Focus

The blue mold epidemic of tobacco in 1979 was the worst plague ever to occur in Ontario, reports W. E. McKeen of the University of Western Ontario, London. Blue mold was found on 1,500 farms after importation of tobacco seedlings from Sun City, FL. The entire crop on 460 farms was cut down, and the loss was about $100 million. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 26 August 1980)

Nematode-parasitic fungi, especially Nematophthora gynophila, limit populations of the cereal cyst nematode (Heterodera avenae), report B. R. Kerry, D. H. Crump, and L. A. Mullen of Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England. The fungi parasitize the female nematodes; this effect depends on adequate moisture. (Nematologica Vol. 26, No. 1, 1980)

Bacterial mosaic of wheat, caused by Corynebacterium michiganense subsp. tesellarium, has been found in 17 counties of Nebraska and Iowa, report R. R. Carlson and A. K. Vidaver of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Spring, winter, and durum wheats are susceptible, but nine other gramineous hosts are immune. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 26 August 1980)

Foliar applications of low concentrations of oxamyl to coffee plants decreased the incidence of galls and of nematodes (Meloidogyne exigua) on roots, according to C. W. Laughlin and R. R. A. Lordello of the Instituto Agronômico, Campinas, Brazil. Properly timed foliar applications were more effective than bare-root dip treatments. (Summa Phytopathol. Vol. 5, No. 1,2, 1979)

A neurotoxin produced in mature annual ryegrass in southern Australia pastures induces ataxia, convulsions, and death in animals grazing on plants infected with Anguina agrostis and Corynebacterium rathayi. B. A. Stynes of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, and A. F. Bird of CSIRO, South Australia, report that the toxin occurs only in nematode galls colonized by bacteria, particularly in the gall walls. Living cells and bacteria are essential for toxin production, but nematodes are not. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 27 August 1980)

Ozone and ozone plus sulfur dioxide (SO_2) promoted leaf abscission on hybrid poplar but SO_2 alone had no effect, according to R. D. Noble of Bowling Green University and K. F. Jensen of the USDA Forest Service, Ohio. The interaction between SO_2 and ozone was antagonistic, with SO_2 reducing the toxic effect of ozone. Ozone also reduced leaf area and weight in late leaf development stages. (Am. J. Bot. Vol. 67, No. 7, 1980)

When three times the standard dose of Arbotect 20S was applied to control Dutch elm disease, chemical distribution was 90-100% in newly formed wood 1-12 mo later but declined to 50% after 26 mo, report M. A. Stennes and D. W. French of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Chemical distribution with 4.8 times the standard dose was 95-100% after 25 mo. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 25 August 1980)

The perfect state for a snow mold pathogen, a low-temperature basidiomycete (LTB), in Canada was tentatively identified as Coprinus urticicola by J. A. Traquair of Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge. Di-mon pairings of C. urticicola with stock cultures of LTB from other hosts, such as alfalfa, grasses, and winter wheat, indicated genetic relationships. (APS-CPS Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, 26 August 1980)