Banana bract mosaic virus

The *Banana bract mosaic virus* (BBrMV) is the causal agent of *bract mosaic*. BBrMV belongs to the genus *Potyvirus* in the family *Potyviridae*. The virus is known to infect only banana and can be transmitted in a nonpersistent manner (i.e. retained by the vector for a short period) by at least three species of aphid, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, *Aphis gossypii* and *Rhopalosiphum maidis*.

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**Detection tools**

A number of tools to detect BBrMV using ELISA and RT-PCR approaches have been developed\(^1\)\(^2\)\(^3\). In 2008, a new international standard to index BBrMV using an IC One-step RT-PCR assay was proposed\(^4\). The essay, which is simultaneously performed in the same tube, involves a BBrMV-specific immunocapture (IC) step followed by a reverse transcription (RT) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the RNA viral genome. To obtain a broad detection spectrum, primers were selected from the multiple sequence alignment of 23 isolates available in GenBank. The assay enables detection of BBrMV in leaf extracts of single or bulked samples of 10 plants, even at low virus concentration.

**References**


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*Page last modified on Wednesday, 08 August 2018 15:58:23 CEST by Anne Vézina.*  
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