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Occurrence of Melon yellowing-associated virus (MYaV) in melon producing areas of Brazilian Northeast Lima, MF¹; Nagata, T²; Neves, FM³; Inoue-Nagata, AK¹; Moita, AC¹; Sousa, C⁴; Della Vecchia, M⁴; Rangel, MG⁴; Dias, RCS⁵; Dutra, LD³; de Ávila, AC¹. ¹Embrapa Hortaliças, CP 218, 70359-970, Brasília-DF; ²UnB, CP 153081, 70910-900, Brasília-DF; ³Univ. Católica de Brasília, 70790-160, Brasília-DF; ⁴Syngenta Seeds Ltda, CP 71, 62800-000, Aracati-CE; ⁵Embrapa Semi-Árido, CP 23, 56302-970, Petrolina-PE. E-mail: mflima@cnpq.embrapa.br. Ocorrência do Melon yellowing associated virus (MYaV) em áreas produtoras de melão no Nordeste brasileiro.

The Brazilian Northeast is the main melon-producing region of the country, being responsible for more than 90% of the total national production. However, a new disease known as "yellowing of melon plants", has been reported to cause damage on this crop since 1999. The presence of a new viral agent, the Melon yellowing-associated virus (MYaV), is most likely associated with symptom development. The aim of this study was to evaluate the occurrence of the MYaV in melon plants exhibiting suspicious symptoms of the disease in major melon growing fields of Northeast. In November 2007, 374 samples were collected in the States of Rio Grande do Norte (RN; 54) and Ceará (CE; 37) and in the "Submédio São Francisco" (283), in Bahia (BA) and Pernambuco (PE) States. Sample evaluation was performed by DAS-Elisa using polyclonal antibodies developed at the Embrapa Hortaliças for MYaV detection. Extracts prepared from leaves and stems of symptomatic plants were used as antigen. The MYaV was detected in 58.0% of the samples. Virus concentration was higher in stems than in leaves. The incidence of MYaV was higher in samples collected from RN (96.3%) and CE (75.7%) than in those from the "Submédio São Francisco" (PE and BA: 48.4%). These data confirmed the efficiency of the antibodies for MYaV detection and the widespread occurrence of the virus in melon fields of the main melon-producing areas of Brazil. Apoio Financeiro: CNPq.