

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), weeds and thrip vectors in the tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) in the Andean region of Cundinamarca (Colombia)

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), malezas y vectores de trips en el tomate (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) en la región andina de Cundinamarca (Colombia)

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ABSTRACT

The presence and distribution of the TSWV, weeds and thrip vectors in major tomato producing areas in the Andean department of Cundinamarca (Oriente, Sumapaz and Ubaté provinces) were assessed with the DAS ELISA technique, evaluating the presence of the TSWV in tomato tissue, associated thrips and weeds. High incidences were observed in different provinces of the Andean department of Cundinamarca. The average viral incidence reached 23.3% in Sumapaz, 19.4% in Oriente and 4% in Ubaté. The symptoms observed were: brown spots and concentric rings in the leaf area, stems and fruits; browning and spotting in the flower; and wilting in the leaves, stems and flowers. The thrip species with the highest presence were *Frankliniella occidentalis*, followed by *Thrips palmi* and *Thrips tabaci*. We determined the important role of weeds as inoculum sources and vector reservoirs for the species *Emilia sonchifolia* and *Amaranthus dubius*.

Key words: *Frankliniella occidentalis*, *Thrips palmi*, *Thrips tabaci*, weeds, *Tospovirus*.

RESUMEN

La presencia y distribución de TSWV, arvenses y los trips vectores en las principales zonas productoras de tomate en la región andina del departamento de Cundinamarca (provincias de Oriente, Sumapaz y Ubaté), se confirmó mediante la técnica DAS ELISA, se evaluó la presencia del virus TSWV en tejido de tomate, arvenses y trips asociados. Se observaron incidencias altas en diferentes provincias de la región andina del departamento de Cundinamarca. La incidencia viral alcanzó promedios de 23,3% en el Sumapaz, el 19,4% en Oriente y el 4% en Ubaté. Los síntomas característicos observados correspondieron a manchas de color café y anillos concéntricos en el área foliar, tallos y frutos, bronceado, manchas en flor y marchitez en hojas, tallos y flores. Las especies de trips con mayor presencia fueron *Frankliniella occidentalis*, seguida de *Thrips palmi* y *Thrips tabaci*. Se determinó el importante papel de las arvenses como fuente de inóculo y reservorio de vectores en las especies *Emilia sonchifolia* y *Amaranthus dubius*.

Palabras clave: *Frankliniella occidentalis*, *Thrips palmi*, *Thrips tabaci*, arvenses, *Tospovirus*.

Introduction

In Colombia, the tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) covers 11,304 ha with the principal participation in the departments of Norte de Santander, Boyacá, Antioquia, Santander and Cundinamarca, the latter of which has 600 ha planted, both in open fields and under cover (Encuesta Nacional Agropecuaria 2011; Agrocadenas, 2010).

Phytosanitary problems caused by viral agents are of interest because of the difficulty in diagnosis and the high handling costs. Among these is the *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), which is a pathogen that, once it infects plants, cannot be controlled (Persley *et al.*, 2007; Tamayo and Jaramillo, 2006). The TSWV belongs to the Bunyaviridae

family and the *Tospovirus* genus and is widely distributed throughout the world in more than 500 species of ornamental, vegetable and fruit plants (Agrios, 2005), with losses estimated at 25 to 50% (Cho *et al.*, 1998; Cho *et al.*, 1998). In Colombia, the losses in ornamental crops due to the TSWV are above 70% and in the tomato, the incidence is reported at 20 to 30% (Corredor, 1999; Tamayo and Jaramillo, 2006; Rodríguez *et al.*, 2008).

The dispersion of the TSWV is attributed to the complex plant, virus and insect vector interaction (Mound and Teulon, 1995) with an important role of thrips as vectors of the virus (Wijkamp *et al.*, 1993; Corredor, 1999; Kritzman *et al.*, 2002; Hogenhout *et al.*, 2008); thrips transmit four virus groups corresponding to the genera

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Ilarvirus, *Sobemovirus*, *Carmovirus* and *Tospovirus* (Morse and Hoodle, 2006). Currently, 5,500 species of thrips are known and only 0.2% are reported as viral transmitters. According to Mound (1996, 2005) and Ohnishi *et al.* (2006), among the species involved, efficient vectors of *Tospovirus* include *Frankliniella occidentalis*, *F. schultzei*, *F. intonsa*, *F. fusca*, *F. bispinosa*, *F. zucchini*, *F. cephalica*, *Thrips tabaci*, *Thrips palmi*, *T. setosus* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Nagata *et al.*, 2004; Funderburk *et al.*, 2007). At this time, of the 235 genera of the Thripinae subfamily and 1,700 valid species, only eleven species in three genera are reported as efficient *Tospovirus* vectors in the world (Mound, 1996; Mound and Teulon, 1996; Ohnishi *et al.*, 2006).

