

# EPPO Datasheet: *Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*

Last updated: 2021-07-09

## IDENTITY

**Preferred name:** *Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*

**Taxonomic position:** Viruses and viroids: Riboviria: Orthornavirae: Kitrinoviricota: Alsuviricetes: Martellivirales: Closteroviridae

**Other scientific names:** *ToCV*, *Tomato chlorosis closterovirus*, *Tomato chlorosis crinivirus*, *Tomato chlorosis virus*

[view more common names online...](#)

**EPPO Categorization:** A2 list

[view more categorizations online...](#)

**EPPO Code:** TOCV00



[more photos...](#)

## HOSTS

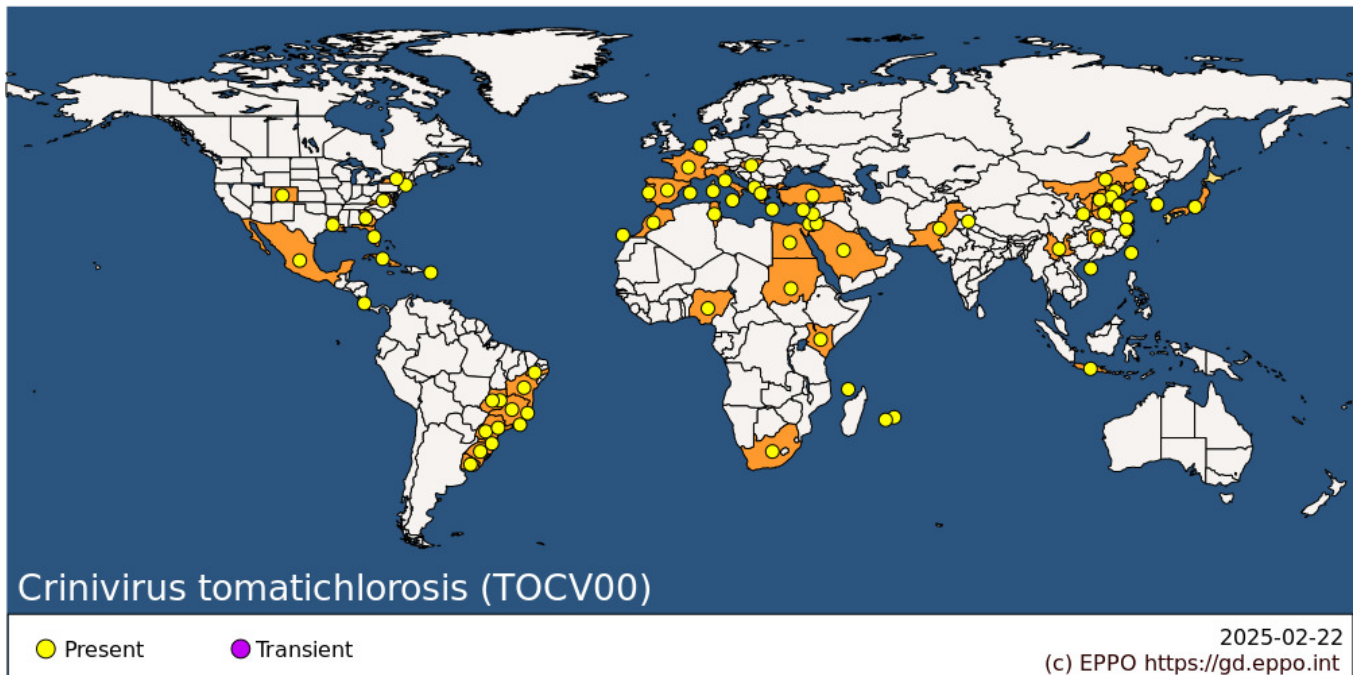
ToCV has been found to infect 84 dicotyledonous plant species belonging to 25 botanical families, including economically important crops (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019). ToCV naturally infects tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) (Wisler *et al.*, 1998a) pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) (Lozano *et al.*, 2004) and potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) (Fortes & Navas-Castillo, 2012). Transmission experiments have shown the presence of ToCV in potato tubers from infected plants, which subsequently produced infected plants themselves, and that this species served as virus source for tomato infection via *B. tabaci* transmission (Fortes, Navas-Castillo, 2012). The studies showed that tomato is a better source of inoculum than potato (Mituti *et al.*, 2018). In Taiwan, *Zinnia* was also reported as a host (Tsai *et al.*, 2004). The weeds *Datura stramonium* and *Solanum nigrum* have been identified as hosts in Portugal. The experimental host range includes species in the families Aizoaceae, Amaranthaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Plumbaginaceae, Solanaceae. ToCV infects a wide range of weeds, but information of the importance of these weeds to the occurrence of epidemics of ToCV is still lacking, but these plants likely serve as reservoirs of ToCV in the absence of susceptible cultivated hosts (Souza *et al.*, 2020).

