

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF ANTHURIUM
BACTERIAL BLIGHT IN ITALYA. Zoina¹, A. Raio² and A. Spasiano¹¹Dipartimento di Arboricoltura, Botanica e Patologia Vegetale,
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Anthurium (*Anthurium andreaeanum* Lind. ex André) plants with symptoms of leaf blight were observed in December 1998 in a commercial farm located in Pompei. Marginal necroses that progressed to the centre of the leaves were the most common symptom, but interveinal necrotic areas surrounded by chlorotic halos were present as well. Basipetal or acropetal vascular discolorations occurred on petioles that showed also longitudinal cracks with abundant yellow oozing. Stem rotting was observed in some plants. The disease spread along the rows with a plant to plant progression. Laguna and Tropical, among others, were the most affected cultivars, with 35% and 25% disease incidence respectively.

Yellow, mucoid xanthomonas-like colonies were originated from all the samples examined and a number of bacteriological tests identified *Xanthomonas campestris*. The use of Biolog microtiter plates and proprietary software allowed the identification of the isolates as *X. campestris* pv. *dieffenbachiae* synonym of *X. axonopodis* pv. *dieffenbachiae* (McCulloch and Pirone) Vauterin *et al.* The strains induced HR in tobacco leaves and reproduced the typical symptoms after injection or spray on both anthurium and dieffenbachia leaves. An attempt was made to eradicate the pathogen and the cultivation is now routinely inspected for new symptom occurrence. To Author's knowledge this is the first report of the disease in Europe outside The Netherlands.

Anthurium industry is rapidly expanding and the province of Napoli is now the main production area in Italy. Bacterial blight is the major limiting factor to anthurium production in tropical and subtropical countries and can threaten the Italian cultivations as well. Sanitation and exclusion of the pathogen are vital aspects of anthurium cultivation and since all new cultivars are being imported from The Netherlands sanitary quality of the stock plant material must be definitely guaranteed at the origin.

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FIRST REPORT OF SUGARCANE
MOSAIC VIRUS STRAIN MB
INFECTING SORGHUM
IN VENEZUELA

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A virus isolated from an experimental plot of sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) in Maracay (State of Aragua, Venezuela), was mechanically transmitted to differential hosts (Tosic *et al.*, 1990) for identification. Electron microscopy revealed flexuous filaments ca 756 nm long. Cytoplasmic inclusions of the pinwheel, scroll, and laminate aggregate type were observed in maize (*Zea mays*) cells infected with the virus. The stability in sap tallied with that of potyviruses. In agar double-diffusion tests, the virus isolate reacted positively with a polyclonal antiserum to *Sugarcane mosaic virus* strain MB (SCMV-MB), but not with an antiserum to *Maize dwarf mosaic virus* strain A. The virus was transmitted in a non-persistent manner from sorghum to sorghum by the aphid *Schizaphis graminum*, but was not transmitted through sorghum seeds. Based on these results, the virus under study was identified as SCMV-MB. This is the first report of SCMV-MB infecting sorghum in Venezuela.

Tosic M., Ford R.E., Shukla D., Jilka L., 1990. Differentiation of sugarcane maize dwarf, johnsongrass, and sorghum mosaic viruses based on reactions of oat and some sorghum cultivars. *Plant Disease* 74: 549-552.

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