

Avocado Affected by Sunblotch Disease Contains Low Molecular Weight Ribonucleic Acid.

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Abstract

When extracts from infected and healthy avocado tissue were electrophoresed in polyacrylamide gels to separate the nucleic acids, an RNA with an Rf of 0.57 was present in all preparations from infected avocado but absent from healthy tissue. Sunblotch affected material from both Calif. and Australia contained the same RNA, which has a mol. wt. similar to that of other viroids and is believed to be the sunblotch agent. Avocado material may be much more easily tested for the presence of the sunblotch disease agent by detecting the SB-RNA than by the previously employed time-consuming, grafting technique.

1979. *Australasian Plant Pathology* 8(1) 3 – 4.