**Host list:** *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Abutilon theophrasti*, *Acaciella glauca*, *Alcea rosea*, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Amaranthus graecizans subsp. sylvestris*, *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Ammi majus*, *Anadendrum affine*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *Bauhinia variegata*, *Bidens bipinnata*, *Brassica oleracea var. capitata*, *Brassica*, *Calotropis procera*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Cardamine flexuosa*, *Cerastium glomeratum*, *Cestrum elegans*, *Cestrum nocturnum*, *Chenopodium murale*, *Chenopodium album*, *Chenopodium opulifolium*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Codiaeum variegatum*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Conyza sp.*, *Corchorus olitorius*, *Coriandrum sativum*, *Cucumis melo*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucurbita moschata*, *Cucurbita pepo*, *Cynanchum rostellatum*, *Datura stramonium*, *Eranthemum pulchellum*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Eruca vesicaria*, *Euphorbia heterophylla*, *Ficus benjamina*, *Ficus carica*, *Fumaria officinalis*, *Galium aparine*, *Glebionis coronaria*, *Glycine max*, *Gomphrena globosa*, *Gossypium barbadense*, *Gossypium hirsutum*, *Heliotropium lasiocarpum*, *Heptapleurum arboricola*, *Hibiscus cannabinus*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Ipomoea batatas*, *Ipomoea cholulensis*, *Ipomoea coccinea*, *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Jatropha integerrima*, *Lactuca saligna*, *Lactuca sativa*, *Lactuca serriola*, *Luffa aegyptiaca*, *Lysimachia foemina*, *Malva parviflora*, *Malva sylvestris*, *Mazus pumilus*, *Momordica charantia*, *Morus alba*, *Nicandra physalodes*, *Nicotiana benthamiana*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Pelargonium auritum*, *Pentas lanceolata*, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Physalis angulata*, *Physalis ixocarpa*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Physalis pubescens*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Phytolacca icosandra*, *Plantago major*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Raphanus raphanistrum*, *Ricinus communis*, *Ruta chalepensis*, *Sisymbrium irio*, *Solanum aethiopicum*, *Solanum americanum*, *Solanum arcanum*, *Solanum chilense*, *Solanum chmielewskii*, *Solanum corneliomulleri*, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, *Solanum galapagense*, *Solanum habrochaites*, *Solanum huaylasense*, *Solanum jamaicense*, *Solanum lycopersicum*, *Solanum mammosum*, *Solanum melongena*, *Solanum neorickii*, *Solanum nigrescens*, *Solanum nigrum*, *Solanum paniculatum*, *Solanum pennellii*, *Solanum peruvianum*, *Solanum pimpinellifolium*, *Solanum retroflexum*, *Solanum scuticum*, *Solanum sessiliflorum*, *Solanum sisymbriifolium*, *Solanum stramonifolium*, *Solanum subinerme*, *Solanum tuberosum*, *Solanum velleum*, *Sonchus asper*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Stellaria media*, *Tectona grandis*, *Tribulus terrestris*, *Trigonotis peduncularis*, *Veronica hederifolia*

, *Vicia faba*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *nigra*, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Vigna unguiculata*, *Withania somnifera*, *Youngia japonica*, *Zinnia*

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

ToCV was first identified in North-Central Florida (USA) in 1996 in the greenhouse on tomato plants with symptom yellow leaf disorder. This symptom was previously thought to be not virus-related but physiological or nutritional disturbances and has been reported in tomato plants since 1989. Shortly after this the symptoms of ToCV were detected in Spain. Since then, the virus has been detected infecting tomato in many areas around the world (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019).



