VIRUS CHARACTERIZATION TOMATO CHLOROSIS VIRUS - ToCV

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Abstract

Tomato chlorosis virus (ToCV) causes an important disease that affects tomatoes, beside that it has been found to infect other economically important vegetable crops and a wide range of wild plants. First noticed in Florida (USA) and associated with "yellow leaf disorder" in the mid-1990s, ToCV has been found in 35 countries and theritories to date, representing a paradigmatic example of the emergence of a plant pathogen. ToCVs are semi-persistently transmitted by whiteflies (*Hemiptera: Aleirodidae*) belonging to the genera *Bemisia* and *Trialeurodes.* Transmission of whitefly is very efficient and cases of 100% infection are often observed in the field. To date, no resistant or tolerant tomato plants are commercially available and disease control relies primarily on insect control. In tomato, ToCV causes yellowing that can first be seen on the lower leaves and the later development of leaf thickening, bronzing and necrotic spots on older leaves. Typically, this process takes place slowly, so it is often not physically noticeable, but the crops still get sick and there are minor admixtures, which is the first significant consequence when it comes to this virus.

Key words: *Tomato chlorosis virus,* ToCV, tomato, virus.