

BIOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF AN EGYPTIAN ISOLATE OF SOYBEAN MOSAIC VIRUS IN EGYPT.

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ABSTRACT

Soybean mosaic Potyviridae (SbMV) was isolated from naturally infected soybean plants cvs. Giza 111 and Giza 35 grown at Giza Research Station Farm, Agricultural Research Centre, Giza. The inoculated indicator plants gave severe mosaic on soybean cv. Giza 111, mosaic and malformation on cv Giza 35, mild mosaic on cv. Giza 22, yellow mild mosaic on cv. Giza 83, vein clearing and mild mosaic on *Phaseolus vulgaris* cvs Contender. Chlorotic local lesion on *Chenopodium quinoa*. The virus was transmitted in non-persistent manner by aphids. Electron Microscopy showed aggregates of flexuous virus particles, degenerated mitochondria and inclusions appeared as pinwheel in cytoplasm of infected soybean leaves. Dot blot immunoassay (DBIA) and indirect enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) were used as a serological method for detection and confirmation of SbMV isolate in infected tissues. A reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method was used to detect of local isolate of SbMV in infected plants using specific oligonucleotides primer. A major RT-PCR fragment (~340 bp) from the coat protein gene of the SbMV genome was detected.

Key words: SbMV, aphid transmission, DIBA, electron microscopy, RT-PCR

INTRODUCTION

Soybean mosaic virus (SbMV) belongs to the virus family Potyviridae **Shukla et al. (1994)**. SbMV was first described in U.S.A. (**Clinton 1915**). The virus was isolated by many investigators in different countries *i.e.* in U.S.A (**Pacumbaba, 1995**), India (**Nariani & Pingaley, 1960**), Germany (**Quantz, 1961**), Bulgaria (**Vui-Yui, 1961**), Japan (**Iizuka & Yoshida, 1988**), Portugal (**De vasconcelos, 1964**); Africa (**Akhatova, 1969**), Russian (**Reifman & Polivanova, 1969**), Soviet Far East (**Vaglav et al., 1970**), Taiwan (**Porto & Hagedorn, 1974 and Iizuka et al., 1994**), Brazil (**Cho, et al., 1977**), Korea (**Rossel & Thottapilly, 1993**) and Colombia (**Benscher et al., 1996**). In Egypt, SbMV was isolated by many investigators (**Sabek et al., 1979; Kishtah et al., 1984 and Mandour 2002**).

More than eight SbMV strains exist in Korea (**Kim et al., 2000**). Detection and identification of SbMV strains is very important both for soybean cultivation and breeding SbMV-resistant cultivars. Although succeeded in discriminating SbMV strain G5 from non-G5 SbMV isolates using strain specific monoclonal antibodies, they had to use three antibodies because a single monoclonal antibody that could detect a single strain had not been identified. It is still difficult to differentiate SbMV strains by serological methods because most SbMV strains are serologically homogeneous (**Hill et al., 1994**). Also, it is not easy to raise strain specific antibodies. Therefore, the method based on the pathogenicity of SbMV isolates on differential soybean cultivars (**Kim et al., 2003**) has been used widely to identify SbMV strains. However, using differential cultivars is laborious and time consuming. SbMV is a flexuous, rod not enveloped shape d with a clear modal length of 700 nm; 15 nm wide, the containing 5.3% nucleic acid, 94.7% protein; and 0% lipid. The virion composed

Fayoum J. Agric. Res. & Dev., Vol.20, No.1, January, 2006

of mono partite plus sense single stranded RNA (ssRNA) genome polyprotein and has base composition 24.3% guanosine (G), 29.9 % adenine (A), 14.9% cytosine (C), and 30.9% uracil (U) (Hill & Benner, 1980). The objectives of the present work aim to provide a biological and molecular characterization of an Egyptian isolate of SbMV associated with diseases of soybean plants in Egypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

I-Source of virus isolate:

Naturally infected soybean plants (*Glycine max* L.) showing mosaic, yellowing, stunting, leaf curling and malformation were collected from two commercial soybean cultivars (Giza 111 and Giza 35) grown at Research Station Farm, Agricultural Research Centre, Giza. Samples were serologically checked against SbMV by indirect-ELISA according to Hobbs *et al.*, 1987 using antisera kindly provided by Danish Government Institute of Seed Pathology, Denmark.