In Colombia, the TSWV was detected in 1987 on the Sabana de Bogota in pompom plants (*Chrysanthemum* sp.), however, it was mistaken for other diseases and not until 1990 was the true causal agent determined by serological techniques (Angarita, 1995). Currently, the method used to diagnose infections with the TSWV is serological tests by the Enzyme-Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay ELISA method, because of their convenience, speed, ease of use and efficiency, allowing the examination of a large number of samples in a short time (Gonsalves and Trujillo, 1986; Huguenot *et al.*, 1990; Wang and Gonsalves, 1990; De Avila *et al.*, 1993, De Avila *et al.*, 1990).

Although TSWV detection is done with the DAS ELISA technique on plant material, Gonsalves and Trujillo (1986), Cho *et al.* (1988) and Nagata *et al.* (2002) modified this test to detect the TSWV in thrip individuals. In Colombia, this technique has been applied to ornamental plants, thrips, plants, weeds, and tomato crops (Vasquez, 1996; Corredor, 1999; Tamayo and Jaramillo, 2006, Rodríguez *et al.*, 2008). The complex nature of the interaction between thrips, tospoviruses and host plants was first recognized when it was discovered that the TSWV multiplies in vector insects with a persistent circulative-propagative type virus-thrip ratio (Ullman *et al.*, 1993; Wijkamp *et al.*, 1993; Hogenhout *et al.*, 2008); however, Ullman (1996) put forth that infective, adult thrips are only produce when the acquisition of the virus occurs in the larval stages. Corredor (1999), showed that the minimum time required by *F. occidentalis* nymphs to ingest and obtain the TSWV was 5 min, increasing the likelihood of ingesting more virus particles and the efficient acquisition of the virus, extending the feeding time in infected leaves; and determined that the minimum latency time required by the TSWV in *F. occidentalis* nymphs was 8 d.

This study was undertaken to determine the distribution of the TSWV (*Tomato spotted wilt virus*) and associated thrips as vectors in the tomato (*S. lycopersicum*) in the Andean

department of Cundinamarca; specifically to detect the presence and distribution of the virus in tomato-producing provinces, establishing viral prevalence, diagnosis and characterization of symptoms in respect to genetic material of field tomatoes and the presence of the virus in plants, weeds and thrips associated with the crop.

Materials and methods

This research was conducted at the C. I. Tibaitata of Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA-Corpoica), National Phytosanitary Laboratory Diagnosis, entomology area (04°41'46.7" N, 74°12'12.8" W and 2569 m a.s.l.). The field monitoring was conducted in three regions of the Cundinamarca department: Oriente province in the municipalities of Fomeque, Choachi, Ubaque and Caqueza; Sumapaz province in the municipality of Fusagasuga; and Ubate province in the municipality of Ubate (Tab. 1). Three tomato producing farms were randomly selected in each municipality, for a total of 18. Sampling was conducted in each crop, with random sites in three rows, two lateral and one central to the planted area. In each row, five tomato plants were taken randomly, for a total of 15 plants per crop, observing the presence of viral symptoms, presence and capture of thrips and collecting associated weeds. The prevalence of the TSWV was determined by the number of plants with symptoms over the total number of sampled plants in each parcel, as according to Farooq and Akanda (2007).

Plant sample

The tomato sample consisted of two leaves from the upper-third of the plant, inflorescences and fruit, the latter of which was used only in the characterization of viral symptoms. Each sample was wrapped in paper towels and then in foil with the basic data of location and type of plant material planted. In the laboratory, the presence of the TSWV was determined with the DAS-ELISA technique with Agdia® (Elkhart, IN) commercial kits and the recommended protocol: the plate was sensitized with the capture antibody (1:200), which was diluted in the buffer media (1X), 100 mL of the mixture were placed in each well and incubated overnight in a moist chamber at 4°C. Then the plate was washed with a cleaning buffer (1X PBST) three times. The samples were macerated in a general extraction buffer (1X GEB), one gram of the sample in 10 mL of extraction buffer 1X, 100 mL of the sample were added to each well, together with the respective reaction controls (positive, negative and blank). Then, the plate was incubated overnight in a moist chamber at 4°C. After incubation, the plate was washed with a cleaning buffer 1X (1X PBST) seven times.

TABLE 1. Regions sampled for detection of the TSWV in the department of Cundinamarca.

