



# 9th International Wheat Conference

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cause considerable yield losses on wheat particularly in the eastern part of the country with warmer climate. Knowledge of virulence in the leaf rust population is important for resistance breeding.

In Czechoslovakia and later in the Czech Republic virulence in the rust population has been studied since the sixties of the last century, first on the standard differentials cultivars Malakoff (*Lr1*), Carina (*Lr2b*), Brevit (*Lr2c*), Webster (*Lr2a*), Loros (*Lr2c*), Mediterranean (*Lr3*), Hussar (*Lr11*), Democrat (*Lr3*) and on an additional differential Salzmünder Bartweizen (*Lr26*). Later a set of near isogenic lines (NILs) in cv. Thatcher background was also used for rust virulence studies.

In the sixties of the last century race 14 prevailed. Of the genes possessed by standard differentials it was virulent only to *Lr2c* (Brevit, Loros) and *Lr11* (Hussar), of the tested NILs also to *Lr16*, *Lr17*, *Lr23* and later to *Lr26*. It was stepwise replaced by race 77 virulent to all standard differentials (i.e. *Lr1*, *Lr2a*, *Lr2b*, *Lr2c*, *Lr3*, *Lr11*) of the tested NILs also to *Lr10*, *Lr3bg*, *Lr3ka*, *Lr10*, *Lr11*, *Lr15*, *Lr16*, *Lr17*, *Lr21*, *Lr23*, *Lr30* and later to *Lr26*, as well. Virulence to *Lr3* and to *Lr26* was found in Czechoslovakia already before cultivars possessing *Lr3* and/or *Lr26* started to be grown. Virulence to *Lr26* occurred in the rust population at least 10 years before the first cultivars possessing that gene were registered in Czechoslovakia. Another important race 61 was identified in 1977 for the first time. First it was avirulent, later virulent to *Lr26*. Its incidence had an increasing trend till 1991. Race 61 was virulent to *Lr2c*, *Lr3* and *Lr11* (from the standard differentials) and further to *Lr3bg*, *Lr3ka*, *Lr10*, *Lr11*, *Lr16*, *Lr17*, *Lr21*, *Lr23* and *Lr30*. The last important race appearing in the period 1987–1991 was race 53 virulent to *Lr26*. Race 53 was avirulent to all standard differentials except cv. Hussar (*Lr11*). However, it was no more found in the years 1994–2001. In that period race 2 particularly with virulence to *Lr26* appeared in several years. It was virulent only to standard differentials Mediterranean and Democrat (*Lr3*) as well as to cv. Hussar (*Lr11*). The most effective *Lr* genes in the period 2002–2011 according to the average % of the virulent isolates were as follows: *Lr19* (0.3%), *Lr9* (0.7%), *Lr24* (7%), *Lr28* (15%).

In 2002–2011 only sporadic incidence of virulence was determined on NILs possessing *Lr9* and *Lr19*. On the average, relatively low virulence was found on NILs with *Lr2a*, *Lr2b*, *Lr24* and *Lr28*. The highest frequency of virulence was ascertained on NILs possessing *Lr3a*, *Lr10*, *Lr11*, *Lr13*, *Lr15*, *Lr17*, *Lr21*, *Lr23* and *Lr26*. Several changes in the virulence frequency in the leaf rust population appeared in the course of the period under investigation. The most significant one was increase of virulence frequency on *Lr1* from the average 8% in the years 2002–2004 to 85% in the years 2009–2011.

The presence of the genes for virulence in the leaf rust population was only partially influenced by resistance

genes in the grown cultivars. More different genes for virulence were recorded in the rust population than only those corresponding to the resistance genes in the grown cultivars. In most years, cultivars without genes for resistance were predominant among the grown cultivars.

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## P079

### Resistance varieties to powdery mildew through three wheat breeding cycles

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Twenty-four cultivars of winter wheat, representing most of the cultivars released in Serbia from 1955 to 2006, were used in the study. Wheat breeding was carried out through three cycles: first 1955–1962 (Banatka, Bankut 1205, San Pastore, Bezostaja 1, Libellula), second 1970–1990 (Zlatna dolina, Sava, Partizanka, Novosadska rana 2, Kragujevacka 56, Balkan, Yugoslavia, Skopljanka, Lasta, Evropa 90, Pobeda) and third 1992–2006 (Novosadska rana 5, Renesansa, Pesma, Ljiljana, Cipovka, Dragana, Simonida, NS 40S). The study was carried out at the experimental field of the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia (45°33'N, 19°85'E, 82 m altitude). The location is characterized by semiarid conditions, with dry, hot spring and summer, neutral autumn and moderately cold winter. The wheat cultivars were planted in a randomized complete block design in three replicates. The basic plot size was 5m<sup>2</sup>. Disease severity (%) was evaluated according to modified Cobb's scale from 0 to 100%, in a three-year period (2011–2013). Due to distributional nature of the data, non-parametric Kruskal–Wallis test was used. In addition, a non-parametric multiple comparison test was used to test the differences among the wheat breeding cycles.

The results of a Kruskal–Wallis test were highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) for *Blumeria graminis* f.sp. *tritici* in two years and significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) in 2011 indicating that mean ranks of the intensity of infection per breeding cycles are different among the three years. For *B. g. tritici*, intensity of infection, there are significant differences among the second and third cycle in 2012 and first and second cycle in 2008. In addition, there is highly significant difference ( $P < 0.01$ ) between second and third cycle in 2013.

Notwithstanding the difference between the breeding cycles, in each of the test cycle, may be significant sources of resistance to *B.g. tritici*.