II-Isolation of SbMV:

Samples which reacted positively, were separated and used for mechanical inoculation to obtain the virus in relatively pure form. Single local lesion technique (Kuhn, 1964) was carried out to inoculate the local lesion host, *Chenopodium quinoa*. One lesion was separated, grinded in phosphate buffer and used to inoculate healthy soybean plant *cv.* Giza 111 which used as a source of virus.

III- Identification of the isolated virus:

The following was used to confirm virus identification and to characterize the SbMV isolate

1- Host range and diagnostic host studies:

Twenty six plant species and cvs belonging to four families were mechanically inoculated by the above mentioned virus infection sap obtained from infected soybean plants. Five seedlings of each test plant were used. The inoculated plants were kept under greenhouse conditions and observed for symptoms expression.

2- Aphid transmission

Non-viruliferous colonies of aphids, *Myzus persicae*, Sulz, *Aphis fabae* Scop and *Aphis craccivora* Koch. were maintained on Chinese cabbage seedlings in an insect proof cage. Aphids were starved for 30 min before they were transferred onto soybean plants infected with SbMV for 30 min. Viruliferous aphids were transferred onto healthy soybean seedlings and left to feed for 24 h, and then aphids were killed by spraying with 2% Malathion. Five aphids were used for each plant and five seedlings were used for each treatment which was repeated for three times. The plants were then observed for virus symptoms after four weeks. Plants were serologically checked by indirect-ELISA against SbMV presence.

3- Dot – Immunobinding assay (DIBA):

The procedure of Lizarrage & Fernandez-Northcote (1989) was followed. The leaf tissues (0.1 g) were ground in TBS (20 mM Tris bas, 500 mM NaCl, pH 7.5) in a 1: 10 (w/v) ratio and centrifuged at 12000 rpm at 4 °C in a microcentrifuge . The membrane was soaked in TBS containing 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) overnight at room temperature and reacted with SbMV specific antirabbit antibody conjugate with alkaline phosphatase. The membrane was subjected to extensive washing in TBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20 and the reaction visualized by incubation in color solution (NBT/BCIB) as substrate.

4- Electron microscopy (Ultra-thin sections)

One-millimeter diameter disks were punched out from five young leaflets of soybean plants infected with SbMV. Disks were fixed and processed for electron microscopy according to Spurr (1969). Thin sections were cut from

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selected pieces of the embedded tissue stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate and viewed with a Philips EM300 electron microscope, Ain Shams Specialized Hospital.

5-Total RNA extraction from plant tissues and RT-PCR:

Viral RNA was isolated using the RNA isolation system (Promega, Corp., Madison, WI) according to the manufacture's instructions. The complementary primer [MV1 5'-ATGCACACTCTTTTGGGCATGGGT-3'] and homologous primer [MV2 5'-GACAACAAATATTGCCGTACCTC-3'] specific for SbMV were used according to **Chen et al. (2004)**. This pair of oligonucleotides amplifying a~340 bp fragments. RT-PCR was performed in 50 μ l reaction mixtures containing 10 μ l of AMV/ TFi 5 X reaction buffer, 1 μ l of dNTP (10 mM each); 2 μ l of MgSO₄ (25 mM); 1 μ l of each primer (50 pmol); 1 μ l of AMV reverse transcriptase (10 U/ μ l); 1 μ l of TFi DNA polymerase (5 U/ μ l) and 5 μ l of the template RNA. Thermocycling was programmed as follows: cDNA synthesis at 48 °C for 45 min and RNA /cDNA primer denaturation at 94 °C for 2 min followed by 35 cycles for template denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec, primer annealing at 60°C for 1 min and extension at 72°C for 2 min and a final extension at 72°C for 7 min.