Municipality	Farm	District	Owner	Altitude	Geoposition	
					N	W
Caqueza	F1	Giron de Resguardo	Hidelbrando Arias	1,624	04°25'01.7"	073°57'01.3"
	F2	Resguardo	Jaime Torrijos	1,649	04°25'20"	073°56'44.7"
	F3	Moyas	Jaime Torrijos	1,731	04°25'38.8"	073°56'37.9"
Choachi	F4	Masa	Angel Machado	1,935	04°34'04.1"	073°54'24.6"
	F5	Masa	Angel Machado	1,885	04°33'00.8"	073°54'39.9"
	F6	Masa	Isidro Varón	1,756	04°28'51.8"	073°55'38.8"
Ubaque	F7	Centro Afuera	Salvador Herrera	1,731	04°28'50.9"	073°55'38.8"
	F8	Fistega	Wilson Daza	1,732	04°28'41.5"	073°55'24.8"
	F9	Romero Bajo	Nelson Lavado	1,596	04°29'19"	073°54'50.5"
Fomeque	F10	Carrizal	Manuel Agudelo	1,761	04°29'24.3"	073°54'09.2"
	F11	Resguardo	Jaime Torrijos	1,620	04°29'59.5"	073°23'48.1"
	F12	Carrizal	Salomón Rincón	1,780	04°30'00.4"	073°52'43.8"
Fusagasuga	F13	Alto del Molino	Humberto Bolívar	1,994	04°19'00.2"	074°20'26.6"
	F14	Novilleros	Henry Ortíz	1,521	04°20'36.4"	074°23'30.2"
	F15	Betel	Jose Moreno	1,911	04°18'55.5"	074°21'06.2"
Ubate	F16	Ticha	Nelson Melo	2,539	05°23'49.9"	073°45'01.9"
	F17	Giucheta	Javier Vela	2,547	05°24'22.2"	073°42'51.2"
	F18	Patera Centro	Germán Ascencio	2,572	05°17'55.0"	073°48'41.5"

The conjugated antibody with alkaline phosphatase (1:200) was diluted in the ECI-1X buffer, 100 mL of the enzyme conjugate-ECI 1X buffer mixture were added to each well, and the plate was incubated for two hours at room temperature. After incubation, the plate was washed with a cleaning buffer 1 X (1X PBST) eight times and 100 mL of the PNP solution were added to each well. The plate was incubated in a moist chamber in the dark for one hour and the measurements or readings were taken at an absorbance of 405 nm (A_{405}), in a Opsys Mr-Dymex® (Richfield, MN) spectrophotometer, every 15 min.

Insect material

Thrip material was collected on each of the 18 farms with taps on the upper-third, leaves and inflorescences of the tomato plants, preferably symptomatic, over a flat surface with white cotton fabric and the help of a 20X magnifying glass and 000 brush, capturing and introducing the thrips into vials with 150 µL of extraction buffer or 75% ethyl alcohol. Identification of the thrips was carried out with the microassembly methodology proposed by Mound and Geoffrey (1998); genus and species were determined using the keys and descriptions proposed by Mound and Marullo (1996), Mound and Gillespie (1997), and EPPO (2002). The species identified were compared with literature reports on TSWV vectors according to Mound (2001), Murray (2001) and Kirk (2001); also the focal thrip species was selected according to the highest number of capture events, presence and efficiency as a TSWV vector, as according to Ullman (1993, 1996). For the detection of the TSWV in thrips, the

DAS ELISA technique was implemented, modified for insect materials from the methodology described by Matsuura *et al.* (2002), Corredor (1999) and Sakurai (personal communication).

Thrip samples, like the plants, were visually analyzed spectrophotometrically at an absorbance of 405 nm (A_{405}) in an OPSYS MR-DYMEX reader, using DAS-ELISA Agdia® protocol. For detection of TSWV in thrips, adult insects were used per sample. With this methodology, TSWV values greater than twice the average of the negative controls were considered positive, as according to Bautista *et al.* (1995), Sakurai *et al.* (2004) and Farooq and Akanda (2007).

Weed plant material

The identification of the weeds present in the crop was carried out by direct comparison with photographs of the proposed field manual by Cayon and Mendoza (1989). Of the weeds observed, the predominant species were selected as according to Lucena (1992) and Persley *et al.* (2007) and viral presence was determined by a DAS-ELISA test (Agdia®).

Results and discussion

TSWV in producing regions

The results indicated the presence of the TSWV in the Oriente province, in the municipalities of Caqueza, Choachi, Ubaque and Fomeque, with symptoms characterized by reduced plant growth, chlorosis and brown

spots on leaves and stems; and brown, concentric rings on the surfaces of the fruits. In the province of Sumapaz in Fusagasuga, symptoms similar to those mentioned were observed, along with brown spots dispersed on the leaflets and ribs; brown, concentric rings across the entire surface of fruits and cracks in ripe tomatoes. In the province of Ubaté, plants were observed with scattered brown spots on the leaf surface and concentric rings on the underside. According to Antignus *et al.* (1997), low plant development is characterized by little foliage; along with new shoots that are symptomatic and slow growing in flowers and fruits. Initially, the mid-leaves had dispersed, chlorotic spots before the appearance of dark, brown spots, as affirmed by Cho *et al.* (1989) and Farooq and Akanda (2007), characterizing these symptoms as initial chlorosis in leaves and shoots which can lead to browning and necrosis.

