

Focus

Heterodera mani, a cyst nematode of the oat cyst nematode complex, was reported for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, in Marin County, California. The nematode, which attacks wheat and many grasses, has been reported in the Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, and Federal Republic of Germany. Bidara avenae, another nematode in the oat cyst nematode complex, was intercepted in plants in soil from baggage at Kennedy Airport, New York. The nematode probably came from Israel, determined W. F. Friedman. (FAO Plant Prot. Bull. Vol. 27, No. 2, 1979; Coop. Plant Pest Rep. Vol. 4, No. 43, 1979)

The soybean cyst nematode (Heterodera glycines) was found for the first time in Iowa (in two northern counties) by personnel of the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Iowa State University scientists found 25 infested fields scattered throughout Winnebago County. Race 3 of the nematode has been identified by M. E. Zirakparvar as occurring in at least one field in Winnebago County.

Use of the bacterium Agrobacterium radiobacter (Galltrol-A, Ag Bio Chem Inc.) to control crown gall on immature almond, apricot, cherry, peach, and plum trees in nurseries and orchards in California, Oregon, and Washington has been approved by the EPA. Crown gall causes \$2-3 million in damage each year and destroys 10% of nursery fruit trees on the West Coast. (J. Arboric. Vol. 6, No. 1, 1980)

Carnation necrotic fleck virus disease was found for the first time in the United States in commercial greenhouses in several states. It was previously known to occur in Japan, Israel, and Italy. Infection is spread by cuttings and by the green peach aphid. (FAO Plant Prot. Bull. Vol. 27, No. 2, 1979)

Resistance to seed and seedling infection may lie in the seed extracts, according to researchers at the University of Illinois who worked with Abutilon theophrasti, Datura stramonium, Ipomoea hederacea, and Polygonum pensylvanicum. Extracts from all tissues of I. hederacea and from roots of A. theophrasti had antifungal activity, and mycoflora within seeds of these species was less extensive than in seeds of D. stramonium or P. pensylvanicum. Fungi differed in ability to infect seeds; A. theophrasti was the most resistant to infection. The fungi isolated mainly affected germination and development of young seedlings. (J. Appl. Ecol. Vol. 16, No. 2, 1979)

Allelopathic effects on red clover (Trifolium pratense) from shrubs in the Ericaceae (heath) family were observed by investigators at the University Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Water extracts of plants inhibited growth of roots and hypocotyls of red clover but did not affect seed germination. Water-soluble phenolics have been identified in heathlands and were related to their presence in soil of Erica species. (Bot. Gaz. Vol. 140, No. 4, 1979)

Congress has increased funding for agricultural research from the administration's request of \$344.8 to \$370.5 million and funding for cooperative research from \$178.3 to \$180 million. Competitive research grants for plant research total \$13 million--\$3.5 million each for biologic stress and genetic mechanisms and \$3 million each for photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation. (AIBS Forum Vol. 2, No. 8, 1979)