DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF TALAROMYCES ALBOBIVERTICILLIUS CAUSING POSTHARVEST FRUIT ROT ON POMEGRANATE IN ITALY

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In 2016, circular brownish lesions and stamens covered by a greenish sporation, were observed on two month-stored Punica granatum L. fruits ( cvs Wonderful One and Acco). Soft rotting originating from wounds on the rind, without nest- ing or connection with stamen colonization, was recorded on 18% of infected fruit. Surface-sterilized rotated portions were plated on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA), containing streptomycin and ampicillin (250 mg/l each), incubated at 24°C in the dark and sub-cultured on Malt Extract Agar (MEA). Colonies were velvety, 26.5 ± 1.5 mm in size after 7 day-incubation. The 3-8 acerose phialides (10.5 ± 2.5 x 2.5 ± 0.5 μm) were slender aculate or lanceolate, highlighting the symmetrical, biverticillate conidiophores; interlaced hyphae constituted the layers of the typical soft ascomatal wall; mature asci were chain-like. Pinkish-white conidia, from globose to pomegranate. This fungus is a Penicillium sensu latu

FIRST REPORT OF GRAPEVINE SYRAH VIRUS 1 IN GRAPEVINE IN TURKEY

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Grapevine Syrah virus-1 (GSyV-1) is a member of the genus Marafivirus, family Tymoviridae. This virus, originally reported from the USA, has now been reported from several European countries (Glasa et al., 2015) and more recently from Chile, Brazil and South Africa. Dormant canes of grapevines cvs. Syrah, Palieri and Antep karası were collected in Turkey and screened by RT-PCR for the presence of GSyV-1, Grape- vine Pinot gris virus (GPGV), Grapevine virus A (GVA) and Grapevine rupestris stem pitting-associated virus (GRSPaV). Three of the 302 samples ( cvs. Syrah and Antep karası) were found to be infected with GSyV-1 using two different primers, GSyV-1Det-F/Det-R (the putative methyltransferase gene) (Al Rwahnih et al., 2009) and GVQCP-F/R (partial CP gene) (Sabanadzovic et al., 2009). GSyV-1 was detected using both primers in cv. Syrah, whereas it was detected by only GSyV-1Det-F/Det-R in cv. Antep karası. All PCR products were sequenced and the sequences were deposited in GenBank. Comparison of the partial methyltransferase gene sequences (KY558548 and KY558550) showed 90-98% nucleotide identity to different GSyV-1 sequences available in GenBank. The amplicon (GenBank accession No. KY563698) showed 99% identity with other T. albobiverticillius Talaromyces albobiverticillius sequences. For pathogenicity tests, surface-sterilized fruit cvs Wonderful One and Acco were wounded, inoculated with a mycelial plug and incubated as above. Sterile plugs were used as controls. Typical symptoms developed only on infected fruits. The re-isolated fungus corresponded to T. albobiverticillius, fulfilling Koch’s postulates. To our knowledge, this is the first report of T. albobiverticillius causing postharvest rot of pomegranate. This fungus is a Penicillium sensu strictu.


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