Focus

Cylindrocladium scoparium was found for the first time on species of Metrosideros, causing dieback of shoots and leaf spots, by G. Polizzi of the Università di Reggio Calabria, Italy, and was also isolated from Melaleuca and Myrtus spp. (Inf. Fitopatol. 46[2]:59-64, 1996)

Cryphonectria parasitica subpopulations in China differ from those in Japan, North America, and Europe, suggesting that this fungus was introduced into North America from Japan, not China, according to M. G. Milgroom and associates at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and associates in Nanjing Agricultural University, China, and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Tsukuba, Japan. (Mycologia 88:179-190,1996)

Pseudomonas syringae pv. atrofaciens on cereals produces syringomycins and syringopeptins (thought to be exclusive to pv. syringae), report V. Vassilev and associates at the Istituto Tossine e Micotosse da Parassiti, Bari; Università La Sapienza, Rome; and Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Potenza, Italy. (Plant Pathol. 45:316-322,1996)

More disease was suppressed in Banksia grandis when cellulase-producing Micromonospora carbonacea and antibiotic-producing Streptomyces violascens were used together to control Phytophthora cinnamomi, due possibly to co-antagonism, report K. A. El-Tarabily and associates at Murdoch University, Perth, WA, Australia. (Can. J. Bot. 74:618-624, 1996)

The first incidence of phytoplasma in olive trees (and in genus Olea) was reported by C. P. Pollini and associates at the Università degii Studi, Bologna, and the experiment station in San Michele all'Adige, Trento, Italy. (J. Phytopathol. 144:109-111, 1996)

Because of the lack of host specificity in Gremmeniella abietina the risk of spread from infected plants in Pinus contorta plantations to nearby indigenous P. sylvestris regeneration, and vice versa, is high in Sweden, according to P. Hansson and associates at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 26:45-55, 1996)

Of 101 strains of Xanthomonas campestris pv. vesicatoria from tomato and pepper fields in Mexico, 95% were in group A and 5% in group C (previously known only in the U.S.), report H. Bouzar and associates at the University of Florida in Bradenton and Gainesville; the Université de Blida, Algeria; and Agridiagnosticos, Los Mochis, Mexico. Most strains were resistant to both copper and streptomycin. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 18:75-77, 1996)

The kind of epidemic caused either by tobacco etch virus or tobacco vein mottling virus, which are transmitted nonpersistently by several aphid species, is similar to the airborne disease epidemic caused by fungi in respect to pattern distribution, according to P. Sun and S. M. Zeng, Beijing Agricultural University, P.R. China. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 103:64-69,1996)

Of five media tested, a combination of Komada's Selective medium (92% recovery), Nash-Snyder medium (83% recovery), and Selective Fusarium medium (Czapek-Dox plus Allisan, 67% recovery) recovered the best spectrum of Fusarium spp. from natural desert soils in Bahrain, report Q. A. Mandeel and associates at the University of Bahrain. (Sydowia 47:223-239, 1995)

An electrical current from a 9-volt battery that arrested hyphal growth of Armillaria mellea was reported by R. T. V. Fox and S. Sanson of the University of Reading, England. (Mycol. Res. 100:318-320, 1996)

Satsuma dwarf virus, an unclassified virus of satsuma mandarin, is recommended to be a new genus in the Comoviridae, based on high conservation among viruses of Comovirus, report T. Iwanami and associates at the Fruit Tree Research Station, Okitsu, and the National Institute of Genetics, Yata, Japan. (Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn. 62:4-10, 1996)