

# Focus

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Meloidogyne arenaria causes significant losses in soybean yields in Alabama, according to R. Rodríguez-Kábana and J. C. Williams of Auburn University. They developed equations based on final larval populations in the current season or on populations present 1-2 months after harvest to use in estimating yield losses the following season. (*Nematropica* Vol. 11, No. 2, 1981)

Rhizoctonia solani in soil was detected equally well by using Ko agar or rush (Juncus effusus) fragments as bait or plating small soil clumps, reports A. W. Doornik of the Bulb Research Centre, Lisse, Netherlands. When the soil temperature was unfavorable for R. solani, Ko agar bait was the best detection method. (*Neth. J. Plant Pathol.* Vol. 87, No. 5, 1981)

The year 1753 was selected as the starting date for all fungi, with a protected status for names used by Persoon and by Fries, at the 1981 meeting in Australia of the Nomenclature Section of the 13th International Botanical Congress, reports R. P. Korf of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Another change made in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature was to delete "ex" from most author citations. (*Mycologia* Vol. 74, No. 2, 1982)

Barley yellow dwarf virus can be detected in single aphid vectors by a procedure that uses serologically specific electron microscopy, according to Y. C. Paliwal of Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. The method, which was effective for both alate and apterous aphids, detected the virus 1 day after acquisition feeding and up to 9 days after removal of the aphid from a virus source plant. (*Can. J. Bot.* Vol. 60, No. 2, 1982)

Benefits from controlling air pollution damage in 14 crops grown during the 1979 crop year in southern California would have been about \$46 million, according to a study by R. M. Adams, T. D. Crocker, and N. Thanavibulchai of the University of Wyoming, Laramie. The authors analyzed changes in comparative economic advantages between and among competitively produced crops and growing locations. Conclusions were based on many factors and were not reached by just multiplying the reduced yield by the market price. (*J. Environ. Econ. Manage.* Vol. 9, No. 1, 1982)

Accumulation of one strain of cucumber mosaic virus and its symptoms on tomato can be prevented by prior inoculation with a second strain, reports J. A. Dodds of the University of California, Riverside. Moreover, the protection is reciprocal and can be long-lasting for the two strains. (*Virology* Vol. 118, No. 1, 1982)

Herbicides generally are degraded in soil in proportion to the microbial activity in that soil, but herbicides that are degraded are less persistent if the same herbicide is applied repeatedly, reports K. Hurlle of the University of Hohenheim, West Germany. Increase in amount of degradation depends on an increase in the number of organisms that use that herbicide as an energy source, and not on those decomposed by cometabolism. (*Acta Phytomed.* 8, Suppl. J. *Phytopathol.*, 1982)

The hop stunt viroid from cucumber leaves has been purified and characterized by T. Ohno and colleagues at the University of Tokyo, Iwate University, and the Institute for Plant Virus Research in Ibaraki, Japan. The viroid is a typical RNA molecule and is one of the smallest viroids; its molecular length is 290-300 nucleotides. (*Virology* Vol. 118, No. 1, 1982)