Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF *CURVULARIA SPICIFERA* CAUSING LEAF SPOT ON TOMATO (*SOLANUM LYCOPERSICUM* L.) IN EGYPT

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In summer of 2014, brown to black necrotic lesions surrounded by yellow haloes were observed on leaves of tomato plants cultivated in Behira governorate. Isolation was made from 3-5 mm^2 pieces of lesions margins onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) after surface disinfected using 0.5% NaOCl. The examined morphological features (colony and conidia) were reminiscent of *Curvularia spicifera* as described by Jeon *et al.* (2015). The identity was further confirmed by DNA amplification and sequencing of the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*gpd*) and second largest subunit of RNA polymerase II (*rpb2*) gene regions using the same primer sets used in the study of Madrid *et al.* (2014). Sequences of *gpd* and *rpb2* were deposited in GenBank under accession Nos. KU133371 and KU133372, respectively, and revealed similarity 100% to (KC928089) and 99% to (HF934818) of *C. spicifera*.

Koch's postulates were further confirmed using surface disinfected leaves cv. Super strain-B wounded by sterile needle. Approximately 3-mm^2 of colonized PDA plugs of 7-days-old cultures were placed on the wounded sites. Control leaves and fruit were wounded and inoculated with sterile PDA plugs. Tomato leaves were placed at room temperature (28-30°C) and 80% of RH. Five days later, brown circular necrotic lesions (2-3 mm^2) were developed on the inoculated leaves. The control leaves showed no symptoms. Re-isolation from infected tissues revealed *C. spicifera* and its identity was morphologically confirmed. To our knowledge this the first report of *C. spicifera* (Bainier) Boedijn causing leaf spot on tomato in Egypt.

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Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF *PRUNUS NECROTIC RINGSPOT VIRUS* ON NECTARINE FROM IRAN

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Prunus necrotic ringspot virus (PNRSV, Genus *Ilarvirus*, Family *Bromoviridae*) is pollen and seed transmitted and this contributes to its spread in stone-fruit trees. In 2015, 18 leaf samples from nectarine (*Prunus persica* var. *nucipersica*) symptomatic trees were collected from East-Azerbaijan and Zanjan provinces in west and north-west of Iran. Trees showed stunting, and exhibited chlorotic rings, mosaic and necrotic ringspots on leaves. When total RNAs were subjected to reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) with a pair of primers (Ilar1 and Ilar2) (Moury *et al.*, 2000), an expected DNA fragment of 206 bp was amplified from 6 of the 10 tested samples. The indicator plant *Cucumis sativus* developed systemic mosaic, chlorosis, stunting, and leaf deformation after the cotyledons were inoculated with PNRSV isolates, as previously described (Rakhshandehroo *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, total RNAs extracted from six Ilarvirus-infected samples were used to amplify the complete coat protein gene by RT-PCR, using VP81 (5-AGTGGATC-CATGGTTTGCCGAATTTGC-3) and VP103 (5-ACATA-AGCTTCTAGATC TCAAGCAGGT C-3) primer pair (Aparicio *et al.*, 2003). Comparing the new sequences in the GenBank showed a high similarity (98%) between new PNRSV isolates and isolates from Iran (rose; KJ599817), Poland (rose; DQ003584) and India (almond; AM408909). Phylogenetic tree generated by MEGA6 program in Neighbor joining (NJ) method confirmed that these new PNRSV isolates (accession Nos. KX353930-KX353935) were grouped within a cluster formed by PNRSV-subgroup II isolates from Iran, Poland, Chile and USA. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report of PNRSV on nectarine from Iran.

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