

Focus

Northern leaf blight of corn caused by Exserohilum turcicum was epidemic in two counties in North Carolina, according to K. Leonard, H. Duncan, and S. Leath, USDA and North Carolina State University, Raleigh. Up to 75% of the leaf area was destroyed by the second week in August. (Personal communication, 15 August 1985)

Canker of parsnips caused by Phoma complanata was reported for the first time in North America by R. F. Cerkauskas of Agriculture Canada, Vineland Station, Ontario. Losses occur in the field and in storage, and disease incidence ranges from a trace to 80% infected plants. (Can. J. Plant Pathol. 7:135-138, 1985)

The genus Criconea has been reappraised and broadened to include nine other genera by D. J. Raski of the University of California, Davis, and M. Luc of the Museum of Natural History, Paris, France. (Rev. Nematol. 7:323-334, 1984)

Aged pea seeds proved more stimulatory than nonaged seeds to soil microbial populations, report J. M. Norton and G. E. Harman of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva. Rhizoctonia solani and Sclerotium rolfsii were attracted and thrived but Pythium succumbed to microbial competition in the presence of exudates. (Can. J. Bot. 63:1040-1045, 1985)

Oat roots both attract and cause lysis of zoospores of Allomyces, Aphanomyces, Phytophthora, Pythium, and Saprolegnia, according to J. W. Deacon and R. T. Mitchell of the School of Agriculture, Edinburgh, Scotland. The lytic compound avenacin released from undamaged oat roots prevented cyst wall formation by zoospores. (Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc. 84:479-487, 1985)

Several Monilinia species infect ericaceous plants and cause mimicking of host flowers to exploit pollinating insects as vectors, reports L. R. Batra of the USDA, Beltsville, MD. The insects carry Monilinia spores to other plants, whose floral parts then become infected. (Mycological Society Annual Meeting, University of Florida, Gainesville, 15 August 1985)

Two different isometric virus particles were found in caps and stipes of mushrooms (Agaricus bisporus) by H. B. Schmidt and E. Zimmermann of the Institut für Phytopathologische Aschersleben, East Germany. Ultrathin sections were observed with the electron microscope. (Arch. Phytopathol. Pflanzenschutz 21:13-19, 1985)

A method for detecting Pythium species directly in soil devised by I. Böttcher and L. Behr of Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, East Germany, involves a selective medium and deposition of fine soil particles on the agar surface, plus identification by hyphal growth patterns. (Phytopathol. Z. 112:333-343, 1985)

Shoot dieback of larches in subalpine zones was attributed to wet, cool weather that delays lignification of young shoots and makes them vulnerable to early frost, report V. G. Schnell and associates at the Institute for Microbiology and the Institute for Plant Pathology, Zurich, Switzerland. Ascocalyx laricina infection did not cause dieback. (Eur. J. For. Pathol. 15:93-102, 1985)

Fusarium wilt of soybean and zinc deficiency in corn are influenced by nematodes and can be reduced in severity by nematicides, conclude N. A. Minton, M. B. Parker, and D. R. Sumner of the USDA and the University of Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton. (J. Nematol. 17:314-321, 1985)

Fusarium acuminatum intensifies root rot of wheat caused by Bipolaris sorokiniana but does not cause significant root rot, report J. A. Fernandez and associates of the University of Wyoming, Laramie. (Mycopathologia 90:177-179, 1985)