

DISEASE NOTE

STRELITZIA LEAF SPOT CAUSED BY *PSEUDOMONAS SYRINGAE* PV. *SYRINGAE*

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A bacterial leaf spot disease caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* van Hall was observed on *Strelitzia augusta* plants grown near citrus groves in the province of Catania (southern Italy) during the warm and humid spring of 1999. Symptoms included dark brown necrotic spots 1-2 cm in diameter and large necrotic lesions that originated from wounds caused by wind damage. Lesions were surrounded by a chlorotic water-soaked halo. On older leaves, lesions sometimes coalesced, causing large areas of necrosis. A fluorescent bacterium was consistently isolated from the water-soaked margins of lesions on King's medium B. Four purified strains were identified as *P. syringae* on the basis of the presumptive and confirmatory characters for the green fluorescent pseudomonads. All strains caused necrotic spots or lesions surrounded by a water-soaked halo when spray-inoculated (10^8 cfu ml⁻¹) on young wounded leaves of *strelitzia* maintained in high relative humidity. The strains, when compared with two *P. syringae* pv. *syringae* strains from citrus (IPVCT10.2, IPVCT48SR2), induced similar deep necrotic spots when inoculated with a needle on lemon epicarp. They gave the same SDS-PAGE profiles of whole cell protein, and the same response in PCR detection of *syrB* and *syrD* genes (Sorensen *et al.*, 1998). This appears to be the first report of a disease of *S. augusta* caused by *P. syringae* pv. *syringae*.

Sorensen K.N., Kim K.H., Takemoto J.Y., 1998. PCR detection of cyclic lipodepsinonapeptide-producing *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* and similarity of strains. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* **64**: 226-230.

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NECROTIC DISEASE IN TOMATOES IN GREECE AND SOUTHERN ITALY CAUSED BY THE TOMATO STRAIN OF *PARIETARIA MOTTLE VIRUS*P. Roggero¹, M. Ciuffo¹, N. Katis², D. Alioto³, A. Crescenzi⁴, G. Parrella⁵ and D. Gallitelli⁵

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A necrotic disease of tomato causing necrotic spots on the leaves and corky rings and brown patches on the surface of fruits is caused by an Ilarvirus closely related to *Parietaria mottle virus* (PmoV), denoted PMoV-TI1 (Lisa *et al.*, 1998). The virus, reported from Piedmont, Liguria, Sardinia and Lazio has again appeared sporadically in the past three years. Recently it was found in southern France (Marchoux *et al.*, 1999). We now report the detection of PmoV-TI1 in tomato plants showing necrotic symptoms collected in Greece and from different regions of Southern Italy, from 1997 to 1999. Virus identification was done using an antigen coated plate ELISA method and an antiserum against PMoV-TI1. Some samples were tested by mechanical inoculation to *Chenopodium quinoa*, which is infected systemically. In Greece PMoV-TI1 was detected in a number of tomato samples collected in May-June 1997 at Mount Athos (Chalkidiki Prefecture), Arethoussa and Vassilika (Thessaloniki Prefecture). In Italy, PMoV-TI1 was detected sporadically in Campania, Basilicata, Sicily and Apulia in June-July 1998-1999. Symptoms in naturally infected tomato plants do not help in virus identification since they are very similar to those induced by *Tomato spotted wilt virus* and *Cucumber mosaic virus*.

Lisa V., Ramasso E., Ciuffo M., Roggero P., 1998. Tomato apical necrosis caused by a strain of *parietaria mottle* ilarvirus. *Ninth Conference of the I.S.H.S. V.V.W.G., Recent Advances in Vegetable Virus Research, Torino* 1998, 3-5.

Marchoux G., Parrella G., Gebre-Selassie K., Gagnalon P., 1999. Identification de deux Ilarvirus sur tomate dans le Sud de la France. *Phytoma* **522**: 53-55.

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