The most representative symptom corresponded to spots in the form of concentric rings as described by Adkins (2005), Sang-Hoon *et al.* (2005), Persley *et al.* (2007), and Farooq and Akanda (2007). These symptoms began at the base of the leaflets and spread towards the apex, or clustered in isolated patches (Fig. 1A). The rings were clearly observed on the underside of the affected leaves (Fig. 1B), the spots may appear scattered throughout the leaves (Fig. 1C) or concentrated towards the ribs (Fig. 1D) and wilted and crinkled leaves (Fig. 1: E and F).

The young fruits showed irregular spots which may be poorly marked (Fig. 2); no ripe fruit was found with characteristics of irregular, yellow or orange mottling, as opposed to Cho *et al.* (1989), Morris (2004) and Persley *et al.* (2007); however, it was seen that infected, ripe fruit showed necrosis (Fig. 2J), which even led to tissue breakdown. In some cases, according to Agrios (2005) and Persley *et al.* (2007), brown, concentric rings that start near the stem or particularly scattered throughout the fruit are seen (Fig. 2C). The stems presented dark brown spots, some dispersed in the form of rings and others grouped together to form a general spot (Fig. 2).

The DAS ELISA technique (Agdia®) was adequate for detecting the TSWV in tomato plants and weeds because of its sensitivity and speed of viral localization according to

Gonsalves and Trujillo (1986), Okazaki *et al.* (2007), Sherwood *et al.* (1989), Huguenot *et al.* (1990), and Wang and Gonsalves (1990). The analysis of the samples, using this technique, allowed for qualitative results which indicated the presence or absence of the TSWV in the plant material analyzed (Tab. 2).

Prevalence of the TSWV in the tomato

The 18 farms evaluated presented ranges of from 20 to 53% for incidence of the TSWV; at least one property in each municipality presented viral incidence (Fig. 3). Thrip populations in each culture were found to average 1.3 individuals per plant, representing a low level of infestation for insect pests, however, there were relatively high incidences of the TSWV, possibly due to mechanical propagation according to Ullman (1996, 1993); however, low levels of thrips (0.1thrips/plant) have the ability to propagate the TSWV to the host when the virus pressure is high, according to Bennison *et al.* (2002). It was also determined that 44.4% of the crops sampled had a TSWV incidence of zero, possibly due to the control measures aimed at thrips and weed control, which could directly influence the reduction of the spread of the TSWV, as indicated by Momol *et al.* (2002).

Presence of the TSWV in cultivated tomato materials

Tomato materials grown in the Andean region of Cundinamarca were represented, by percentage, by the varieties and hybrids: 'Calima' (27.7%), 'Daniela' (16.6%), 'Sheila' (11.1%), 'Granitio' (11.1%), 'Alboran' (5.5%), 'Kyndio' (5.5%), 'Rocio' (5.5%), 'Santa Clara' (5, 5%), 'Yola' (5.5%) and 'Rolin' (5.5%) (Tab. 3). According to the technical specifications of the materials planted, they have no resistance to the TSWV, allowing high incidences and possibly facilitating viral dispersion in the presence of thrip vectors and weeds in crop areas.

The 70% of the material analyzed presented a TSWV infection, and even higher in cultures with a high thrip infestation and presence of weeds (Tab. 4), this confirms the findings of Persley *et al.* (2007), regarding the use of resistant varieties as an effective control method for managing the TSWV. In Colombia, three hybrids are currently marketed as TSWV resistant, but they are little used in the producing regions, possibly due to their high costs and

TABLE 2. DAS ELISA reaction in tomato plants and weeds in the studied municipalities.

	Caqueza			Choachi			Ubaque			Fomeque			Fusagasuga			Ubate		
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11	F12	F13	F14	F15	F16	F17	F18
T	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-
W	+	-	*	*	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	*	*

F=farm, T = tomato, A =weeds, * = no weeds, + A405 ($\geq 0,54$); - A405 ($\leq 0,265$).

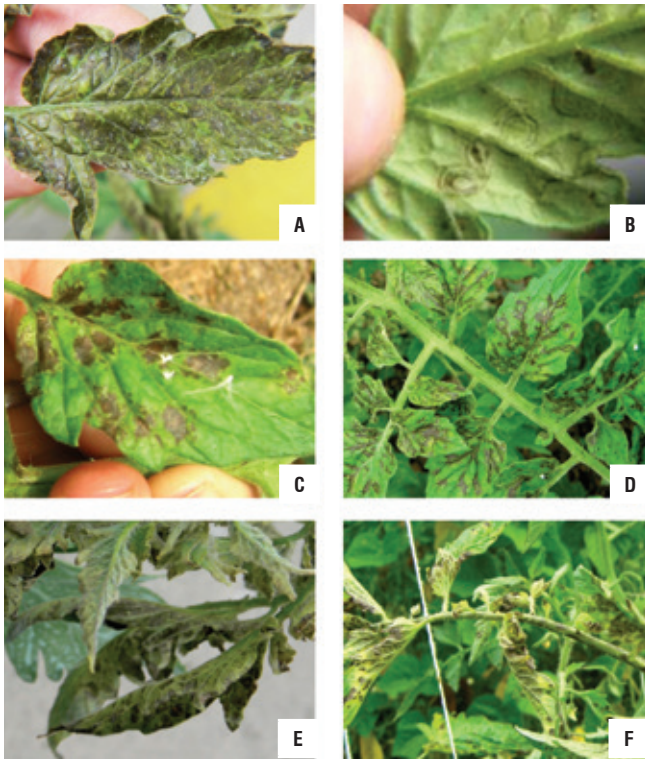


FIGURE 1. Symptoms of the TSWV in tomato leaves (A); scattered patches in leaf area (B); Underside, concentric rings (C); Isolated spots (D); Spots on ribs (E, F). Wilting and crinkling. (Photos: Acosta, R. and E. Ebratt).

