

CURRENT STATUS OF BROOMRAPE (*Orobanche cumana* Wallr.) IN SERBIA

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SUMMARY

Broomrape is the major issue in sunflower production in Serbia. Since its first occurrence, the species *Orobanche cumana* Wallr. had been responsible for considerable yield loss in some areas. In Serbia broomrape is present in the Vojvodina Province. Distribution and virulence groups of parasite are constantly monitored. Only two distinct broomrape populations currently exist in this part of country. Race B is dominant in the south of the Vojvodina Province and race E in the north. During 2008, sets of 8 commercial hybrids with different broomrape resistance genes were sown in regions with sunflower production. Hybrids were sown on 34 different locations. Presence of broomrape was confirmed on 6 sites. Occurrence of parasitic plants was not detected on cultivars resistant to race E. Sunflower fields in regions where broomrape was not previously detected, were surveyed. The survey revealed occurrence of broomrapes in new regions. Infested areas are located in Bor County near the state border with Romania and Bulgaria.

Key words: broomrape, sunflower, distribution, race

INTRODUCTION

Broomrapes (*Orobanche* spp.) are obligate parasitic plants with a wide range of hosts among dicotyledonous species. The broomrape plant is small, from 10-60 cm tall, best recognized by its yellow to straw-colored stems completely lacking chlorophyll. As they have no chlorophyll, they are totally dependent on other plants for nutrients. Broomrape seeds remain dormant in the soil, and remain viable for 15-20 years, until stimulated to germinate by certain compounds produced by living plant roots (Škorić, 1988). Broomrape seedlings put out a root-like growth, which attaches to the roots of nearby hosts. Once attached to a host, the broomrape uses the host's water and nutrients, which causes yield reduction. Parasitized plants exhibit lower shoot dry weight, height, and head diameter (Alcantara *et al.*, 2006).

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Broomrape races cause severe damage to sunflower (*Helianthus*) and various other crops, such as tomato, hop, tobacco, carrot, alfalfa, sugar beet, *etc.* Therefore, they must be controlled using all available strategies. The use of resistant sunflower cultivars is the most reliable way to fight this parasite, and at the present, the broomrape is controlled mainly by this practice. Both susceptible and resistant sunflower varieties stimulate the germination of *Orobanche* seeds, but the germ tubes fail to develop after penetration into a resistant host (Eizenberg *et al.*, 2003).

Vranceanu *et al.* (1980) identified five different races A, B, C, D and E, using differentials with Or_1 to Or_5 genes. A new race designated as race F appeared in Spain in 1995 (Alonso *et al.*, 1996). In recent years broomrape was found on cultivars resistant to race F in Spain and Romania (Molinero-Ruis and Melero-Vara, 2004; Pacureanu Joita *et al.*, 2008). Kaya *et al.* (2004) reported existence of a race in Turkey, which is possibly more virulent than those present in other countries.

The main areas of broomrape distribution in Europe are Ukraine, South Russia, Hungary and countries from the Mediterranean region and Balkan Peninsula (Shindrova, 1999). Pacureanu Joita *et al.* (2008) reported that more than 55% of the sunflower acreage in Romania was infested with broomrape.

In Serbia, sunflowera are parasitized by *Orobanche cumana* Wallr. According to Aćimović (1998), the broomrape occurred in Serbia in early 1950s. *Orobanche cumana* has been spreading in the Vojvodina Province during the last 10 years, with dominance of race E. Resistance to race E was achieved by developing the hybrids Bačvanin, Perun and Šumadinac at Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad (Škorić and Jocić, 2005). Less dominant, but also present on the territory of Vojvodina, is race B (Mihaljčević, 1996). According to Maširević (2001) the region most endangered by broomrape in Vojvodina is Bačka, the parasite spreading between Bačka Topola and Subotica.

Table 1: Hybrids used in field tests

Hybrid	Broomrape resistance genes
Bača	Or_5
Bačvanin	Or_5
Branko	Or_5
Velja	Or_4
Duško	Or_4
NS-H-111	Or_4
Šumadinac	Or_5
Sremac	Or_4
Sumo 3	Or_4
Sumo 1 PR	Or_4

The objective of this study was to determine potential increase of broomrape dispersion area and to look for the occurrence of new aggressive populations of broomrape.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Field tests Have been conducted which included a total of 8 hybrids. The hybrids were sown in 34 different locations (Table 1). Majority of the locations were in the Vojvodina Province, the main sunflower-growing region in the country. Two additional hybrids, Sumo 3 and Sumo 1 PR, from Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, were sown in the location of Šajkaš.

