

DISEASE NOTE

**SORGHUM VERTICILLIFLORUM:
A NATURAL HOST OF SORGHUM
YELLOW BANDING VIRUS IN
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Apparently virus- infected *Sorghum verticilliflorum* (wild sorghum) plants were observed at Maracay, Aragua State. These plants showed yellow speckles, chlorotic streaks and bands, stunting, and light necrosis. Symptomatic plants were collected, and extracts from these plants were mechanically inoculated to a range of plant species. A virus was transmitted at relatively low rate (7%) to wild sorghum and sorghum (*S. bicolor*) plants. Symptoms appeared 17-24 days after inoculation. Infected wild sorghum plants were sterile or had only a few spikelets. The virus was not transmitted by *Rhopalosiphum maidis* or *Peregrinus maidis*, nor was it found in progeny of seed from an infected plant. In agar double immunodiffusion tests forty-two isolates from wild sorghum reacted positively with antiserum to Sorghum yellow banding virus, SrYBV (Garrido *et al.*, 2000). Examination of clarified viral concentrate of some isolates consistently revealed isometric particles 25 nm in diameter. SDS-PAGE analysis of protein extracted from these preparations yielded a single band with a mol. wt. of approximately 29 kDa. Based on these results, the virus is considered to be SrYBV (Garrido *et al.*, 2000; Klaassen and Falk, 1989). Probably, *S. verticilliflorum* is an important host in the epidemiology of SrYBV in Venezuela, since it is a widely distributed weed in the country. This is the first report of *S. verticilliflorum* as natural host of SrYBV.

Garrido M.J., Trujillo G.E., Cuello de Uzcátegui R., 2000. Ocurrencia del virus del bandeo amarillo del sorgo en Venezuela. *Interciencia* 25: 321-327.

Klaassen V.A., Falk B.W., 1989. Characterization of a California isolate of sorghum yellow banding virus. *Phytopathology* 79: 646-650.

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