

***Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *zinniae*, infecting *Zinnia* plants (*Zinnia elegans* Jacq.) in Venezuela**

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Abstract

Foliar samples of zinnia plants from some localities of Aragua state were collected whose leaves showed abundant necrotic spots on most of the foliage with a diameter of 1-20 mm with chlorotic edges. From leaves with the described symptoms was consistently isolated a bacteria that was pathogenic when inoculated on healthy zinnia plants, reproducing the symptoms observed on the infected zinnia plants on the field. The bacteria was a Gram negative rod, aerobic, and based on the morphological, biochemical and physiological characteristics, it was identified as *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *zinnia*, being for Venezuela the first report of this pathogen.

Key word: *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *zinniae*, *Zinnia elegans*, Bacteria, Zinnia.

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