**EPPO Region:** Albania, Cyprus, France (mainland), Greece (mainland, Kriti), Hungary, Israel, Italy (mainland, Sardegna, Sicilia), Jordan, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal (mainland), Spain (mainland, Islas Baleares, Islas Canarias), Tunisia, Türkiye

**Africa:** Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Nigeria, Reunion, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

**Asia:** China (Beijing, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Neimenggu, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Yunnan, Zhejiang), India (Himachal Pradesh), Indonesia (Java), Israel, Japan (Honshu), Jordan, Korea, Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan

**North America:** Mexico, United States of America (Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, Virginia)

**Central America and Caribbean:** Costa Rica, Cuba, Puerto Rico

**South America:** Brazil (Bahia, Distrito Federal, Espirito Santo, Goias, Minas Gerais, Parana, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sao Paulo), Uruguay

## BIOLOGY

ToCV is one of two criniviruses that are transmitted locally by whiteflies of the genera *Bemisia* and *Trialeurodes*. Since 1998 the number of studies have been carried out (Navas-Castillo *et al.*, 2000; Wisler *et al.*, 1998b, Shi *et al.*, 2018; Wintermantel, Wisler, 2006), that showed that the virus is transmitted by several species of the whitefly: *B. tabaci*, *T. vaporariorum*, and *T. abutiloneus*. The efficiency of transmission differs among whitefly species and is associated to differences in virus acquisition and accumulation rate (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019) and differs following the order *B. tabaci* MED > *B. tabaci* MEAM1 ? *T. abutiloneus* > *B. tabaci* NW > *T. vaporariorum* (Shi *et al.*, 2018; Wintermantel, Wisler, 2006). *T. vaporariorum* is common in glasshouses throughout the EPPO region and is also found outdoors in the summer months. *B. tabaci*, which is on the EPPO A2 List (EPPO/CABI, 1997), is present in glasshouses in many EPPO countries. It is also found in the ?eld in Southern Europe in the summer months. *T. abutiloneus*

is found in the USA and Cuba (CABI, 2000). Older tomato crops are probably the most important-sources of ToCV inoculum to tomato crops (Souza *et al.*, 2020). ToCV is unlikely to be seedborne (www.cabi.org, 2021).

## DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

### Symptoms

Tomato plants infected with ToCV show an irregular chlorotic mottle that develops first on lower leaves and gradually advances toward the growing point. In the initial stage of the infection, chlorotic areas are frequently polygonal in shape, and are limited by main veins (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019). In advanced stages, interveinal yellow areas on leaves also develop red and brown necrotic flecks. No obvious symptoms develop on fruit and flowers, but fruit ripening is affected and lower abortion occurs (Fortes *et al.*, 2012), fruit size and numbers are reduced due to a loss of photosynthetic area. Significant yield losses occur as a result. Other symptoms include rolling of lower leaves and thickened crispy leaves, while the upper leaf canopy appears normal. Symptoms of ToCV are very similar to those of *Tomato infectious chlorosis virus* (TICV) (Wisler *et al.*, 1998a, 1998b).

*N. physalodes*, *C. coronarium*, *G. globosa* and *N. physalodes* infected with ToCV have no obvious symptoms of viral infection, whereas infected *A. viridis*, *N. benthamiana*, *P. angulata*, *P. pubescens*, *S. americanum* exhibit symptoms of interveinal chlorosis, *D. stramonium* and *N. tabacum* cv. TNN develop chlorotic spots (Souza *et al.*, 2020).

Symptoms caused by ToCV, are easily attributed to other causes, such as physiological or nutritional disorders, or phytotoxicity of plant protection products.

### Morphology

ToCV particles are filamentous and slightly flexuous with a normal length of about 850 nm (Wisler *et al.*, 1996). Virions encapsidate two molecules of positive-sense and single-stranded RNA denoted RNA-1 and RNA-2, whose complete nucleotide sequence has been determined (Martelli *et al.*, 2008). Cross-banding patterns seen are typical of members of the family *Closteroviridae* (Wisler *et al.*, 1998b). ToCV RNAs 1 and 2 are 8595nt and 8247nt, respectively. RNA1 contains four open reading frames (ORFs), which encode proteins for replication. RNA2 codes nine ORFs comprising the HSP70 homolog, a 59 kDa protein, CP, and CPM, that express proteins involved in viral encapsidation, movement and broad vector transmissibility of the virus (Martelli *et al.*, 2008, Lee *et al.*, 2018).

