Occurrence of American Wheat Striate Mosaic Virus in Corn

In the Focus section of the April 1980 issue of PLANT DISEASE (page 347), American wheat striate mosaic virus was reported as being found in corn in the field for the first time. That is correct. However, also stated is the partial misinformation that this disease "has occurred sporadically on winter wheat, barley, oats, and corn near central United States and along the Canadian border since 1953." The only previous report in *corn* was artificial inoculation in Gaspe Flint corn in the greenhouse in South Dakota (Can. Plant Dis. Surv. 42: 135-142).

I assume the source for the occurrence of American wheat striate mosaic virus in corn is the "Compendium of Wheat Diseases," which contains the same misinformation. The disease also occurs frequently in durum wheat and sporadically in spring wheat in North Dakota.

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East Is East and West Is West . . . or East?

I to PLANT DISEASE do explain
That *Heterodera mani* in Spain
Though the USA is not near
Is in the Western Hemisphere
Been reported there again and again.

I have heard it many times and seen it in print, and it is repeated in the first item of the Focus section of the March 1980 issue of PLANT DISEASE (page 251). I'm referring to the misuse of the term "the Western Hemisphere" as a synonym for "the Americas."

In elementary geography we learn of the northern and southern hemispheres lying to the north and south, respectively, of the equator, or 0° latitude. Similarly, the eastern and western hemispheres lie to the east and west, respectively, of the 0° longitude. A world map or globe will show that most of the United Kingdom, a small part of France, all but a small portion of Spain, all of Portugal, and all of nine west African countries lie firmly in the Western Hemisphere.

In the Focus item referred to, Marin County, California, is reported as the first location in the Western Hemisphere where *Heterodera mani* has been found. The next sentence informs us that this nematode has been reported in several European countries, *including* Spain and the United Kingdom. Based on the correct usage of the term "the Western Hemisphere," these two statements are incompatible.

Now I can hear many of you plant pathologists in the Americas say, "Aw, c'mon. We've always used the term this way. And anyway, everybody knows what is meant." This may be so for many in the United States (though I am sure some American geographers would object), but it is not so elsewhere. As PLANT DISEASE and *Phytopathology* are international journals, I suggest that contributors and editors respect the geographic definitions of the hemispheres and in so doing avoid confusions.

While I have pen to paper, let me congratulate all associated with PLANT DISEASE for the production of an attractive and useful journal, to which I hope I will be able to contribute much more significant articles in the future.

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Kudo or Kudos? When in Greece . . .

I feel driven to comment on the title of the letter in the Letters column in the January 1980 issue of PLANT DISEASE: the singular of kudos is kudos, at least in the nominative case. It is a Greek word, governed by the morphological rules of that language and not by those of English.

Laura Georgi
West Lafayette, IN

According to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*: **ku-do** . . . *n, pl* **kudos** . . . **2:** COMPLIMENT, PRAISE <to all three should go some kind of special [kudo] for refusing to succumb . . .—*The Editors*

Surface Rot, Not Soil Rot, Is Sweet Potato Disease

The photograph of a diseased sweet potato on the front cover of the February 1980 issue of PLANT DISEASE was prepared by the Clemson University Extension Service during the mid-1960s. A total of 175 slides of plant diseases was prepared on a federal grant and supplied to the USDA and elsewhere.

The slide in question is mislabeled "soil rot." The disease was identified as sweet potato "surface rot" as caused by *Fusarium oxysporum*. Unfortunately,

the name "soil rot" was used here by some persons when in fact "surface rot" was intended; this happened when the slide was initially labeled. Soil rot as caused by *Streptomyces ipomoea* was not a disease of sweet potatoes in South Carolina at the time and may not yet occur in the state.

We regret that this mistake found its way to such a prominent place as the cover of PLANT DISEASE.

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