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NRDMC-BBTV non-radioactive detection and molecular characterization of *Banana bunchy top virus* Chennai isolate

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Many pests and diseases have significantly affected *Musa* cultivation. Viral diseases are even more devastating for banana plantation. One of the most serious viral diseases of banana is the Banana Bunchy top disease caused by *Banana bunchy top virus*, a multicomponent, circular, single stranded DNA virus belongs to the family *Nanoviridae*. Apart from BBTV, *Cauliflower mosaic virus* (CMV), *Banana streak virus* (BSV), *Banana Bromo Mosaic virus* (BBrMV) also infects banana. Banana is the only host of BBTV and *P. nigeronervosa* is the only vector that carries BBTV. Detection of BBTV using slot blot hybridization of DNA and RNA with gene specific probes showed variation at DNA level. Comparatively, RNA was better in detecting the viral components than DNA. We have cloned and sequenced all the six full length components of BBTV isolate from Chennai region. Sequence data shows that the Chennai isolate belongs to South-Pacific group of BBTV and have highest sequence identity to isolates from this group rather than Asian group members.

Biography

Ms. Vennila is currently pursuing full time Ph.D in Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, INDIA and completed her M.sc in Life Sciences and M.Phil in Biotechnology from Bharathidasan University in the year 2005. She worked as a Lecturer for five years before joining Ph.D. She has attended many national and international seminars and conferences. She has won first prize in oral presentation in a national seminar (2010).

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