Disease Note

FIRST REPORT OF *GRAPEVINE PINOT GRIS VIRUS* FROM TABLE GRAPES IN SOUTHERN ITALY

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Grapevine Pinot gris virus (GPGV), a member of the genus *Trichovirus,* family *Betaflexiviridae,* was first identified by deep sequencing in vines of cvs. Pinot Gris and Traminer, growing in the Trento's area (northern Italy), and showing mottling and deformation of the leaves (Giampetruzzi *et al*., 2012). The virus was subsequently recorded from other Italian regions (Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia) as well as from South Korea, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Greece (Martelli, 2014). During spring 2014, GPGV was found in two distinct areas of Apulia (southern Italy) in several vines of the table grape cvs. Black Magic and Supernova that showed chlorotic mottling, puckering and deformation of the leaves. GPGV presence was ascertained by RT-PCR using specific primer pairs DetF (5' TGGTCTGCAGCCAGGGGACA 3') / DetR (5' TCACGACCGGCAGGGAAGGA 3'), spanning the end of the movement protein (MP) and the beginning of the coat protein (CP) gene sequences. The amplified products (588 bp) were cloned into pSC-A-amp/kan and custom-sequenced (Macrogen Europe, The Netherlands). BLAST comparison with comparable GPGV sequences retrieved from GenBank, disclosed that the Apulian virus isolate shares the highest sequence identity at the nuclotide level (94 to 96%) with isolate GPGV ZA505-1A from northern Italy (GenBank accession No. FR877530.1). GPGV involvement in the induction of symptoms observed in Apulian vineyards remains to be determined, for the diseased vines were also infected by *Grapevine fanleaf virus* (GFLV), whose presence can by itself account for the observed symptomatology. To our knowledge this is the first report of GPGV from southern Italy. It constitutes an alarming finding for a viticultural area hosting a large acreage of table and wine grape stands.

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Disease Note

FIRST RECORD IN APULIA OF *SCAPHOIDEUS TITANUS,* THE VECTOR OF FLAVESCENCE DORÉE

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In accordance with the mandatory control of Flavescence dorée (FD) in Italy, a monitoring programme for the presence of the phytoplasma agent of this disease and its vector *Scaphoideus titanus* Ball. was initiated in Apulia (southern Italy) since 2005. Surveys were carried out annually from June to October and, whenever observed, vines with yellows-like symptoms were tested by nested PCR. For vector catching, sticky traps were placed in a few vineyards and/or nurseries in each of the six Apulian provinces and replaced every two weeks, during the whole insect fly period (mid-June to late September). In 2013, 19 adults of a leafhopper with the morphological traits of *S. titanus,* as determined using the Douglas and Barnett (1976) key, were captured for the first time in Apulia, on traps exposed from mid August to mid September. The collected specimens were brought to the laboratory and 17 of them were tested individually by nested PCR for the presence of phytoplasmas. The insects were individually ground in CTAB-based buffer (Marzachì *et al*., 1998), aliquots (2 µl) of the recovered total nucleic acid were subjected to nested PCR using two pairs of generic primers (P1/P7, R16F2n/R16R2) that amplify phytoplasma 16S rDNA (Gundersen and Lee, 1996). No positive amplifications were obtained. The few vines with yellows-like symptoms present in some vineyards were PCR-positive but, after sequencing of their amplicons, proved to be infected by *Candidatus* Phytoplasma solani, the agent of Bois noir. Whereas Bois noir is known to occur in Apulia, though sporadically, *S. titanus* represents a new finding and a threatening one for the well-being of the local viticultural industry.

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