Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Inoculation with a nonpathogenic mutant of Colletotrichum magna protected cucurbits from disease caused by C. magna or Fusarium oxysporum, according to S. Freeman and R. J. Rodriguez of the University of California, Riverside. The mutant grew as an endophyte and retained the wild-type host range. (Science 260:75-78, 1993)

Direct tissue blotting assay was more sensitive, faster, and cheaper than ELISA for serological detection of seven potato viruses, report R. G. Samson and associates at Oregon State University, Corvallis. Virus was detected in roots, tubers, stems, and leaves. (Am. Potato J. 70:257-265, 1993)

A cranberry leaf spot caused by the new species Protoventuria barriae, identified by L. M. Carris of Washington State University, Pullman, and A. P. Poole of Oregon State University, Coquille, was found in plants from Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Washington. The fungus produces a bright red circular ring or area 2 to 4 mm in diameter. (Mycologia 85:93-99, 1993)

Ditylenchus angustus can survive on, and be dispersed in, freshly harvested rice grain, according to S. K. Ibrahim and R. N. Perry of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England, who report finding 2,400 nematodes on one grain. Drying the grain may kill the nematodes. (Fundam. Appl. Nematol. 16:31-38, 1993)

Pathovars of Xanthomonas campestris were characterized by rRNA gene restriction patterns, report Y. Berthier and associates at INRA, Versailles; Pasteur Institute, Paris; and ORSTROM, Brazzaville, Congo. Genomic DNA of 191 strains of the Pseudomonadaceae were studied. (Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 59:851-859, 1993)

Presence of Acremonium spp. was not correlated with barley yellow dwarf virus infection in pasture grasses in Japan, according to P. L. Guy of the National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba, Japan, indicating that the endophyte offers no protection against the virus. (Plant Pathol. 42:1-5, 1993)

Germinating conidia of Cymadothea trifolii infect white clover through stomata on the upper leaf surface only, reports H. W. Roderick of the Welsh Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, Wales. Sporulation occurs only on the lower surface, however. (Mycol. Res. 97:227-232, 1993)

Treatment with thiram, metiram, or prochloraz inhibited production of the toxins alternariol monomethyl ether and alternariol in sunflower seeds infected with Alternaria alternata, report A. Torres and associates at the Universidad Nacional de Rio Cuarto, Córdoba, Argentina. (Mycopathologia 121:17-20, 1993)

Johnsongrass chlorotic stripe mosaic virus is a distinct virus and should be classified as a carmovirus, according to K. Izadpanah and associates at Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran, and the Institute for Biochemistry and Plant Virology, Braunschweig, Germany. (J. Phytopathol. 137:105-117, 1993)

Hot water treatment of Anemone coronaria corms for 1.5 hours at 47.5 C or for 1 hour at 50 C, followed by 4 days at 20 C in moist vermiculite, will control Colletotrichum acutatum, according to A. W. Doornik of the Bulb Research Center, Lisse, Netherlands. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 98:377-386, 1992)

Pratylenchus vulnus can cause substantial damage to apple and pear rootstocks planted in contaminated nurseries or to uninfected materials planted in infested fields, even when nematode populations are low, according to C. Fernández and associates at IRTA in Barcelona, Spain. (Nematropica 22:227-236, 1992)