### Detection and inspection methods

Fully developed leaves, showing mild interveinal yellowing, should be sampled (EPPO, 2013). For bioassay using whitefly, efficient transmission of ToCV is obtained by allowing adult insects (*T. vaporariorum*) a 48 h acquisition access period on samples and a 48 h inoculation access period on test plants of tomato, *Nicotiana benthamiana* or *Physalis wrightii*. Subsequently, the positive reaction on the indicator plants need to be assigned to the responsible virus using suitable identification tests (EPPO, 2013). ToCV can be distinguished from TICV by symptoms on the indicator plants *Nicotiana benthamiana* and *N. clevelandii*. Whereas both species show interveinal yellowing when infected with either virus, only TICV causes necrotic flecking in these hosts (Wisler *et al.*, 1998b). Antisera to ToCV have been produced mainly for research purposes and may be used for screening tests for ToCV (EPPO, 2013).

Conventional RT-PCR and real-time RT-PCR can be used for both detection and identification. In addition, sequence analysis of amplicons can be used for identification (EPPO, 2013). Several real-time RT-PCR tests have been developed to test for ToCV. Protocol based on the best ToCV primers and ToCV probes by Morris *et al.* (2006), were validated in a test performance study involving five laboratories (EPPO, 2013).

Nucleic acid hybridization has proved to be reliable and sensitive in particular for mass screening of samples but this is not commonly used, and for routine diagnosis the method can be replaced by RT-PCR tests (EPPO, 2013).

Guidance for detection and identification of this virus are given in the EPPO Diagnostic Protocol PM 7/118 (1) *Tomato chlorosis virus* and *Tomato infectious chlorosis virus* (EPPO, 2013).

## PATHWAYS FOR MOVEMENT

In international trade, ToCV may be carried by infected plants for planting. The high number of natural plant hosts and ready transmission by several whitefly species have contributed to emergence of ToCV worldwide. In Spain, outbreaks of ToCV have been associated with the main spread of *B. tabaci* populations during the summer months (Navas-Castillo *et al.*, 2000). Field investigations conducted in Brazil on tomato have shown that the main dispersal mechanism of the disease caused by ToCV is primary spread, with epidemics being caused by successive influxes of viruliferous whiteflies (Macedo *et al.*, 2019). Viruliferous whiteflies could be carried long distances on plants of hosts or non-hosts.

## PEST SIGNIFICANCE

### Economic impact

Criniviruses emerged as a major problem for world agriculture at the end of the twentieth century with the establishment of some of their whitefly vectors in temperate climate (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019).

There are no estimates of yield losses, although since ToCV discovery, the virus represents a serious problem for tomato production in many parts of the world (Martelli *et al.*, 2008). ToCV is very important in tomatoes, in peppers and potatoes (Mituti T. *et al.*, 2018). New cases of virus detection on these crops in new regions are noted every year. Outbreaks in tomato fields in Málaga and Almería provinces in Southern Spain in 1998 and 1999 were associated with high populations of *B. tabaci* and were described as epidemics. Incidences of over 30% symptomatic plants in individual fields were frequent (Navas-Castillo & Moriones, 2000; Navas-Castillo *et al.*, 2000). Hana? (2002) reports that ToCV caused significant damage in tomato glasshouses in Spain. The severity of symptoms and damage vary according to the cultivar.

It is known that with a mixed virus infection ToCV and Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) synergism is observed, that leads to the rapid death of plants (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019).

### Control

As with other virus diseases, once a plant is infected with a virus there is no cure, and measures should be taken to eradicate sources of inoculum and eliminate the presence of vectors to minimise the risk of further transmission therefore, control of whitefly vectors is key.

Regarding chemical control, *B. tabaci* appears to develop resistance to all groups of insecticides. A rotation of insecticides that offer no cross resistance must therefore be used to control *B. tabaci* infestations. The biocontrol agent *Encarsia formosa* (parasitic wasp) is used to control *T. vaporariorum*, but it is less efficient against *B. tabaci*. Repeated releases of large numbers of *E. formosa* against *B. tabaci* are necessary if eradication is required. The predatory beetle *Delphastus pusillus* is very effective against *B. tabaci* (MAFF, 2000). Roguing of severely infested plants reduces whitefly populations.

Using containment structures, for example adding nets to the greenhouse ventilation windows limiting the access of the whitefly vectors to the plants, results in an efficient protection of the crop from ToCV infection (Fiallo-Olivé *et al.*, 2019).