Analysis of RT-PCR amplified products:

Aliquots of 5 μ l of RT-PCR amplified products were analysed on 1 % agarose gel in TBE buffer (89 mM Tris-HCl, 89 mM boric acid, 2.5 mM EDTA, pH 8.3) at 100 V for 1 h. gel was stained with ethidium bromide. DNA Molecular Weight Marker IX (Roche Diagnostics GMBH) was used to determine the size of RT-PCR amplified products.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Isolation and symptomatology

Naturally infected soybean plants showed mosaic, yellowing, stunting, leaf curling and malformation were collected from cvs Giza 111 and Giza 35 growing at Research Station Farm, ARC, Giza during the growing season 2005. Samples which showed symptoms doubted to be SbMV, reacted strongly positive with indirect ELISA using antisera specific for SbMV. SbMV was successfully biologically purified from single local lesion induced on *Chenopodium quinoa* 6-8 days after inoculation (**Fig1**). The purified virus isolate gave positive reaction when tested by indirect ELISA.

Identification of the isolated virus:

The isolated virus was identified as SbMV according to diagnostic host reaction, aphid transmission, electron microscopy, serological test and RT-PCR. Data presented in **Table (1)** reveal that out of 26 plants belonging to 14 species, 10 plants belonging to 4 species were susceptible to infection with SbMV. Among these plants, only one reacted by producing local lesions while the other 9 showed different types of systemic symptoms. Back inoculation from plants without symptoms to the indicator host revealed that they were virus-free. Indirect ELISA test ensured these results. It is clear from the obtained data that the hosts which react with the virus are belonging to Fabaceae and Chenopodiaceae. Concerning Fabaceae, *Glycine max* reacted with systemic symptoms ranging from vein clearing and mosaic (in case of Clark cv.), to mosaic (in case of Giza 111 and Giza 22 cvs.), to yellowing and mild mosaic symptoms (in case of Giza 83 cv.), mild mosaic (in case of Giza 35 cv.) In case of *Phaseolus vulgaris*, cultivar Giza 3 cv. gave mild mosaic symptoms and Pinto cv. gave vein yellowing and mild mosaic symptoms (**Fig 1**) and Sub blanc and Top crop cvs , gave no symptoms regard *Pisum sativum* it reacted with systemic symptoms from yellowing and mosaic in case of Lin clor and mild mosaic in case Tomas laxston cv.. Concerning *Chenopodium quinoa* it reacted

with chlorotic local lesions All the plants of *Cucurbitaceae* and *Solanaceae* tested and the other *Fabaceae* plants gave no symptoms.

This study deals with soybean mosaic virus, which was isolated from naturally grown soybean plants in Egypt. Host range studies indicated that the virus evoked vein clearing and mosaic on soybean Clark cv., mosaic on Giza 111 and Giza 2 2 cvs., yellowing and mild mosaic on Giza 83 cv, mild mosaic on Giza 35 cv (Fig 2), mild mosaic on *Phaseolus vulgaris* Giza 3 cv. and vein yellowing and mild mosaic Pinto cv., yellowing and mosaic on *Pisum sativum* Lin clor cv., and mild mosaic on Tomas laxston cv., chlorotic local lesions on *Chenopodium quinoa* (Fig 1). These results are in agreement with those obtained by Nariani & Pingaley, 1960; Akhatova, 1969; Cho, et al., 1977; Kishtah et al., 1984; Iizuka, et al., 1994; Benschler, et al., 1996 and Mandour 2002).