adaptability to growing conditions, moreover, they do not have adequate commercial dissemination. Mitidieri *et al.* (1996) stated that the use of commercial hybrids with resistance to the TSWV is meant as a phytosanitary measure to reduce the incidence of this disease, in combination with other cultural, biological and chemical management practices that target vectors and weeds.

TSWV weed plants

The results showed that farms without the presence of weeds (F3, F4, F17 and F18) (Tab. 4) showed low to no viral impact except farm F4, which could have presented an early infection from nursery seedlings; while farms with plenty of weeds (F1, F6, F7, F9, F10, F11, F12, F14 and F15) reached incidence of viral levels of 20 and 53%. According to Duffus (1971), the epidemiology of viral illness may be a phenomenon that involves the interaction of cultures, insect vectors and host weeds as sources of inoculum and vector hosts.

Prevalence of the TSWV in relation to weeds and thrips

In the 14 farms with weeds and thrips (Tab. 4), the species recognized were: red spinach (*Amaranthus dubius*), guasca (*Galinsoga parviflora*) and lilac tasselflower (*Emilia*

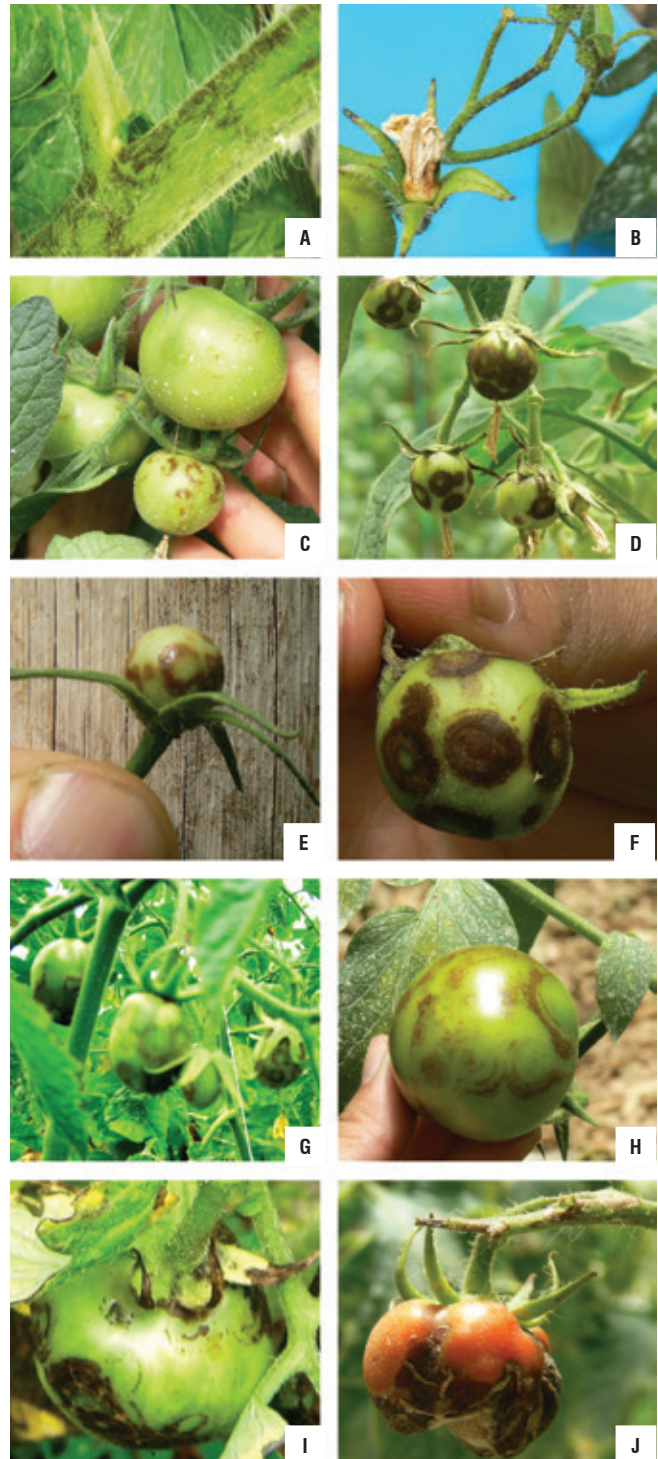


FIGURE 2. Symptoms of the TSWV in the stem, flower and fruit. A, spots on stem; B, Wilting flower; C, spotting of fruit; D, concentric rings; E, F, G and H, generalized rings; I and J, necrosis and rupture. (Photos: Acosta, R. and E. Ebratt).

