

Rust Resistance from Missionary Wheats to Fields of Modern Farmers. (C08-skovmand173318-Oral)

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Abstract:

In 2001 a new leaf rust race appeared on the cultivar Altar 84. This durum cultivar has been grown since its release in 1984 and has become the most widely grown wheat cultivar in Sonora, Mexico. The CIMMYT wheat genetic resources program immediately undertook a program to identify sources of resistance to this new leaf rust race among the durum collection in the bank. Among these, were a group of about 330 accessions of durum wheat collected by CIMMYT and INIFAP during mid 1990 under a project supported by CANOBIO, Mexican Organization for the Study of Biodiversity. These wheats are known to be among wheats that Dominican monks took to Oaxaca in 1540 and have since been grown by native Mexican Indians in the deep volcanic soils of Los Altos de Mixteca, Oaxaca, to produce flour for sacramental bread. This group of durum wheats were evaluated for reaction to the new leaf rust race in the summer cycle at El Batan, Mexico and during the winter cycle in Sonora, Mexico. All but one of these accessions displayed minor gene or major gene resistance to the new leaf rust race. These accessions, especially those with minor genes, long lasting resistance, are a valuable breeding resource.

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