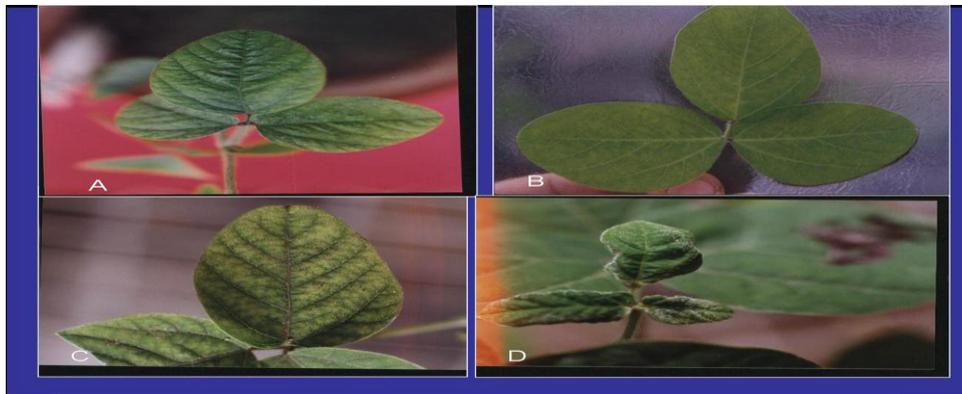


Fig (1) Symptoms of SbMV on soybean plants cvs. (A) Giza35 mild mosaic, (B) Giza111 mosaic, (C) Giza 83 yellowing and mosaic, (D) Clark. malformation and mosaic.

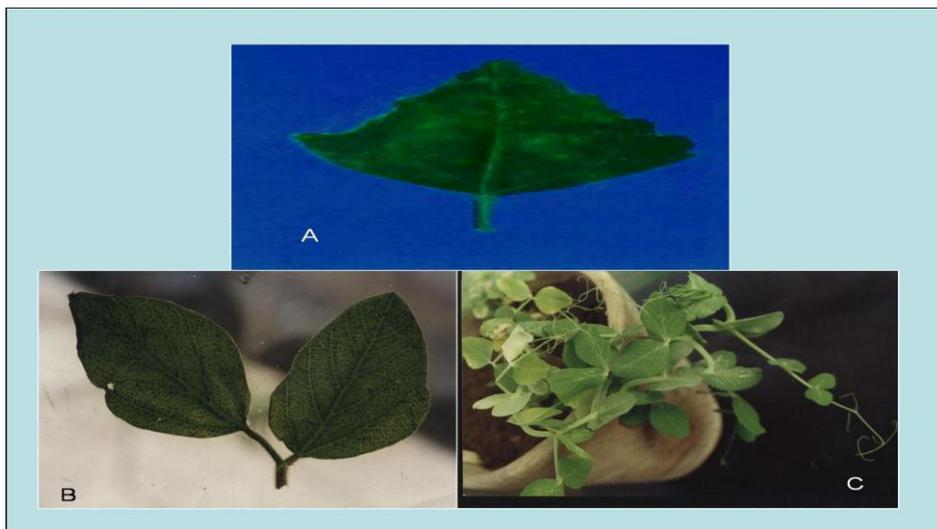


Fig (2). (A) Symptom of SbMV on (*Ch. quinoa*) chlorotic local lesions, (B) Symptoms of SbMV on (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) cv. Giza 3 mild mosaic, (C) Symptom of SbMV on (*Pisum sativum*) cv. Lin clor yellowing and mosaic.

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Regarding to insect transmission, five viruliferous of *Myzus persica* can transmit SbMV, in non-persistent manner from the tested plants after 30 min acquisition and 1 h inoculation feeding periods. Results shown in Table (2) indicated that SbMV was transmitted also by *Aphis craccivora* and *A. fabae*. In this study, for SbMV aphid transmission, *M. persica* was found to be more efficient than *A. fabae* and *A. craccivora* insects when they allowed to feed on soybean infected plants. The respective averages of infected plants were 77.5, 32.5 and 25%, respectively. This result was confirmed by the findings of Sabek, et al. (1979); Morales, et al. (1990); Kosaka & Fukunishi (1993); Benschler et al. (1996) and Mandour (2002).

Table (1). Reaction of different plants to SbMV inoculation.

Inoculated plants	Symptoms	Infection	Indirect ELISA
Family:- Fabacea			
<i>Glycine max</i> L.cvs. Clark	VC+Mo	+	+
Giza 111	Mo	+	+
Giza 22	Mo	+	+
Giza 83	Y+MMo	+	+
Giza 35	MMo	+	+
<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> cvs			
Giza 3	MMo	+	+
Sub blanc	0	-	-
Top crop	0	-	-
Pinto	VY+MMo	+	+
<i>Vicia faba</i> cvs. Giza 716			
Giza 3	0	-	-
Giza 204	0	-	-
<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> cvs			
Creame 97	0	-	-
Creame use	0	-	-
Crème 7	0	-	-
<i>Pisum sativum</i> cvs			
Lin clor	Y+Mo	+	+
Tomas laxston	MMo	+	+
Little marvel	0	-	-
Trifolium <i>pretense</i>	0	-	-
Family:- Cucurbitaceae			
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	0	-	-
Family:- Chenopodiaceae			
<i>C. amarnticolor</i>			
	0	-	-
<i>C. quinoa</i>	Ch.LL	+	+
Family:- Solanaceae			
<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>			
	0	-	-
<i>N. glutinosa</i>			
	0	-	-
<i>N. clevelandii</i>			
	0	-	-
<i>N. a rusica</i>			
	0	-	-