sonchifolia), all reported as hosts of the TSWV by Lucena (1992), and *Amaranthus* sp. a thrip host plant according to Persley *et al.* (2007). Of these weeds, 21.4% of the samples analyzed demonstrated a positive response to the TSWV

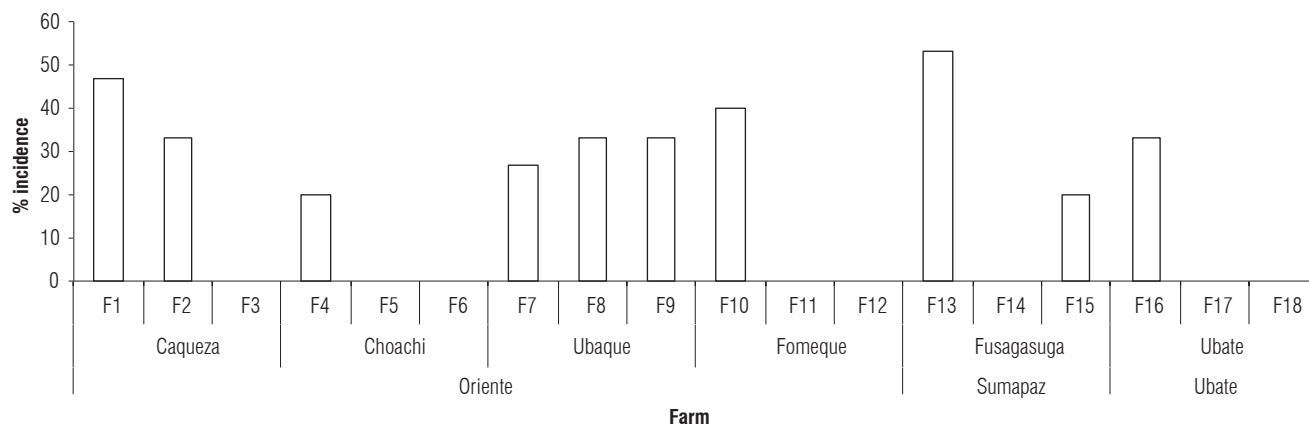


FIGURE 3. TSWV viral incidence in the provinces of Oriente, Sumapaz and Ubate in the department of Cundinamarca (Colombia).

TABLE 3. Regional presence of the TSWV for the genetic material planted.

Municipality	Farm	Genetic material	TSWV presence
Caqueza	F1	Calima	+
	F2	Calima	+
	F3	Calima	-
Choachi	F4	Granitio	+
	F5	Granitio	-
	F6	Calima	-
Ubaque	F7	Daniela	+
	F8	Daniela	+
	F9	Calima	+
Fomeque	F10	Sheila	+
	F11	Kindio	-
	F12	Daniela	-
Fusagasuga	F13	Yola	+
	F14	Sheila	-
	F15	Santa clara	+
Ubate	F16	Alborán	+
	F17	Rocio	-
	F18	Rolín	-

TABLE 4. TSWV incidence in relation to the presence of weeds and thrips.

Municipality	Farm	TSWV incidence %	Weed presence
Caqueza	F1	47	+
	F2	33	+
	F3	0	-
Choachi	F4	20	-
	F5	0	-
	F6	0	+
Ubaque	F7	27	+
	F8	33	+
	F9	33	+
Fomeque	F10	40	+
	F11	0	-
	F12	0	+
Fusagasuga	F13	53	+
	F14	0	+
	F15	20	+
Ubate	F16	33	+
	F17	0	-
	F18	0	-

(+). Presence farms; (-). Farm without presence.

with the DAS ELISA test (Agdia®). The presence of weeds and thrips in 77.7% of the sampled tomato crops and the presentation in 71.4% of symptoms characteristic of the TSWV indicate that the poor management of these plants allows for the spread of the disease by acting as viral reservoirs (Duffus, 1971; Tamayo and Jaramillo, 2006), this is consistent with that proposed by Okazaki *et al.* (2007), who argued that thrips and weeds play an important role in the cycles of TSWV infection in cultivated fields.

This study found that the presence of the TSWV is positively correlated with the presence of weeds ($r = 0.6740$, $P = 0.002$, $n = 54$). There is also a positive correlation between the presence of thrips with the presence of weeds ($r = 0.4725$, $P = 0.048$, $N = 54$), but there was no correlation between the presence of the TSWV and thrip vectors

($r = 0.3636$, $P = 0,138$, $n = 54$), making them occasional transmitters of the TSWV according to Nagata *et al.* (2004), who found a low probability of finding viruliferous thrips and, due to the host conditions, that they prefer weeds associated with the crop. This suggests that for TSWV management, weed eradication could be the first step and possibly the most effective way to break the cycle of TSWV infection, as framed within an integrated tospovirus and thrip management program in tomato crops.

