

Detection of cherry viruses in Slovakia using RT-PCR and polyvalent PDO-RT-PCR approach

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Cherries are among the attractive fruits suitable for direct consumption as well as for industrial processing, however, the profitability of their production may be adversely affected by a number of viral pathogens.

One of the most important tools of preventive measures to control plant viruses is a fast and reliable diagnosis. However, the extreme intra- and inter-specific diversity of viral agents, especially those infecting perennial hosts, could prevent an accurate assessment of the viruses present in a plant sample.

In our work, several viral pathogens *Prune dwarf virus* (PDV), *Little cherry virus-1* (LChV-1) and *Cherry virus A* (CVA) were targeted by specific RT-PCR using newly designed primers, reflecting their actually known molecular variability. On the contrary, highly degenerate primers were used in the polyvalent approach, PDO-RT-PCR, to detect viruses belonging to three genus (*Trichovirus*, *Capilovirus*, *Foveavirus*). Data obtained in this study will be discussed.

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