

A virus disease of *Gerbera jamesonii*

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In 1967 the author received from a commercial grower some *Gerbera* plants with virus-like symptoms. The leaves showed ringspotting and light green line patterns, which in older leaves often became necrotic (Fig. 1). Sap from affected leaves was inoculated on several plant species. Three of these: *Nicotiana tabacum* 'White Burley', *Chenopodium amaranticolor* and *Datura stramonium* developed symptoms typical for tobacco rattle virus (TRV).² Inoculation of healthy *Gerbera* seedlings with sap from the infected *N. tabacum* caused line patterns and ringspotting and the virus could be re-isolated from these plants.

This is the first time that TRV has been detected in *Gerbera* in The Netherlands. The occurrence of TRV in *Gerbera* has been reported earlier by Stouffer (1965), who found it in field-grown plants in the U.S.A., and by Schmelzer (1966) in the German Democratic Republic.

It is unlikely that the disease will become of economic importance in The Netherlands since soil steaming before the beginning of the culture is already common practice as a measure of control of foot rot caused by fungus species.

Samenvatting

Een virusziekte van Gerbera jamesonii

Ratelvirus van tabak bleek de verwekker te zijn van kringerigheid in bladeren van *Gerbera*. Dit is de eerste maal dat het voorkomen van dit virus in *Gerbera* in Nederland wordt vermeld.

References

- Schmelzer, K., 1966. Das Tabakmauche-Virus (tobacco rattle virus) on *Gerbera jamesonii* Bolus. Arch. Gartenb. 14: 89-92.
Stouffer, R. F., 1965. Isolation of tobacco rattle virus from Transvaal daisy, *Gerbera jamesonii*. Phytopathology 55: 501.

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Fig. 1. Symptoms of tobacco rattle virus on a leaf of *Gerbera jamesonii*

Fig. 1. Symptomen van ratelvirus in Gerbera jamesonii