

Focus

Southern rust (*Puccinia polysora*) was found for the first time on corn in Minnesota, in Waseca County on 15 September 1981, by R. L. Bowden and E. L. Stromberg (USDA-APHIS) of the University of Minnesota. Both urediospores and teliospores were observed on leaves. (Personal communication)

Downy mildew (*Sclerospora macrospora*) was observed for the first time on triticale in India during March 1981 by A. S. Grewal and S. S. Aujula. The mildew appeared in plot trials at the Gurdaspur farm of Punjab Agricultural University. (Personal communication)

The potato cyst nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) was found for the first time on potato in the Philippines in March 1981, reports R. A. Sikora of the University of Bonn, West Germany. Populations of the nematode in fields at Paoay, Sinipsip, Madaymen, and Timbac ranged from 1 to 22 cysts per 100 cm³ soil; no aboveground damage was observed, however. (Personal communication)

The economic threshold of powdery mildew on winter wheat appears to be approximately 25 pustules on both leaf surfaces of the upper three leaves of 20 ear-bearing tillers at the flowering stage, according to G. Parmentier of the Station de Phytopathologie, Gembloux, Belgium. This prediction is based on 30 years of experimentation and does not work unless nitrogen is applied according to soil analysis of the root layer. If the threshold is exceeded, fungicides can be applied. (EPPO Bull. Vol. 11, No. 2, 1981)

European larch canker (*Lachnellula willkommii*) was found in native larch in Washington County, ME, by M. Miller-Weeks of the USDA Forest Service, Portsmouth, NH, and D. Stark of the Maine Bureau of Forestry, Augusta. This is the first report of the canker in the United States since the disease was eradicated in Massachusetts during the early 1960s. (Personal communication)

Biocontrol of *Fusarium* wilt of cucumber, muskmelon, tomato, and watermelon; *Colletotrichum* disease of eggplant; *Phytophthora* blight of pepper and tomato; and *Verticillium* wilt of cotton, eggplant, and pepper was achieved with 71-93% effectiveness by G. Turhan of the University of Ege, Bornova-Izmir, Turkey. Seeds or seedling roots were immersed in a slurry of *Streptomyces ochraceiscleroticus*, then planted in field soil outdoors in pots. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Vol. 88, No. 7, 1981)

Using pheromones to lure insect pests into traps or to permeate the air and disrupt mate finding or aggregation has been more effective for low-density populations of insects than for high-density populations, according to R. M. Silverstein of the State University of New York, Syracuse. The most promising use of pheromones for control appears to be in integrated pest management systems. (Science Vol. 213, No. 4514, 1981)

Galls produced by the nematode *Meloidogyne hapla* were reported for the first time on elm roots in Italy by N. Greco of the Istituto di Nematologia agraria del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Bari, Italy. (Inf. Fitopatol. Vol. 30, No. 6, 1981)

Private companies do about 65% of the agricultural research in the United States, according to S. Wittwer of Michigan State University, East Lansing. The private sector has several advantages over the public sector, states S. Eberhart of Funk Seeds International, including larger operating budgets, the capability to organize a research team faster to address a specific problem, availability of regional and national research networks, and opportunities to do basic research internationally. (Early Riser Vol. 4, No. 3, 1981)