

## RESEARCH NOTE

### ON THE PRESENCE OF CROWN GALL IN PUERTO RICO

As far as the writer is aware the only definite reference to the presence of crown gall in Puerto Rico is that presented by Seavers and Chardón<sup>1</sup> in the Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Under the heading *Pseudomonas tumefaciens* they speak of: “. . . the organism of the crown gall commonly known as ‘plant cancers’ because of its resemblance to the animal cancer. *The organism is here reported on the strength of the galls found on rose bushes near Arecibo during the recent collecting trip of the senior writer. No attempts were made to isolate the organism.*”

As can readily be seen evidence is still lacking in regard to the etiological agent involved or even the experimental transmission of the tumorous overgrowths resembling crown gall occasionally found on plants in the Island.

During May of this year rose plants collected at O. L. Pikes' nursery in Arecibo and exhibiting clear-cut root galls were brought to the laboratory by C. D. Paris of the Station staff. Bits of tissue from these galls were inserted in longitudinal slits about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long made on the stems of *Lycopersicon esculentum* L. var. Marglobe and *Ricinus communis* L. plants. The grafts were covered with sterilastic and the plants placed in a humid atmosphere for a week.

About a month later all the grafted plants began to develop typical tumorous overgrowths. Attempts are being made to isolate the causal agent of the galls from the tumors developed on the grafted plants.

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<sup>1</sup> Seavers, F. J., and Chardón, C. E., Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, 8, Part 1, p. 10, 1926.