VARIABILITY IN PATHOGENICITY OF VERTICILLIUM AND FUSARIUM CAUSING WILT DISEASES IN MEDITERRANEAN AND TROPICAL COUNTRIES

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The variability of pathogenicity was studied with *Verticillium dahliae* on tomato and cotton, and with different formae speciales of *Fusarium oxysporum* : f. sp. *elaeidis* on oil palm, f. sp. *lycopercisi* on tomato and f. sp. *vasinfectum* on cotton.

The Pathogenicity of several types of cultures was compared: clones issued from one isolate, ageing cultures issued from a clone maintened in saprophytic life with or without mycelial transfert and subclones obtained from clones of different ages.

The pathogenicity of *V. dahliae* is very variable between clones issued from one isolate, between cultures of different ages issued from a clone and between subclones obtained by monospore transfert from a clone. Intraclonal variation of pathogenicity appeared in wild strains only; it is note worthy that hyalin subclones unable to form microsclerot a were very stable in their pathogenicity.

With one exception, the pathogenicity of *F. oxysporum* was more stable. We observed variations only between clones issued from isolates of *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopercisi* and *F. oxysporum* f.sp. *vasinfectum*.

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