

Focus

Synergistic interaction of two genes explains the high degree of tolerance to benomyl in Fusarium oxysporum, according to A. Molnar, L. Hornok, and M. Pesti of the Plant Protection Institute in Budapest and the Seed Production and Trading Company in Szentes, Hungary. (Exp. Mycol. 9:326-333, 1985)

Fusarium dlamini, a new species from South Africa described by W. F. O. Marasas of the South African Medical Research Council and P. E. Nelson and T. A. Toussoun of Pennsylvania State University, University Park, resembles F. oxysporum in cultural morphology but produces napiform microconidia. (Mycologia 77:971-975, 1985)

Botryosphaeria and Fusicoccum species have been associated with ripe fruit rot of kiwifruit in New Zealand, report S. R. Pennycook and G. J. Samuels of Dominion Scientific and Industrial Research in Auckland. F. aesculi was isolated from distinctive early lesions, F. parvum from later small lesions, and F. luteum from overripe fruit. (Mycotaxon 24:445-458, 1985)

Young tissues of tomato and corn leaves in which the juvenile state was prolonged by high levels of nitrate nitrogen or kinetin treatments had a greater nonspecific resistance to toxins than mature or senescing tissues, report B. Barna, A. R. T. Sarhan, and Z. Kiraly of the Plant Protection Institute, Budapest, Hungary. The toxins originated from either Fusarium oxysporum or Helminthosporium maydis. (Physiol. Plant Pathol. 27:159-165, 1985)

The plant-parasitic nematode found most often in soil and feeder-root samples from forests in California was the root ectoparasite Criconebella annulata, according to J. W. and B. F. Lownsberry of the University of California, Davis. Nematodes common to California agriculture were not found in California forests. (Hilgardia 53[5]:1-16, 1985)

The first Venturia sp. on Ribes spp., described by A. Sivanesan of Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, England, was found in Finland on R. alpinum and named V. ribis. (Karstenia 25:50-52, 1985)

IAA, 2,4-D, and gibberellic acid promote germination and hyphal elongation in Gibberella fujikuroi and Penicillium notatum, report T. Nakamura and associates of Japan Women's University in Tokyo and Kanto-Gakuin University in Yokohama. Auxin and gibberellin may act as regulators of conidial germination in filamentous ascomycetes. (Plant Cell Physiol. 26:1433-1437, 1985)

Populations of Alternaria alternata on leaves of white bean increased as the season advanced and leaves senesced, according to J. C. Tu of Agriculture Canada, Harrow. Hydrolytic activity was greater in senescing than in normal tissue, leading to increased availability of sugars, amino acids, and amines for growth and sporulation of the fungus. (Can. J. Plant Sci. 65:913-919, 1985)

Monoclonal antibodies against the corn stunt spiroplasma have been produced by C. P. Lin and T. A. Chen at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, who found seven stable hybridomas that secreted the antibodies from three independent fusions. (Can. J. Microbiol. 31:900-904, 1985)

Growth and maturation of two lepidopteran insects were delayed and overall size reduced by ingesting foliage from soybeans with roots colonized by Glomus fasciculatum, report L. B. Rabin and R. S. Pacovsky of the USDA Western Regional Research Center, Albany, CA. This provides another strategy for biocontrol of insects using fungus-infected roots. (J. Econ. Entomol. 78:1358-1363, 1985)