

Breeding Arrowleaf Clover For Resistance To Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus

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Summary

Three cycles of evaluation and selection of arrowleaf clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum* Savi.) for resistance/tolerance to bean yellow mosaic virus (BYMV) have been conducted. 'Yuchi' arrowleaf is susceptible to BYMV with mortality ranging from 23 to 29 percent. Each cycle of selection improved tolerance to BYMV and plants approaching resistance have been identified in cycle 3. Mortality rate dropped to near zero after one cycle of selection. Germplasm superior to Yuchi in tolerance to BYMV has been identified.

Introduction

Arrowleaf clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum* Savi.) is an important forage crop in East Texas and across the U.S. southern region. Bean yellow mosaic virus (BYMV) is one of several virus diseases that have the potential to severely reduce forage and seed yield of arrowleaf clover. In 1985, a breeding program was initiated at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton with the objective to develop virus

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resistant clover germplasm. Multiple virus resistance was the eventual goal with BYMV resistance as the first component.

Materials and Methods

General culture and inoculation

Arrowleaf clover seed was pre-germinated on moist germination in petri dishes, then transferred to plastic trays with individual pots (5.5 in³) or cone-containers (10 in³). Growth media was prepared as shown in Table 1. All studies were conducted in a greenhouse.

Alsike clover (*T. hybridum* L.), infected with BYMV strain 204-1, was obtained from O. W. Barnett, Clemson University, South Carolina, and maintained as the inoculum source. Inoculum was prepared by grinding BYMV infected tissue (one leaf/1 ml buffer) in sodium phosphate buffer (4.5 g diethyldithiocarbamic acid per liter 0.03 M Na₂HPO₄) with mortar and pestle. Plants were mechanically inoculated by rubbing carborundum-dusted (600 mesh) leaves with a cotton swab saturated with inoculum. The youngest and second youngest fully expanded leaves were inoculated on consecutive days, respectively.

Germplasm and selection procedures

Three cycles of evaluation and selection have been completed to date. In cycle 1, 78 half-sib breeding lines of arrowleaf and the variety 'Yuchi' were inoculated with BYMV at 32 days of age (n = 17 per line). At 73 days, the plants were rated from 1 to 4 (mild to severe) based on symptom severity. Mild symptoms included slight mosaic or chlorosis and/or little leaf distortion. Severe symptoms included plant death, severe mosaic and chlorosis, leaf distortion, and stunting. Nineteen plants exhibiting the least severe symptoms were selected and 95 hand crosses made. Thirteen hundred and six F₁'s from cycle 1 crosses were evaluated in cycle 2 (1986). Plants

TABLE 1. GREENHOUSE MEDIA FOR CLOVER

Component	Quantity	Notes
	—bu—	
Coarse peat	0.50	screen through 1.3 cm mesh
Coarse vermiculite	0.25	
Coarse perlite	0.25	
Coarse washed sand and fine gravel mix	0.25	not builders sand
Total	1.25	
Fertilizer ¹	—g—	
0-0-60	7.50	Peters soluble
9-45-15	14.75	Peters soluble
Micronutrient mix ²		Peters soluble (STEM)
Dolomitic lime	125.00	pass a #20 sieve
Gypsum	125.00	pass a #20 sieve

¹Maintenance fertilizer (69.5 g KH₂PO₄/20L of water; 100 ml/6 in pot) was applied at 60-day intervals.

²When placed in containers, the mix was watered to capacity with 1 tsp Peters soluble trace element mix per 20L of water.

were inoculated at 40 and 41 days of age. Seventy-five days after inoculation, notes were made on symptom severity and top growth was harvested for dry matter yield. Twenty-nine plants with the mildest symptoms were selected and 196 crosses made. BYMV infection of selections was confirmed using ELISA procedures by Dr. M. R. McLaughlin, USDA-ARS, Mississippi State, Mississippi. Eleven hundred and eighty-three F₁'s from crosses in cycle 2 were evaluated in cycle 3 (1987). Plants were inoculated at 41 and 42 days of age and evaluated for symptom severity at 100 days.

Results and Discussion

The performance of the 78 half-sib lines (original population) in cycle 1 is shown in Table 2. Line ratings ranged from 2.6 to 4.4 for lines 1 and 29, respectively. Yuchi arrowleaf rated 3.8 with a mortality of 29 percent. The ratings improved in cycle 2 ranging from 1.8 to 3.1 for crosses 36 and 10, respectively (Table 3). Dry matter production ranged from 0.40 to 0.21 g DM/plant for crosses 26 and 11, respectively (Table 4). Yuchi produced 0.27 g DM/plant on 20 surviving plants.

Figure 1 gives a summary of three cycles of selection in arrowleaf clover for resistance/tolerance to BYMV. We are making progress toward BYMV resistance using the selection procedures and germplasm described here. In cycle 3, 14 plants have been identified with either no or very mild virus disease symptoms. Confirmation of BYMV infection of these selections is in progress.

TABLE 2. REACTION OF ARROWLEAF CLOVER LINES TO MECHANICAL INOCULATION WITH BYMV

Line ¹	Rating ²	Mortality —percent—
1	2.6 ³	6
24	2.7 a	0
64	2.8 a	12
21	3.2 a	12
71	3.5 ab	18
Yuchi (check)	3.8 bcd	29
3	3.8 bcd	6
4	3.8 bcd	12
17	3.8 bcd	18
36	4.1 cd	35
29	4.4 d	47

¹Five most tolerant and five most susceptible lines from a total of 78 inoculated. Seventeen plants tested per line.

²Symptom severity rating: 1 = mild symptoms, 4 = severe symptoms, 5 = dead plant.

³Means followed by the same letters are not significantly different according to Fisher's LSD, P=0.05.

