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Studies on Biological, Serological and Molecular Charecterstics of Isolates of Cucumber Mosaic Cucumovirus (CMV) causing shoes-string and mild mosaic of Tomato plants in Iran.

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ABSTRACT

On the basis of the type and the severity of symptoms produced on *Datura stramonium* and *Lycopersicon* esculentum by 35 isolates of cucumber mosaic cucumovirus (CMV), two isolates, designated CMV-LN and CMV-LI, producing severe shoe-string symptoms, and mild mosaic, respectively, were selected and characterized. Electron microscopic studies on the partially purified preparations of the two isolates failed to reveal any difference in their particle morphology.

The isolates were serologically distinct when tested, by agar gel double diffusion, against an antiserum to serotype I of CMV, the native (unfixed) particles of CMV-LI formed spur in this test against the CMV-LN.

The two isolates were indistinguishable where tested against an antiserum to a CMV-S, the serotype II of CMV.

The coat protein of the two isolates also differed in size, when compared by SDS-Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, the protein subunits of CMV-LI and CMV-LN were estimated to be 23200 and 25000 daltons, respectively.

The elechophoretic mobilities of genomic RNAs of CMV-LI and CMV-LN were similar on agarose gel. No Satellite RNAs were detected in either isolates.

The differences in coat protein size, and in biological and serological properties among the two isolates are most likely due to nucleotide sequence dissimilarties in the genomic RANs.

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