Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Ethylene is a component of the signaling pathway that controls infection of Medicago truncatula by Rhizobium meliloti, according to R. V. Penmetsa and D. R. Cook at Texas A&M University, College Station. (Science 275:527-530, 1997)

Phytoplasma is the biological agent involved in inducing axillary shoots in free-branching poinsettia cultivars and is the essential factor in producing the desirable "multiflowered" poinsettia potted plants, report I.-M. Lee and associates at the USDA Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland, and at Ball FloraPlant, West Chicago, Illinois.(Nature Biotechnol. 15:178-182, 1997)

Resistance in sugar beet to the beet cyst nematode was developed with the Hs1pro-1 gene locus expressed in roots, report D. Cai and associates at the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel, Germany; University of Aarhus, Denmark; CPRO-OLO, Wagengingen, Netherlands. (Science 275:832-854,1997)

Prehelminthosporal in hyphae and germinated conidia of Bipolaris sorokiniana is located in membrane-bound organelles known as Woronin bodies, report H. Åkesson and associates at Lund University, Lund, Sweden. (Fungal Genet. Biol. 20:205-216, 1996)

Flavonoids produced within cytoplasm accumulate in cell walls and paramural papilae, and are an early defense response by Xanthomonas campestris in hypersensitive cotton cotyledons, according to G. H. Dai and associates at ORSTOM, Montpelier, France. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 49:285-306, 1996)

The herbicides pronamide, bromoxynil, and sethoxydim affected one or more growth stages of Sclerotinia trifoliorum pathogenic to alfalfa but were not as toxic as the fungicide vinclozolin to the fungus, report S. L. Reichard and associates at Ohio State University, Columbus. (Mycologia 89:82-88, 1997)

Peanut pod wart reported in Israel as a new peanut disease in 1988 is caused by several Streptomyces spp. that occur in warted tissue, soil, and in the rhizosphere, according to G. Kritzman and associates at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Hevel Maon Enterprises, Negev, Israel. (Phytoparasitica 24:293-304, 1996)

The teleomorph of Phoma medicaginis on pea has been discovered in culture but not in the field by J. K. Bowen and associates at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. (Mycol. Res. 101:80-84, 1997)

The cherry leaf roll nepovirus was widespread in Betula spp. in Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony but apple mosaic ilarvirus was much less common, report M. Grüntzig and associates at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle/Saale, Germany. (J. Plant Dis. Prot. 103:571-581, 1996)

Cylindrocladium scoparium causing leaf spot in mango growing in central Brazil was reported for the first time by L. Tozetto and W. R. C. Ribeiro of CODEVASF-DO, and the University of Brazil, Brasilia, DF, Brazil. (J. Phytopathol. 144:471-472, 1996)

Bean common necrosis virus was isolated from wild and forage legumes in Uganda, on species of Centrosema, Crotalaria, Lablab, Phaseolus, Senna, and Vigna, report T. N. Sengooba and associates at the Namulonge Agricultural Research Institute, Kampala, Uganda; the Selian Agricultural Research Institute in Arusha, Tanzania; and the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania. (Plant Pathol. 46:95-103, 1997)

Publication no. D-1997-0303-04O