

VIROLOGIA

801

Incidence of *Zucchini lethal chlorosis virus* (ZLCV) on field-grown cucurbits in six Brazilian states.

(Incidência de *Zucchini lethal chlorosis virus* (ZLCV) em cucurbitáceas em seis estados brasileiros.)

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Zucchini yellow chlorosis virus (ZLCV), genus *Tospovirus*, family *Bunyaviridae* was firstly described and characterized in the 90's, infecting squash in the State of São Paulo. However, over the last 16 years since its first detection, it has been identified infecting other crops such as cucumber and, especially, watermelon. Considering the importance of ZLCV to cucurbit crops, a serological detection of ZLCV in cucurbits was carried out in six Brazilian states. Total of 374 samples, including melon (*Cucumis melo*), watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*), pumpkin (*Cucurbita* spp.), gherkin (*C. anguria*), cucumber (*C. sativus*), loofah (*Luffa* spp.), *Fevillea cordifolia* and some wild species, were analyzed for the presence of ZLCV, using dot-ELISA test and polyclonal antibodies. Reverse transcriptase (RT) and Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, besides rub inoculation of sap of infected plants on indicator hosts were performed. Test results indicated the presence of ZLCV in 74 (19.8%) samples collected in the majority of the states considered in this work. It was detected in producing areas of the States of Pernambuco (19.1%), Bahia (21.8%), Tocantins (35.3%) and the Federal District (4.1%). However, ZLCV was not found in the cucurbit samples originated from the States of Minas Gerais and Amazonas. These results indicate the relevance of surveying ZLCV on cucurbit species in Brazil and, in addition, show the spread of this emerging virus in cucurbit producing areas of the country.

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