

**B-25 A tospovirus in vegetable cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp. subsp. *sesquipedalis*)**

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A sap transmissible virus was isolated from vegetable cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp. subsp. *sesquipedalis*) cv. SE 107, grown at Matale. The virus induced concentric chlorotic or necrotic lesions in cultivars of cowpea. Local lesions followed by systemic infection was induced in *Catharanthus roseus*, *Nicotiana tabacum* cv. White Burley, *Nicotiana glutinosa*, *Nicotiana clevelandii* and *Nicotiana benthamiana*. The virus has a wide host range, other hosts being infected including *Impatiens balsamiana*, *Gomphrena globosa*, *Oscimum basilicum* and *Zinnia elegans*.

The virus has a thermal inactivation point of 40-45°C, a dilution end point of  $10^{-3}$  and lost infectivity after 5 h at room temperature.

Its properties suggest that it is a tospovirus and this was confirmed by Horticultural Research International, UK, serological tests and electron microscopic examinations. The virus was tentatively identified as peanut bud necrosis virus.