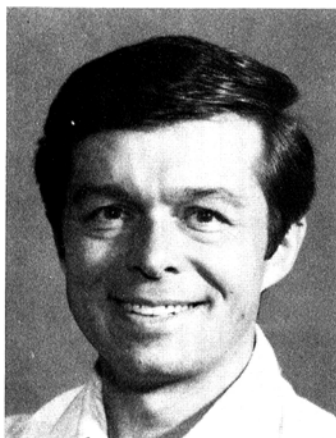


Disease Notes: A Short Form for Disease Reports

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PLANT DISEASE plans to introduce a new section entitled Disease Notes: brief reports of significant but limited observations of diseases, pathogens, or vectors—observations that are important for diagnosticians and practitioners but of insufficient scope for publication in the conventional format. This is a new publication scheme with two main objectives: 1) to provide a repository for observations of the sort important to diagnosticians, field advisors,

and compilers of plant disease indices and 2) to encourage condensed reporting of disease observations while preserving integrity and prestige of the reports. The new section provides for synoptic, refereed reporting of observations of the sort that previously either remained unpublished or were expanded (sometimes in unduly elaborate fashion) into research-type articles. It also gives authors the choice of reporting synoptically or conventionally on somewhat extensive observations.

Topics appropriate for Disease Notes include but are not limited to reports of geographic extensions of disease or pathogens, racial composition of pathogen populations, new or anomalous symptoms of previously known diseases, new host plants either found in nature or shown susceptible by inoculation, newly discovered vectors, clinical observations (eg, usefulness of a diagnostic procedure or environmental conditions associated with unusual expression of disease), and corroboration or correction of previous observations.

The example on the facing page is, with the authors' permission, a condensation of an article published in research format that reported a significant new occurrence of the soybean pathogen *Phytophthora megasperma* f. sp. *glycinea*, race 1 of which was identified using differential cultivars. The references in the example deal with differentiation of formae speciales and races of the pathogen. Such a report could be prepared in either the conventional or the Disease Notes form, at the authors' discretion.

The staff of PLANT DISEASE expect contributions to Disease Notes to replace some, but not all, of the articles currently appearing in the New Diseases and Epidemics section. In addition, reviewers and editors may recommend to authors that certain conventional manuscripts be condensed for publication in the Disease Notes format. Reports requiring photographs, maps, or tables will continue to be published as conventional articles.

The format of Disease Notes is designed to expedite indexing and minimize preparation time, publication time, and cost. Articles resemble abstracts in length and in the use of an APS form for submission. The title is usually confined to one line and contains four key elements for indexing: name of disease, scientific name of pathogen, common or scientific name of plant, and, if appropriate, locality. Authors and their affiliations are named on lines following the title, as briefly as possible without loss of clarity. The text is a statement of observations, including general methods but omitting specific procedures. Brief interpretation, prognostication, or statement of implications is permissible. If not given in the title, the botanical name(s) of the plant(s) is listed in the text. The name of a virus is supplemented in the text by the name of the generic group to which it belongs (eg, carlavirus), if known. No more than two references are allowed per entry, and these are in condensed format as shown in the example. Peer review before submission is required, and these reviewers must sign the manuscript form.

Each contribution should be submitted in the manner prescribed for regular manuscripts and will be processed by a special procedure for expeditious peer review and possible revision before acceptance. The test for acceptability of a contributed item is whether the observations are original or significant for applied plant pathology. To assist reviewers and editors in this determination, authors may provide on a separate sheet, not to be published, a brief explanation of the noteworthiness of the observations. Normally, however, this should be apparent from the title or content of the contributed item, and no supplementary statement will be needed. The publication charge for each Disease Notes item is \$35.00. Neither reprints nor negatives of published items will be provided.

Disease Notes will appear monthly or less often, according to the volume of submissions. This is a call for contributions.