

**SOLANUM NIGRUM L. A WILD HOST OF THE PEPPER-  
MOSAIC VIRUS IN PUERTO RICO**

The question of intermediate hosts plants is an important one and in many virus diseases not very much is known about it. Pepper-mosaic virus has been studied before<sup>1</sup> and it is still considered by many to be the limiting factor in the production of commercial peppers in Puerto Rico.

An intensive search has been initiated recently to determine in the laboratory the host range of the virus, with special emphasis on wild host reservoirs. Among the many wild and cultivated plants tested so far we have

<sup>1</sup> Roque, A., and Adsuar, J., Studies on the mosaic of peppers (*Capsicum frutescens*). in Puerto Rico, *J. Agr. Univ. P.R.* 25 (4) 1-11, Oct. 1941.

RESEARCH NOTES

found *Solanum nigrum* L. capable of being infected mechanically but without exhibiting noticeable symptoms of the virus.

*S. nigrum* L. is a solanaceous weed commonly found throughout the Island, where it is known as *yerbamora* or *mata gallina*. Because this weed is apparently a symptomless host of the pepper-mosaic virus, we consider this finding of interest in relation to the potential danger of keeping this weed near pepper plantations.

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