DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF LETTUCE MOSAIC POTYVIRUS IN MARGUERITE (*ARGYRANTHEMUM FRUTESCENS*)

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Plants of marguerite (*Argyranthemum frutescens*) cv. 'Yellow Star', grown in pots in commercial glasshouses at Albenga (northern Italy), and showing growth reduction, yellowing and brown spotting on leaves, were found to be infected by lettuce mosaic potyvirus (LMV). These plants were apparently free from other viruses. Infections were first detected in 1995 and observed repeatedly in the same cv. in the following years, with an incidence ranging from 1 to 3%. A number of samples from diseased 'Yellow Star' plants checked since 1995 were found to be infected with LMV, while plants of three additional cultivars showing poor growth or yellowing and necrosis of leaf edges were not infected. The virus was sap transmitted from marguerite to herbaceous hosts, in which it induced symptoms resembling those elicited by LMV. The virus was identified serologically by the slide precipitin test using concentrated virus preparations from test plants and an antiserum to the LMV isolate ATCC PV63. The marguerite virus was serologically similar to LMV ATCC PV63. The experimental host range of two isolates from marguerite was the same as that of typical LMV. Experimentally infected lettuce seedlings of cv. 'Carioca' showed a distinctive green mosaic. Eighteen young healthy marguerite plants from eleven cultivars were sap-inoculated with LMV from marguerite. Plants of nine cultivars including 'Yellow Star' were systemically infected, but none developed clear symptoms. Similarly, five healthy marguerite plants grafted with cuttings from field-infected donors, developed latent infection. In the area, LMV occurs in other ornamentals and in lettuce.

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DISEASE NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF CITRUS TRISTEZA VIRUS IN ALBANIA

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A survey was carried out for the presence of citrus tristeza virus (CTV) in the main citrus-growing areas of Albania. A total of 543 samples (10-15 cm long apical budsticks) were collected from individual trees, 481 of which were from commercial groves and 62 from the varietal collection of the Research Institute of Pomology of Vlore. Virus detection was by DAS-ELISA and immunoprinting (Garnsey *et al.,* 1993) using a monoclonal antiserum (Direction des Domaines Agricoles, UCP, Morocco) and a commercial kit (Plantprint, Spain), respectively. A total of 19 samples, 12 from commercial groves (2.5%) and 7 from the varietal collection (11%) were found to contain CTV by both detection techniques. Infected trees from commercial groves were 'Satsuma' mandarins and sweet oranges, whereas in the varietal collection, CTV was found in a single tree of 'Navel' orange and 'Satsuma' mandarin, three 'Meyer' lemons, and two 'Diamante' citrons. All ELISA-positive samples indexed positive also in Mexican lime seedlings, which reacted with severe vein clearing, leaf cupping and stem pitting. ELISA-positive trees were scattered in the orchards and none of them showed decline symptoms, *i.e.* a condition comparable to that of many other Mediterranean countries where the virus, but not the disease, is present. The occurrence of CTV represents an incumbent threat for the Albanian citrus industry that calls for urgent eradication measures.

Garnsey S.M., Permar T.A, Cambra M., Henderson T.C., 1993. Direct tissue blot immunoassay (DTBIA) for detection of citrus tristeza virus (CTV). *Proceedings of the 12th Conference of IOCV, Riveside* 1993, 39-50.

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