

Testing Variability in Pathogenicity of *Phytophthora cactorum*, *P. citrophthora* and *P. syringae* to Apple, Pear, Peach, Cherry and Plum Rootstocks

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The relative virulence of *Phytophthora cactorum* and *P. syringae* originating from almond trees, and of *P. citrophthora* originating from citrus, to apple, pear, peach, cherry and plum rootstocks, was studied *in vivo* and *in vitro*. Results of the different experiments were in good agreement. All tested *Phytophthora* isolates showed little virulence to pear rootstocks – causing only minor crown rot symptoms – and no virulence at all to apple rootstocks. In contrast, they were highly virulent to stone fruit rootstocks, causing crown rot disease. The non-pathogenicity of these isolates to pome rootstocks could be interpreted as strict host specificity.

KEY WORDS: Crown rot; pathogenicity; *Phytophthora*; pome fruit trees; stone fruit trees.

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