

## **Vegetative Compatibility and Pathogenicity of *Verticillium dahliae* Isolates from the Aegean Region of Turkey**

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A total of 101 *Verticillium dahliae* isolates were recovered from cotton plants at 57 sites in the Aegean region of Turkey between 2003 and 2004. Isolates were tested for vegetative compatibility by observing heterokaryon formation among complementary nitrate-nonutilizing (*nit*) mutants. Forty-six isolates were assigned to VCG 1, 12 to VCG 2A, 33 to VCG 2B and four to VCG 4B. The remaining six isolates could not be tested for vegetative compatibility because of their inability to yield *nit* mutants. All isolates recovered were tested for pathogenicity on cotton cultivars Acala SJ-1 and Deltapine 15-21 by the stem-injection method. The isolates of VCG 2 and 4B, irrespective of their origin, induced weak to severe symptoms on cotton and were similar to the previously described cotton non-defoliating pathotype. In contrast, all cotton isolates of VCG1 caused severe foliar symptoms, stunting, defoliation and often death. This is the first report on VCG 1 of *V. dahliae* in Turkey.

**KEY WORDS:** Cotton; *Gossypium hirsutum*; defoliating; pathogenicity; pathotypes; vegetative compatibility; *Verticillium dahliae*.

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