AN. INST. BIOL. UNIV. NAL. AUTÓN. MÉXICO 40, SER. BIOL. EXP. (1): 47-48, 1 fig. (1969)

BROAD BEAN (VICIA FABA) A NEW HOST OF VERTICILLIUM ALBO-ATRUM FROM MEXICO

The fungus *Verticillium albo-atrum* is known to attack many cultivated plants. To our knowledge until now *V. albo-atrum* has not been reportel as a pathogen of *Vicia faba*. In the summer of 1965, broad bean plants were observed in the lots of Sta. Elena Agricultural Experimental Station, in the State of Mexico, Mexico, presenting the simptoms of yellowing and wilting.

From the stems of these diseased plants a fungus was isolated in potato dextrose agar (PDA), purified, reinoculated into a sterile soil placed in 5 pots, in which the plants were grown from seeds (criollo) in the greenhouse. After 10 days, when 5 of

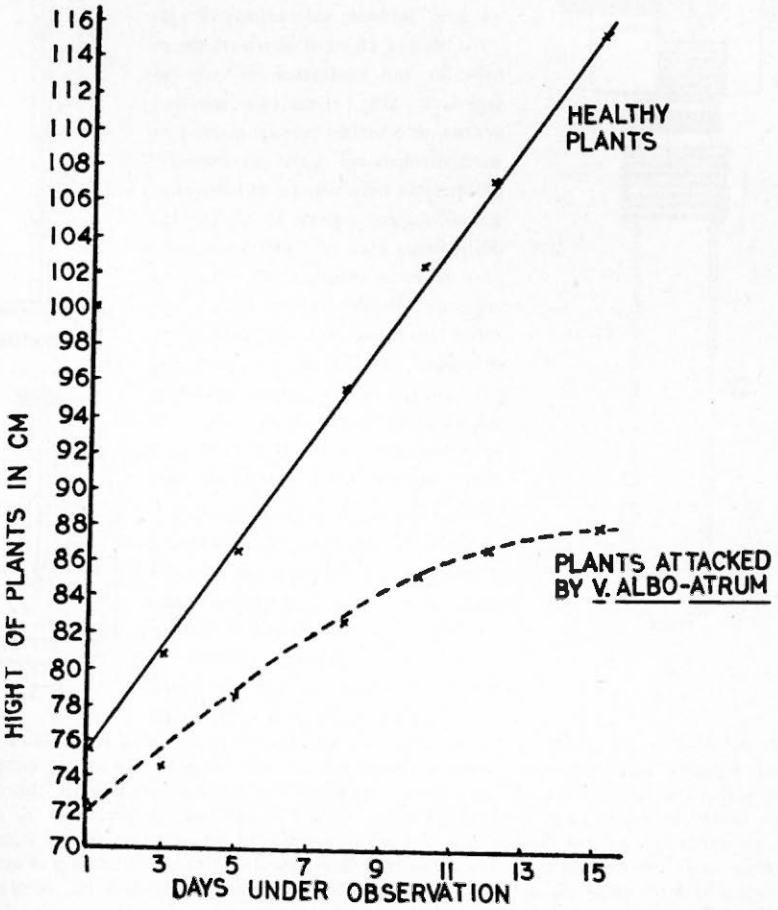

Figure 1. Rate of growth of infected and uninfected broad bean plants.

these plants presented characteristic symptoms of wilting and yellowing the fungus was reisolated and identified as *V. albo-atrum*. Other 5 plants served as controls, without being inoculated. The rate of growth of the infectel and unifected plants is presented in Fig. 1.

The hight of each of the stems was measured at 2 day intervals, averaging the hights of each of the 5 plants in each group. At the hight of approximately 70 cm, the plants in the pots with the inoculated soil began to show yellowing and flaccidity on the bottom leaves, extending progressively upwards with time. The plants were measured until the diseased plants stopped their growth and wilted. Observations showed blackening of the vascular system indicating the action of the pathogen and the damage done within 15 days.

Under field conditions the symptoms are delayed, and may be mistaken for those of *Rhizoctonia, Fusarium* or senescence in some cases.

E. MORENO-MARTÍNEZ *
L. A. FUCIKOVSKY **

* Laboratorio de Fitopatología. Instituto de Biología, UNAM.
** Rama de Fitopatología, Colegio de Postgraduados. Chapingo, México.