Tomato seedlings for transplanting should be kept free from infection. There are no resistant tomato cultivars as no resistance to ToCV has yet been identified in tomato. No differences in the incidence of yellowing due to ToCV in fields containing different cultivars of tomato were observed in southern Spain (Navas-Castillo *et al.*, 2000).

Eradication of isolated outbreaks in glasshouse-grown tomatoes can probably be achieved by destruction of affected hosts and of the vector(s). However, it is difficult to envisage that eradication could be achieved for outbreaks in the field in Southern Europe. Weed hosts may act as reservoirs for ToCV.

## Phytosanitary risk

ToCV presents a significant risk of further spread in the EPPO region. The risk to the tomato industry is high since *T. vaporariorum*, a known vector, is present and widespread in glasshouses and in the field in Northern and Southern Europe in summer (CABI, 2000). In addition, *B. tabaci*, another known vector of ToCV, occurs in many EPPO countries. This whitefly is found on outdoor crops in Southern Europe in summer and in glasshouses in Northern Europe. It is frequently intercepted on plants and plant products. The recent detection of ToCV in Northern Europe (in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and in Africa (in Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt) raises serious concerns because the climatic conditions in these countries were not thought to be conducive to the transmission of the virus. ToCV would be expected to cause considerable damage to glasshouse tomato crops in EPPO countries. Outdoor crops in Mediterranean countries are also at risk.

## PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

At present, there are no specific measures against ToCV in Europe and in particular there are no restrictions on the movement of tomato seedlings from areas where the disease occurs. Possible measures would be equivalent to those proposed for CVYV (EPPO, 2005).

## REFERENCES

- CABI (2000) *Crop Protection Compendium, Global Module*, 2nd edn. CAB International CD-ROM Database. CAB International, Wallingford (GB).
- EPPO (2005) Data sheets on quarantine pests – *Cucumber vein yellowing ipomovirus*. *EPPO Bulletin* **35**, 419–421.
- EPPO (2013) PM 7/118 (1) Tomato chlorosis virus and Tomato infectious chlorosis virus. *EPPO Bulletin* **43**, 462–470.
- EPPO/CABI (1997) *Bemisia tabaci*. In: *Quarantine Pests for Europe*, 2nd edn, pp. 121–127. CAB International, Wallingford (GB).
- Fiallo-Olivé E, Navas-Castillo J (2019) Tomato chlorosis virus, an emergent plant virus still expanding its geographical and host ranges. *Molecular Plant Pathology* **20**(9), 1307–1320. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mpp.12847>
- Fortes IM, Navas-Castillo J (2012) Potato, an experimental and natural host of the crinivirus Tomato chlorosis virus. *Plant Pathology* **134**, 81–86.
- García-Cano E, Navas-Castillo J, Moriones E, Fernández-Muñoz R (2010) Resistance to Tomato chlorosis virus in wild tomato species that impair virus accumulation and disease symptom expression. *Phytopathology* **100**, 582–592.
- Hana? A (2002) Invasive species: a real challenge to IPM in the Mediterranean region. *European White?y Studies Network Newsletter* **13**, p. 4. John Innes Centre, Norwich (GB).
- Kil E-J, Lee J-J, Cho S, Auh C-K, Kim D, Lee K-Y, Kim M-K, Choi H-S, Kim C-S, Lee S (2015) Identification of natural weed hosts of Tomato chlorosis virus in Korea by RT-PCR with root tissues. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **142**, 419–426.
- Lee Y-J, Kil E-J, Kwak H-R, Kim M, Seo J-K, Lee S, Choi H-S (2018) Phylogenetic characterization of Tomato chlorosis virus population in Korea: evidence of reassortment between isolates from different origins. *Plant Pathology* **34**(3), 199–207. <https://doi.org/10.5423/PPJ.OA.10.2017.0220> [accessed on 4 May 2021]
- Liu Wei, Shi XiaoBin, Tang Xin, Zhang Yu, Zhang DeYong, Zhou XuGuo, Liu Yong (2018) Molecular identification of Tomato chlorosis virus and Tomato yellow leaf curl virus in Yunnan Province. *Acta Horticulturae Sinica* **45**(3), 552–560.

