

Variation in Virulence of Greek Isolates of *Phytophthora citrophthora* as Measured by Their Ability to Cause Crown Rot on Three Peach Rootstocks

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The virulence of *Phytophthora citrophthora* isolated from various host-plants on three peach rootstocks (GF677, PR204, KID I) was examined. There was no significant difference among the rootstocks with respect to their susceptibility to tested *P. citrophthora* isolates. The most virulent isolate originated from sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*); isolates from pistachio trees (*Pistacia vera*) also showed high virulence but were significantly less virulent than the sycamore isolate. Isolates originating from plum (*Prunus domestica*), almond (*Prunus amygdalus*) and lemon (*Citrus limon*) trees were moderately virulent on peach rootstocks; those from cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) showed the lowest virulence of those tested. There was thus great variation in virulence among the tested *P. citrophthora* isolates. It is possible that the isolates of *P. citrophthora* from sycamore, pistachio, plum, almond and lemon trees are a threat to peach trees, whereas the low virulence of the isolates from cyclamen hosts suggests that these pathogens are not a serious threat to peach trees.

KEY WORDS: Crown rot; peach tree; *Phytophthora citrophthora*; virulence.

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