Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Tobacco rattle virus was detected in roots of Echinochloa crus-galli and Stellaria media and in soil 100 cm deep as well as in running water from contaminated fields, report H. Kegler and associates of the Institut für Phytopathologie Aschersleben in East Germany. (Arch. Phytopathol. Plant Prot. 25:91-93, 1989)

A nonsclerotial pathogenic mutant of Sclerotinia sclerotiorum developed by R. V. Miller, E. J. Ford, and D. C. Sands of Montana State University, Bozeman, has potential for biological control of weeds because it does not overwinter. (Can. J. Microbiol. 35:517-520, 1989)

The European beech is a host for the beech strain of cherry leafroll virus, brome mosaic virus, and bean yellow mosaic virus based on transmission by grafting to beech seedlings and extraction from leaves, report S. Winter and F. Nienhaus of the University of Bonn, West Germany. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 19:111-118, 1989)

The ability of Fusarium graminearum to produce zearalenone on rice media is not related to its ability to produce perithecia on artificial media, report C. E. Windels and associates of the University of Minnesota at Crookston and St. Paul. (Mycologia 81:272-277, 1989)

Fall inoculation of peach with Leucostoma persoonii discriminates better than spring inoculation in identifying genetic differences in tolerance of peach cultivars to canker, according to L. S. Chang and associates at Michigan State University, East Lansing. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 114:482-485, 1989)

A Styrofoam cup assembly with membranes of varying porosities has been developed by P. G. Hartel and associates of the University of Georgia, Athens, to study microorganism-root interactions. Little difference in survival of Pseudomonas solanacearum was evident in rhizosphere and nonrhizosphere soils of tomato. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 55:1291-1294, 1989)

Pythium ultimum apparently has an operational tripeptide transport system, and this concept of illicit transport can be applied to the design of fungicides active against oomycete fungi, report D. H. Young and R. J. Mehta of Rohm and Haas, Spring House, Pennsylvania. (Experientia 45:325-327, 1989)

Tomato genotypes with intermediate resistance to bacterial canker can be identified by manipulating the concentration of inoculum, report S. Z. Berry and associates of Ohio State University, Wooster. Eleven genotypes were resistant to high concentrations of a virulent culture but only two were resistant to low concentrations. (HortScience 24:362-365, 1989)

A rhizobacterial pseudomonad of wheat inhibited wheat root growth by producing a toxin over a wide range of growth conditions, according to H. Bolton, Jr., and L. F. Elliott of Washington State University and the USDA, Pullman. The toxin is constitutive. (Plant Soil 114:269-278, 1989)

Ochratoxin A and citrinin produced by Penicillium species on corn were toxic to lepidopterous insects and proved to be synergistic, according to P. F. Dowd of the USDA Northern Regional Research Center, Peoria, Illinois. (Environ. Entomol. 18:24-29, 1989)

The experimental fungicide RH 886 applied to fruit or orchard soil controls Mucor piriformis, a cause of postharvest storage rot of pear, report R. A. Spotts and R. L. Dobson of Oregon State University, Hood River. (Pest. Sci. 25:391-399, 1989)