Identification of thrip species

Of the individuals collected in the tomato plants and weeds, three predominant species were identified: *Frankliniella occidentalis*, dark and pale forms, *Thrips palmi* and *Thrips tabaci* (Fig. 4). It was determined that *F. occidentalis* was

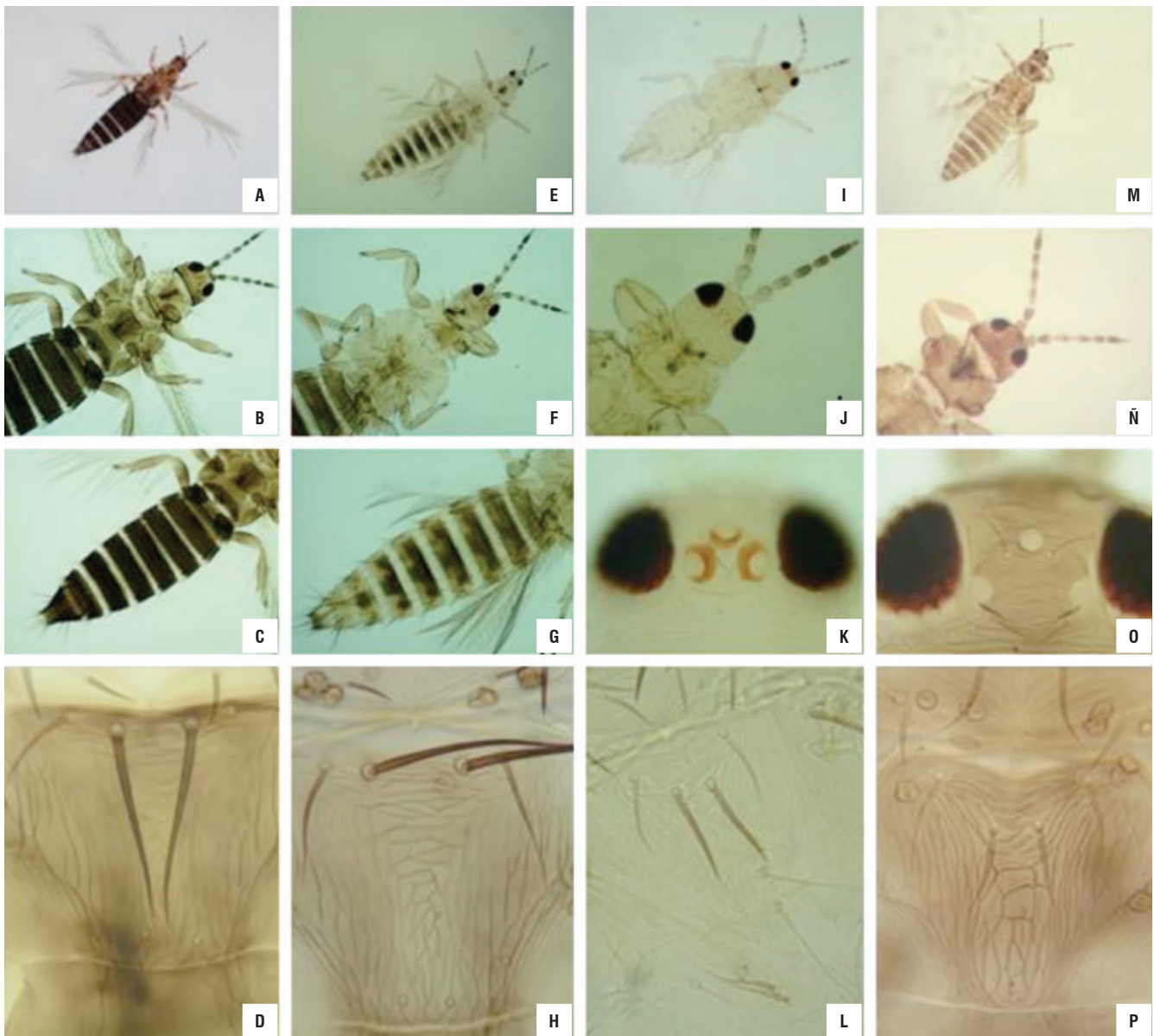


FIGURE 4. Morphological characteristics of thrips associated with tomato crops in Cundinamarca; *F. occidentalis*, dark form (A, B, C, D); *F. occidentalis*, pale form (E, F, G, H); *T. palmi* (I, J, K, L); *T. tabaci* (M, N, O, P) (Photos: Ebratt, E.).

found in 100% of the capture events, followed by *T. tabaci* at 88% and *T. palmi* at 55% (Tab. 5).

