

DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *TOMATO RINGSPOT VIRUS* ON EGGPLANT IN IRAN

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In 2010 and 2011 eggplants with virus-like symptoms including leaf distortion, mosaic and stunting were observed in four fields in the province of Tehran (Iran). A total of 104 symptomatic leaf samples were collected and analyzed by DAS-ELISA and dot-blot assay (DIBA) for the presence of *Tomato mosaic virus* (ToMV), *Arabid mosaic virus* (ArMV), *Cucumber mosaic virus* (CMV) and *Tomato ringspot virus* (ToRSV) using specific polyclonal antibodies (Agdia, USA). Results showed the presence of ToRSV in 23% of the samples tested while ArMV, CMV and ToMV were not detected. ToRSV isolates were mechanically inoculated on the leaves of *Gomphrena globosa* and *Chenopodium quinoa*, two local lesions hosts, and after two cycles of single local lesion isolation, they were transferred to *Cucumis sativus*, *Chenopodium amaranticolor*, *Lycopersicon esculentum* and *Solanum melongena*. Inoculations resulted in systemic mosaic and mottle in *C. sativus*; necrotic local lesions in *Chenopodium amaranticolor*; leaf distortion and stunting in *L. esculentum*; mosaic, mottle and stunting in *S. melongena*. The presence of ToRSV was confirmed in inoculated plants by ELISA and RT-PCR using total RNA from symptomatic leaf tissues as template and specific primers designed on the sequence of the coat protein gene (Samuitiene *et al.*, 2003). The ToRSV specific RT-PCR fragment 499 bp in size was amplified from symptomatic eggplants and indicator plants. Although ToRSV was previously reported from tomato in Iran (Safaeizadeh and Saidi, 2011), this is the first record of this virus infecting eggplant in the country.

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Safaeizadeh M., Saidi A., 2011. First report of *Tomato ringspot virus* on tomato in Iran. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 93: S4.78.

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DISEASE NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF LEAF SPOT OF *NYCTANTHES ARBOR-TRISTIS* CAUSED BY *CORYNESPORA CASSIICOLA* IN INDIA

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Nyctanthes arbor-tristis, family Oleaceae (Nyctaginaceae), grown in many Indian garden and temple compounds for its fragrant blossoms, possesses multiple pharmacological properties (Chopra *et al.*, 1958). A leaf disease characterized by irregular reddish-brown spots with dark margins and brown to whitish centre was observed during the post-rainy season at Jaipur and Udaipur (India). Adjoining lesions coalesced resulting in large pustules. Incidence of infection and its severity in the surveyed area were almost 40 and 30-60%, respectively. Surface-sterilized diseased tissue plated on tetracycline-amended (250 mg/l) potato dextrose agar (PDA) yielded grey fungal colonies with a black backside after incubation at 22±2°C for 7 days. Conidiophores were cylindrical, straight or curved and unbranched, 3-10 septate, smooth and pale brown. Conidia were isolated or formed acropetal chains, had a variable shape, were 25-190 µm long and 5-10 µm thick, with a rounded apex and truncate base, 5-15 pseudoseptate, yellowish brown and smooth. Based on these morphological features, the fungus was identified as *Corynespora cassiicola* (Ellis and Holiday, 1971). The identity was confirmed by the National Fungal Culture Collection of India (NFCCI), Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, India (Culture No. OP 98). To confirm pathogenicity, disease-free plants were inoculated with a conidial suspension containing 1000 conidia/ml. Controls were inoculated with sterile distilled water. After 1 week, spots similar to those observed on the original diseased plants appeared on the leaves of inoculated but not in the control plants. The pathogen was re-isolated from symptomatic leaves, fulfilling Koch's postulates. *C. cassiicola* is known as a pathogen to many plants in India (Jamaluddin *et al.*, 2004), but, to our knowledge, this is its first report as a pathogen of *N. arbor-tristis* in the country.

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