Table 2: Frequency and intensity scores on sites where broomrape was detected

Location	Hybrid	Frequency of attack	Intensity of attack
Sombor	Bača	0	0
	Bačvanin	0	0
	Branko	0	0
	Velja	0	0
	Duško	0	0
	NS-H-111	11	3.23
	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	0	0
Šajkaš	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	0	0
	Sumo 3	0,33	3
	Sumo 1 PR	4,67	2.36
Perlez	Bača	0	0
	Bačvanin	0	0
	Branko	0	0
	Velja	3	7
	Duško	0	0
	NS-H-111	6.33	2.79
	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	1.67	5.33
Lukićevo	Bača	0	0
	Bačvanin	0	0
	Branko	0	0
	Velja	0.33	1
	Duško	0	0
	NS-H-111	0.66	1.5
	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	0	0
Mokrin	Bača	0	0
	Bačvanin	0	0
	Branko	0	0
	Velja	0	0
	Duško	0	0
	NS-H-111	6.5	7.69
	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	0	0
Bački Petrovac	Bača	0	0
	Bačvanin	0	0
	Branko	0	0
	Velja	0	0
	Duško	0	0
	NS-H-111	0.66	1
	Šumadinac	0	0
	Sremac	0	0

Random surveys of sunflower fields were performed in areas with sunflower production, placing emphasis on regions without previous detection of broomrape. Frequency of attack was calculated as number of sunflower plants infested with broomrape, while intensity of attack as average number of broomrape plants per sunflower plant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presence of broomrape was confirmed in 6 out of 34 sites (Table 2). In all locations except Šajkaš broomrape was found on the hybrid NS-H-111. Highest parasite's frequency was recorded on this hybrid in the location of Sombor, where 11% of sunflower plants were attacked. A low intensity of attack was recorded in all experimental sites. Occurrence of parasitic plants was not detected on the hybrids Baća, Šumadinac, Bačvanin and Banaćanin. These hybrids possess *Or*₅ gene and therefore they are resistant to race E.

The survey of sunflower fields in regions where broomrape was not previously detected revealed that broomrapes expanded to new regions. The infested area is located in Bor County near the state border with Romania and Bulgaria. Highest infestation rates were detected in two fields, with the frequencies of 80.8% and 98.7%, respectively, and intensities of 7.8 and 9.64, respectively.

Ever since the first registered occurrence of broomrape in Serbia, its populations were stable with respect to race composition. A major change took place with the occurrence of race E, which forced breeders to accept the new circumstances and start to work on the improvement of the genetic background of sunflower (Mihaljčević, 1996). Observations presented in this paper show that there were no occurrence of a new race in Serbia, although such races are preset in neighbouring countries. However, the broomrape is spreading to new regions, becoming a limiting factor in achieving high yields in the sunflower production.

CONCLUSIONS

Broomrape is present in main sunflower-growing regions of our country. We have collected new evidence confirming that *Orobanche cumana* Wallr. is spreading to new regions in Serbia. In 2008, the broomrape was detected in Bor County in eastern Serbia. Presence of races B and E has been confirmed.

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SITUACIÓN ACTUAL DEL JOPO (*Orobanche cumana* Wallr.) EN SERBIA

RESUMEN

El problema más importante de la producción de girasol en Serbia es el jopo. Desde su aparición, las especies de *Orobanche cumana* Wallr. han sido responsables de la pérdida considerable de rendimientos en algunas áreas. En Serbia, el jopo está presente en la provincia de Vojvodina. La distribución y los grupos de virulencia del parásito son constantemente monitoreados. Actualmente existen sólo dos poblaciones distintas de jopo en esta parte del país. Al sur de la provincia de Vojvodina la raza dominante es la B, al norte la E. Durante 2008 un conjunto de 8 híbridos comerciales, con diferentes genes de resistencia al jopo, fue sembrado en el área de cultivo de girasol. Los híbridos se sembraron en 34 localidades. Se confirmó la presencia del jopo en 6 sitios. No se detectaron plantas parásitas en cultivares resistentes a la raza E. Los lotes de girasol ubicados en regiones donde el jopo no había sido previamente detectado fueron monitoreados. Se reveló la aparición del jopo en una nueva región. Las áreas infestadas se sitúan en la Provincia de Bor, cerca de la frontera con Rumania y Bulgaria.

ÉTAT DES LIEUX DE L'*Orobanche* (*Orobanche cumana* Wallr.) EN SERBIE

RÉSUMÉ

L'*Orobanche* est un problème majeur pour la production de tournesol en Serbie. Depuis sa première apparition, *Orobanche cumana* Wallr a été responsable de pertes considérables de rendement dans certains secteurs. En Serbie, l'*Orobanche* est présente dans la province de Vojvodina. La distribution et la virulence des groupes de parasites sont constamment surveillées.

Seules deux populations distinctes d'*Orobanche* existent actuellement dans cette partie du pays. La race B est prédominante dans le sud de la province de Vojvodina et la race E dans le nord. En 2008, un lot de 8 hybrides commerciaux avec différents gènes de résistance à l'*Orobanche* ont été semés dans des régions de production du tournesol dans 34 lieux différents.

La présence d'*Orobanche* a été confirmée à 6 endroits. Aucune présence de plantes parasites n'a été détectée sur les cultivars résistants à la race E.

Les champs de tournesol ont été surveillés dans les zones où l'*Orobanche* n'avait pas été détectée précédemment. Cette étude a montré la présence d'*Orobanche* dans ces zones nouvellement infestées. Celles-ci sont situées dans le comté de Bor, près de la frontière avec la Roumanie et la Bulgarie.