Detection of the TSWV in *F. occidentalis*

In the detection of the TSWV with the DAS ELISA test, the adult stage of *F. occidentalis* was chosen because of their continued presence in crops and role as a more efficient vector of the TSWV, as reported by Ullman (1996) and Okazaki *et al.* (2007). In this work the validity of the methodology used for the detection of viral particles in the insect vector was determined. This coincides with that proposed by Cho *et al.* (1988), Wijkamp *et al.* (1993), Bautista *et al.* (1995),

Matsuura *et al.* (2002) and Sakurai (2004), who endorsed the use of the test in different species of thrips.

In this study, samples of adult *F. occidentalis* were positive for the TSWV at 16.6%, in contrast to the average viral prevalence in tomato plants of from 18.83 to 55.55% on the sampled farms (Tab. 2; Tab. 6).

These results agree with those of Maris *et al.* (2004), reporting a proportional ratio of thrip populations with regard to the presence of the TSWV; however, in the present study, there was no correlation between the TSWV infected plants and the presence of thrips, possibly due to the low

TABLE 5. Thrip species associated with tomato crops and weeds in the Andean region of Cundinamarca.

Municipality	Farm	District	Altitude	Species			Geoposition	
				<i>F. occidentalis</i>	<i>T. tabaci</i>	<i>T. palmi</i>	N	W
Caqueza	F1	Girón de Resguardo	1,624	X	X	X	04°25'01.7"	73°57'01.3"
	F2	Resguardo	1,649	X	X	X	04°25'20"	73°56'44.7"
	F3	Moyas	1,731	X	X	X	04°25'38.8"	73°56'37.9"
Choachi	F4	Masa	1,935	X	X		04°34'04.1"	73°54'24.6"
	F5	Masa	1,885	X	X		04°33'00.8"	73°54'39.9"
	F6	Masa	1,756	X	X	X	04°28'51.8"	73°55'38.8"
Ubaque	F7	Centro Afuera	1,731	X	X	X	04°28'50.9"	73°55'38.8"
	F8	Fistega	1,732	X	X	X	04°28'41.5"	73°55'24.8"
	F9	Romero Bajo	1,596	X	X	X	04°29'19"	73°54'50.5"
Fomeque	F10	Carrizal	1,761	X	X	X	04°29'24.3"	73°54'09.2"
	F11	Resguardo	1,620	X	X	X	04°29'59.5"	73°23'48.1"
	F12	Carrizal	1,780	X	X		04°30'00.4"	73°52'43.8"
Fusagasuga	F13	Alto del Molino	1,994	X	X		04°19'00.2"	74°20'26.6"
	F14	Novilleros	1,521	X	X	X	04°20'36.4"	74°23'30.2"
	F15	Betel	1,911	X	X		04°18'55.5"	74°21'06.2"
Ubate	F16	Ticha	2,539	X			05°23'49.9"	73°45'01.9"
	F17	Guacheta	2,547	X			05°24'22.2"	73°42'51.2"
	F18	Patera Centro	2,572	X			05°17'55.0"	73°48'41.5"

TABLE 6. DAS ELISA reaction in *F. occidentalis* in the regions studied.

	Caqueza			Choachi			Ubaque			Fomeque			Fusagasuga			Ubate		
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11	F12	F13	F14	F15	F16	F17	F18
T	-	+	-	+	*	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*

T= thrips; * = without thrips; + $A_{405} (\geq 0.54)$; - $A_{405} (\leq 0.265)$.

probability of the presence of infective insect vectors of TSWV (21.4%) in the sample, according to Nagata *et al.* (2004), who identified a TSWV transmission efficiency by *F. occidentalis* of 31.6%. Medeiros *et al.* (2004) and van de Wetering *et al.* (1996) observed that insects collected in symptomatic tomato plants tested negative for the presence of the TSWV as an autoimmune response of the adult stage of the insect to the viral infection prevents detection. Currently, it is known that adult thrips carrying viral particles only acquire and infect the TSWV during the development of immature stages in affected plants (EPPO, 2002; Ullman, 1996), making them economically important insects that are difficult to manage with implementation of unilateral chemical control tactics in complete ignorance of the insect-virus-weed relationship.

Although this study did not consider or evaluate the role of colored forms, especially the dark form of *F. occidentalis*, as possibly more efficient transmitters of the TSWV, since there is evidences from Sakimura (1969) that the dark forms of several species of thrips are infective vectors responsible for the high prevalence of the TSWV in several crop species.

Conclusions

The disease known as “tomato spotted wilt” or “Black Death” is related to the presence of the TSWV in weeds and the thrip vectors *F. occidentalis*, *T. palmi* and *T. tabaci* associated with tomato crops in the Andean region of the Cundinamarca department.

The presence of asymptomatic weeds that are positive for the TSWV and which are associated with the crop confirms their role as viral reservoirs and hosts for thrip vectors.

This raises the imminent need for managing weed plants associated with crops, as they are a key element of high phytosanitary risk in the production of the tomato *S. lycopersicum* L.

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