

Focus

Ten species of wood-decay gill fungi, including Pleurotus ostreatus, have been shown by R. G. Thorn and G. L. Barron of the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, to attack and consume nematodes. (Science 224:76-78, 1984)

A previously unknown fungus, "black mycelium," causes root rot of corn in Germany, report W. Krüger and J. B. Speakman of Institut für Pflanzenschutz in Ackerbau und Grünland, Heidendorf, West Germany. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 91:1-11, 1984)

Resistance to tomato bacterial speck caused by Pseudomonas syringae pv. tomato is conditioned by a single dominant gene (Pto), according to R. E. Pittladdo and B. H. MacNeill of Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology and the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Production of disease-resistant cultivars looks promising. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 5:251-255, 1983)

Chaetomium, a genus of about 300 species, has been reevaluated by J. A. Von Arx of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultuur, Baarn; M. Dreyfuss of Sandoz Ltd., Basel; and E. Müller of the Institute for Microbiology, Zurich. Increased emphasis on characters of ascospores and asci has resulted in new genera and combinations. (Persoonia 12[Pt.2]:169-179, 1984)

Leaf extracts from Clerodendron species applied to leaves of hypersensitive hosts prevented viral infection by increasing host resistance, according to H. N. Verma, B. Chowdhury, and P. Rastogi of Lucknow University, India. The resistance was systemic and host-mediated. (Z. Pflanzenkr. Pflanzenschutz 91:34-41, 1984)

Adding live mycelia of Rhizoctonia solani to soil resulted in hyperparasite accumulation and less infection in sprouts of infected seed potatoes, report P. H. Van Den Boogert and G. Jager of the Institute for Soil Fertility, Haren, Netherlands. Verticillium biguttatum was the predominant hyperparasite. (Neth. J. Plant Pathol. 89:223-228, 1983)

Alachlor may enhance soybean susceptibility to Heterodera glycines by altering root growth and interfering with efficacy of phenamiphos, according to A. L. Bostian, D. P. Schmitt, and K. R. Barker of North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (J. Nematol. 16:41-47, 1984)

Torreya taxifolia, a conifer endemic in Florida and Georgia, has been listed by the U.S. Department of Interior as an endangered species because a fungal disease threatens its survival. Needles and stems have been killed and stands have declined since 1962. (Endangered Species Tech. Bull. 9[2]:4-5, 1984)

A test-tube assay for measuring root-colonization capacity of bacteria applied to corn kernels has been developed by F. M. Scher, J. S. Ziegler, and J. W. Kloepper of Advanced Genetic Sciences, Manhattan, KS. All root-colonization strains isolated have been gram-negative. (Can. J. Microbiol. 30:151-157, 1984)

Salt-resistant genotypes of wheat can be selected over a single generation, report R. W. Kingsbury and E. Epstein of the University of California, Davis. Twenty-nine salt-resistant lines were obtained from more than 5,000 wheat accessions screened in salt water. (Crop Sci. 24:310-315, 1984)

Cladosporium uredinicola is a necrotrophic hyperparasite on spores and mycelia of Puccinia violae on violet, report J. A. Traquair, R. B. Meloche, and W. R. Jarvis of Agriculture Canada, Harrow, and K. W. Baker of the University of Windsor, Ontario. (Can. J. Bot. 62:181-184, 1984)