Focus

Compiled by Thor Kommedahl

Canavirgella banfieldii is a new genus and species causing needlecast on white pine throughout the eastern United States, report W. Merrill and associates at Pennsylvania State University, University Park. (Can. J. Bot. 74:1476-1481, 1996)

The phytoalexin in sorghum was identified as 5-methoxyluteolinidin by S.-C. Lo and associates at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, who tested it against Colletotrichum sublineolum. (Physiol. Mol. Plant Pathol. 49:21-31, 1996)

Satellite RNAs in cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) mutate from a benign to a pathogenic form that rapidly becomes dominant through natural selection, report P. Palukaitis and M. J. Roossinck of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and the S. R. Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma; this illustrates the risk in using attenuated satellite RNAs for biocontrol of CMV. (Nature Biotechnol. 14:1264-1268, 1996)

Rhizoctonia zeae as a nomen anamorphosum of Waitea circinata was confirmed by T. B. Andersen of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, with restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis. (Mycol. Res. 100:1117-1128, 1996)

Effects of the African cassava mosaic virus are limited by selecting cassava cultivars for high field resistance combined with high recovery rates, report D. Fargette and associates at ORSTROM, Abidjan, Ivory Coast; CPRO-DLO, Wageningen, Netherlands; and ILTAB, TSRI, La Jolla, California. (Eur. J. Plant Pathol. 102:645-654, 1996)

Potassium sorbate (0.1 mg/ml) protected cocoyams from storage rot caused by Aspergillus niger, Botryodiplodia theobromae, Geotrichum candidum, and Fusarium oxysporum, but not Corticium rolfsii, report J. O. Ugwuanyi and J. A. N. Obeta of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria. (Mycopathologia 134:21-25, 1996)

In soil heavily infested with Meloidogyne hapla, a rotation including potato or sweet potato should be avoided when these crops follow susceptible crops, according to A. W. Johnson and associates at the USDA Coastal Plain Station in Tifton, Georgia, and the USDA at Beltsville, Maryland. (J. Nematol. 28:389-399, 1996)

Boric, sulfamic, and sulfosalicylic acids at 5 N concentration can destroy aflatoxin B1 in sorghum grain after 72 h storage at 25°C, reports H. A. H. Hasan of Assiut University, Assiut, Egypt. (Cryptogam. Mycol. 17:129-134, 1996)

Xanthomonas campestris pv. graminis and X. campestris pv. phlei could be rapidly and reliably identified by analysis of their fatty acid content with a gas chromatograph and a commercially available software package, reports A. Sletten at the Norwegian Crop Research Institute in Aas, Norway. (J. Phytopathol. 144:321-323, 1996)

Ectomycorrhizae of Hydnum rufescens on Picea abies were identified by tracing hyphae to fruiting bodies and confirmed by DNA comparison, report R. Agerer of the Institute for Systematic Botany at Munich, Germany, and associates at the Slovenian Forestry Institute and the Center for Plant Biotechnology and Breeding in Ljubljana, Slovenia. (Nova Hedwigia 63:183-194, 1996)

Subdivision of Fusarium sections Elegans, Liseola, and Dlaminia into two new sections is not supported by morphological criteria, according to the two restriction fragment length polymorphism patterns of the internal transcribed spacer region of ribosomal DNA, report C. Waalwijk and associates at the Research Institute for Plant Protection, Wageningen; and Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, Netherlands. (Sydowia 48:90-104, 1996)

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