

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *TOMATO YELLOW LEAF CURL VIRUS* (TYLCV) IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

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During winter 2000, some tomato crops (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) grown in the Balearic Islands exhibited severe stunting, cupping, reduction in size, and chlorosis of the leaflets. Since these symptoms resembled closely those caused by *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* (TYLCV) (family *Geminiviridae*, genus *Begomovirus*), ten symptomatic tomato plants were tested for the presence of TYLCV by a duplex PCR method which can detect either TYLCV-Is or TYLCV-Sar (Martínez-Culebras *et al.*, 2001). Tomato plants experimentally infected with TYLCV-Is and TYLCV-Sar served as positive controls, and healthy tomato plant as negative controls. DNA was isolated from plants using E.Z.N.A kit (Omega Biotek, U.S.A). Electrophoretic analysis of PCR products from some samples showed a single fragment of approximately 465 bp, suggesting infection by TYLCV-Is and two fragments of approximately 465 and 135 bp from other samples, indicating infection by TYLCV-Sar. These results are taken as evidence that both TYLCV species occur in the Balearic Islands. TYLCV has been previously recorded from Mediterranean islands (Sicily, Sardinia) and countries, *i.e.* France, Italy, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Greece, Cyprus and Spanish mainland, but not from the Balearic Islands.

Martínez-Culebras P., Font I., Jordá C., 2001. A rapid PCR method to discriminate between Tomato yellow leaf curl virus isolates. *Annals of Applied Biology* **139**: 251-257.

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Received 13 September 2001

Accepted 20 September 2001

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FIRST RECORD OF *HOP STUNT VIROID* IN APRICOT IN LEBANON

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During a survey for the evaluation of the sanitary status of apricot in Lebanon, 130 samples from the native varieties Baiadi, Sindiani, Dehabi, and Ajami were collected from 13 commercial orchards at Kaa, Al Nabi Othman, and Al Laboueh (North Békaa), to be tested for the presence of *Hop stunt viroid* (HSVd). Total nucleic acids were extracted from about 500 mg of leaf tissue, denatured with 50 mM NaOH containing 2.5 mM EDTA, spotted onto Hybond N⁺ nylon membrane and hybridized at 55°C with a T7 RNA polymerase-generated full-length digoxigenin-labelled cRNA probe (Astruc *et al.*, 1996). HSVd was detected in all cultivars, the average infection being 28% (36 positive samples). HSVd appears to be entrenched in the Middle East as it occurs also in Syria (Ismaeil *et al.*, 2001) and Jordan (Al Rwahnih *et al.*, 2001).

Al Rwahnih M., Myrta A., Abou Ghanem N., Di Terlizzi B., Savino V., 2001. Viruses and viroids of stone fruits in Jordan. *Bulletin OEPP/EPP Bulletin* **31**: 95-99.

Astruc N., Marcos J.F., Macquaire G., Candresse T., Pallás V., 1996. Studies on the diagnosis of hop stunt viroid in fruit trees: identification of new hosts and application of a nucleic acid extraction procedure based on non-organic solvents. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **102**: 837-846.

Ismaeil F., Abou Ghanem-Sabanadzovic N., Myrta A., Di Terlizzi B., Savino V., 2001. First record of peach latent mosaic (PLMVd) and hop stunt (HSVd) viroids in Syria. *Journal of Plant Pathology* **83**: 227.

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Received 8 January 2002

Accepted 23 January 2002