

Focus

That a plant product can regulate the virulence of a plant-pathogenic bacterium was demonstrated for the first time by R. J. K. Okker and associates at the University of Leiden, Netherlands. Agrobacterium tumefaciens was studied using six different plant exudates. (Nature 312:564-566, 1984)

Barley yellow dwarf virus was more widespread in 1984 than in previous years in cereal-growing areas of Northern Ireland, report P. R. Mills and P. C. Mercer of the Department of Agriculture of Northern Ireland, Belfast. Incidence of infection varied from 56 to 71%, and estimated losses in yield for winter barley and wheat were £300,000. (News1. Soc. Irish Plant Pathol. 14:12-13, 1984)

A new genus and species of rust, Ceraceopsis elaeagni, has been reported in Japan by M. Kakishima, T. Sato, and S. Sato of the University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki. Uredinal and telial stages occur on Eleagnus spp., and spermogonial and aecial stages occur on Anemone. (Mycologia 76:969-974, 1984)

Dipping wounded citrus fruit in suspensions of Bacillus subtilis markedly controlled decay caused by each of Alternaria citri, Geotrichum candidum, and Penicillium digitatum, report V. Singh and B. J. Deverall of the University of Sydney, Australia. Bacterial spores were stored as powder for later use. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 83:487-490, 1984)

A new species of Chalara (C. heteroderae) was isolated from cysts of the cereal cyst nematode by L. M. Carris and D. A. Glawe of the University of Illinois, Urbana. This species has potential for biocontrol of the nematode. (Mycotaxon 21:441-448, 1984)

Ethylene induced in tomato plants by the root-knot nematode, and which plays a major role in symptoms, can be reversed by foliar spray with silver thiosulfate or aminoethoxyvinylglycine, according to I. Glazer, A. Apelbaum, and D. Orion of the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. (J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Sci. 109:886-889, 1984)

Orobanche ramosa has been found for the first time in Italy on sunflowers by A. Zizzerini and L. Tosi of the University of Perugia, Italy. Distribution of the parasite is limited. (Inf. Fitopatol. 34[7-8]:47-49, 1984)

Aspergillus flavus can easily survive over a wide range of temperatures for at least 20 months on cowpea seed during commercial transport, storage, and marketing as well as during domestic handling and storage, according to L. R. Beuchat of the University of Georgia, Experiment. Storage under nitrogen gas did not reduce viability of A. flavus. (J. Stored Prod. Res. 20:119-123, 1984)

A preinoculation dark period increased susceptibility of cowpea to cowpea mosaic and southern bean mosaic viruses, report A. K. Singh and A. K. Singh of the University of Gorakhpur, India. Dark treatment decreased dry matter and increased moisture content of leaves, up to 48 hours. (Biologia 29:257-264, 1984)

Abundant mechanical tissue accounts for some but not all field resistance of sorghum cultivars to Striga asiatica, according to R. K. Maiti and associates at ICRISAT, Andhra Pradesh, India. Ten cultivars showed different haustorial reactions. (Ann. Bot. 54:447-457, 1984)

The herbicide sethoxydim inhibited growth of corn seedlings within 1 day after foliar application of 0.2 kg a.i./ha, report H. Hosaka and associates at the Nippon Soda Co., Ltd., Kanagawa, Japan. Sethoxydim inhibited cell division but not mitosis. (Weed Sci. 32:711-721, 1984)