Focus

Botryosphaeria stevensii is identified as the cause of canker and dieback of cork oak, and also of wilt after cork removal, in northeast Spain, according to J. Luque and J. Girbal of the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 19:7-13, 1989)

A flexible portable system for measuring air temperature and humidity in the field, devised by P. N. Persson of the University of Lund, Sweden, utilizes a micrologger with five sensors for temperature and one for humidity. Data can be collected from a car traveling at 40 km per hour. (Agric. For. Meteorol. 45:167-173, 1989)

Resistance of muskmelon to <u>Myrothecium roridum</u> may be ascertained by screening genotypes for resistance to the pathotoxin roridin E, according to J. O. Kuti and T. J. Ng of the University of Maryland, College Park. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 114:319-321, 1989)

Mycoplasma species can be grown in continuous culture controlled by changes in pH of a medium used to culture certain bacteria and yeasts, thus avoiding the long lag phases of batch cultures, report B. Krebs and associates of the Tierärzliche Hochschule Hannover in West Germany. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 55:852-855, 1989)

Some soybean lines susceptible to the cyst nematode have at least two genes for resistance, and some of these genes occur in several lines, reports V. D. Luedders of the University of Missouri, Columbia. (Crop Sci. 29:259-262, 1989)

Rate of stem lesion expansion is a reliable index of resistance in <u>Brassica</u> stem tissue to invasion and colonization by <u>Sclerotinia</u> <u>sclerotiorum</u>, according to F. S. Sedun and associates at Safer Ltd., Victoria, British Columbia, and Agriculture Canada, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 69:229-232, 1989)

Resistance of sweet cherry to Monilinia fructicola is correlated with thickness of the epidermal cell wall of fruit, report A. R. Biggs and J. Northover of Agriculture Canada, Vinland Station, Ontario. (HortScience 24:126-127, 1989)

Cowpea mosaic virus infection in cowpea plants adversely affects the symbiotic nitrogen-fixing process, report M. L. Mayoral and associates of the Venezuela Institute for Scientific Investigation, Caracas. Virus control and selection of rhizobial strains with better performance in virus-infected plants are needed. (J. Exp. Bot. 40:159-165, 1989)

Surface area of mycorrhizal conifer roots can be estimated by covering slightly dried roots with a monolayer of plastic beads, then weighing roots and beads, report A. Koppel and associates of Tartu State University in Estonian SSR, USSR. The method for roots 0.3 mm in diameter is about 95% accurate and compares favorably with the photographic-planimetric method. (Plant Soil 112:201-203, 1988)

Cultivation of species mixtures of rye and wheat helps control Rhynchosporium leaf blotch and brown rust as well as delaying and reducing epidemics, according to A. Tränkner and H. C. Weltzien of the University of Bonn, West Germany. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 96:11-18, 1989)

Two new species of <u>Bipolaris</u>, <u>B. secalis</u> from rye grain and <u>B. triticalis</u> from triticale grain, reduce germination of rye grains, reports M. N. Sisterna of the National University of La Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Plant Pathol. 38:98-100, 1989)