- Lozano G, Moriones E, Navas-Castillo J (2004) First report of sweet pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) as a natural host plant for *Tomato chlorosis virus*. *Plant Disease* **88**, 224.
- Macedo MA, Inoue Nagata AK, Silva TNZ, Freitas DMS, Rezende JAM, Michereff Filho M, Nascimento AR, Lourenção AL, Bergamin Filho A (2019) Temporal and spatial progress of the diseases caused by the crinivirus *Tomato chlorosis virus* and the begomovirus *Tomato severe rugose virus* in tomatoes in Brazil. *Plant Pathology* **68**, 72–84.
- MAFF (2000) Current recommendations for eradication and containment. *PHSI Handbook of Instructions*. MAFF, London (GB).
- Martelli GP, Gallitelli D (2008) Emerging and Reemerging Virus Diseases of Plants. Encyclopedia of Virology (Third Edition), Editor(s): Brian W.J. Mahy, Marc H.V. Van Regenmortel. *Academic Press*, **90**.
- Mituti T, Molina JPE, Rezende JAM (2018) Bioassays on the role of tomato, potato and sweet pepper as sources of *Tomato chlorosis virus* transmitted by *Bemisia tabaci* MEAM1. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **152**, 613–619.
- Morris E, Steel E, Smith P, Boonham N, Spence N, Barker I (2006) Host range studies for Tomato chlorosis virus and Cucumber vein yellowing virus transmitted by *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius). *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **114**, 265–273.
- Navas-Castillo J, Camero R, Bueno M, Moriones E (2000) Severe yellowing outbreaks in tomato in Spain associated with infections of *Tomato chlorosis virus*. *Plant Disease* **84**, 835–837.
- Navas-Castillo J, Moriones E (2000) ToCV: a new threat to European horticulture. In: *European Whitefly Studies Network Newsletter* **3**. John Innes Centre, Norwich (GB).
- Trenado HP, Fortes IM, Louro D, Navas-Castillo J (2007) *Physalis ixocarpa* and *P. peruviana*, new natural hosts of Tomato chlorosis virus. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **118**, 193–196.
- Tsai WS, Shih SL, Green SK, Hanson P & Liu HY (2004) First report of the occurrence of *Tomato chlorosis virus* and *Tomato infectious chlorosis virus* in Taiwan. *Plant Disease* **88**, 311.
- Shi X, Tang X, Zhang X, Zhang D, Li F, Yan F, Zhang Y, Zhou X, Liu Y (2018) Transmission efficiency, preference and behavior of *Bemisia tabaci* MEAM1 and MED under the influence of *Tomato chlorosis virus*. *Frontiers in Plant Science* **8**, 2271.
- Souza TA, Macedo MA, Albuquerque LC (2020) Host range and natural infection of tomato chlorosis virus in weeds collected in Central Brazil. *Trop. plant pathology* **45**, 84–90 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40858-019-00323-x> [accessed on 4 May 2021]
- Wintermantel WM, Wisler GC (2006) Vector specificity, host range, and genetic diversity of *Tomato chlorosis virus*. *Plant Disease* **90**, 814–819.
- Wisler GC, Duffus JE, Liu HY, Li RH (1996) A new whitefly-transmitted virus infecting tomato from Florida. *Phytopathology* **86** (Suppl.): S71.
- Wisler GC, Duffus JE, Liu HY & Li RH (1998a) Ecology and epidemiology of whitefly-transmitted closteroviruses. *Plant Disease* **82**, 270–280.
- Wisler GC, Li RH, Liu HY, Lowry DS & Duffus JE (1998b) Tomato chlorosis virus: a new whitefly-transmitted, phloem-limited, bipartite closterovirus of tomato. *Phytopathology* **88**, 402–409.

**CABI resources used when preparing this datasheet**

CABI. Crop protection compendium. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/54069#todistributionDatabaseTable>  
[accessed on 4 May 2021]

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This datasheet was extensively revised in 2021 by Elena Karimova and Yuri Shneyder from All-Russian Plant Quarantine Center. Their valuable contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

## How to cite this datasheet?

EPPO (2025) *Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*. EPPO datasheets on pests recommended for regulation. Available online. <https://gd.eppo.int>

## Datasheet history

This datasheet was first published in the EPPO Bulletin in 2005 and revised in 2021. It is now maintained in an electronic format in the EPPO Global Database. The sections on 'Identity', 'Hosts', and 'Geographical distribution' are automatically updated from the database. For other sections, the date of last revision is indicated on the right.

EPPO (2005) Tomato chlorosis virus. Datasheets on quarantine pests. *EPPO Bulletin* **35**(3), 439-441.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2338.2005.00888.x>



Co-funded by the  
European Union