers are highly polluted by polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and this accumulation represents an additional stress in the polyfactorial mechanism of forest decline, according to M. Berteigne, Y. Lefevre, and C. Rose of INRA, Center for Forest Research, Champenoux, France. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 18:310-318, 1988)

Basidiospores of <u>Uromyces</u> species produce infection structures in the absence of host chemical substances, and penetrating germlings respond to unspecific stimuli such as host cuticle thickness, report S. Freytag and associates of the University of Constance, West Germany. (Exp. Mycol. 12:275-283, 1988)

Aphanomyces euteiches and Phytophthora clandestina are major pathogens of subterranean clover in Victoria, Australia, but P. clandestina is more important in irrigated pastures, where it causes substantial yield losses, report F. C. Greenhalgh and P. R. Merriman of the Plant Institute, Burnley, and P. J. Keene of LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Australia. (Plant Pathol. 37:344-350, 1988)

The most satisfactory technique for staining endospores of Pasteuria penetrans, a parasite of nematodes, attached to larvae of Meloidogyne species involved Brilliant Blue G stain: 1 mg/ml of solution mixed for 1 hour at 23 C, centrifuged at 500 g for 15 minutes, and used fresh, according to A. F. Bird of CSIRO, Glen Osmond, South Australia. (Rev. Nematol. 11:364-365, 1988)

<u>Liriomyza trifolii</u>, a leafminer damaging to barley leaves and gerbera petals, is of concern in regulation of international trade of cut gerbera flowers, reports L. Süss of the University of Milano, Italy. (Inf. Fitopatol. 38[6]:45-47, 1988)

Physiological characteristics of 104 isolates of 49 species of <a href="Phytophthora">Phytophthora</a> available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) have been compiled by L. Luo, H. H. Ho, and S. C. Jong of the State University of New York in New Paltz and the ATCC in Rockville, MD. (Mycotaxon 32:199-217, 1988)

Because tests for races of the soybean cyst nematode vary, many described races key out to different races, report R. D. Riggs of the University of Arkansas, D. P. Schmitt of North Carolina State University, and G. R. Noel of the University of Illinois. Inoculum, host genotype, and environmental conditions must be standardized and nematodes that have penetrated hosts must be recovered. (J. Nematol. 20:565-572, 1988)

Soybean mosaic virus was shown to be seed-transmissible in lupine by C. W. Vroon, G. Pietersen, and H. J. van Tonder of the Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. (Phytophylactica 20:169-175, 1988)