* MMo= Mild mosaic, Mo= Mosaic, Y= Yellowing, 0= No symptoms, VC= Vein clearing, YV= Vein yellowing, Ch. LL = Chlorotic local lesion.** As determined by ELISA test + = ELISA positive reaction, - = ELISA negative reaction.

Table (2). Percentage of transmission of SbMV from infected soybean to healthy soybean plants by viruleferous Aphids:

Aphid	No. of inoculated plant	No. of infected plant	% infection
<i>Myzus persicae</i>	40	31	77.5
<i>Aphis craccivora</i>	40	10	25
<i>Aphis fabae</i>	40	13	32.5

Dot – Immunobinding assay (DIBA):

Dot-blot-immunoassay of total protein extracted from SbMV infected tissues. 12 samples collected from open field are positively reacted with SbMV antisera diluted 1-1000. The total proteins were extracted in phosphate buffer and 10 microliters of each were spotted on the nitrocellulose membrane. The membrane was immune-developed using 1-1000 dilution of SbMV antiserum as first antibody and 1-7500 dilution of anti- rabbit-alkaline phosphatase conjugated as second antibody. The colour was developed after 5-15 minutes using BCIP-NBT substrate. Row No 4: (Negative) the healthy plant shows no signal. (Fig 2).

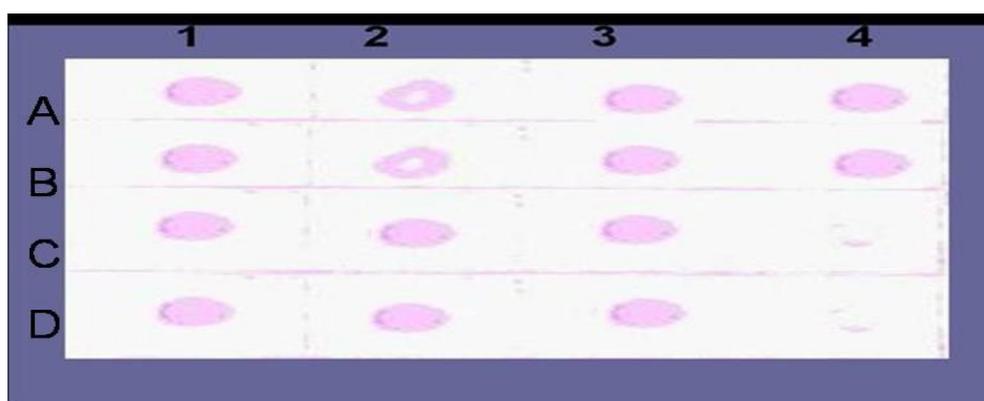


Fig (3): Dot blot immunoassay for detection of SbMV in infected plant tissue (Row 1, Row 2 and Row 3 A,B,C and D). No reaction was observed between the antiserum and uninfected plant tissue (Row 4 C &D).

Electron microscopic examination

The ultra-thin section of SbMV-infected leaves showed aggregates filamentous virus particles, degenerated mitochondria and pinwheel (characteristic for SbMV), in the cytoplasm, representing Potyviridae group (Fig 4). Electron Microscopy studies reveal that SbMV has been observed the formation of inclusion bodies which associated with SbMV infection.

Similar results were reported by Tu, (1973 and 1976); Morales *et al.* (1990) and Mandour (2002) who reported that SbMV induces the formation of inclusion bodies and virus particles aggregates in the cytoplasm.

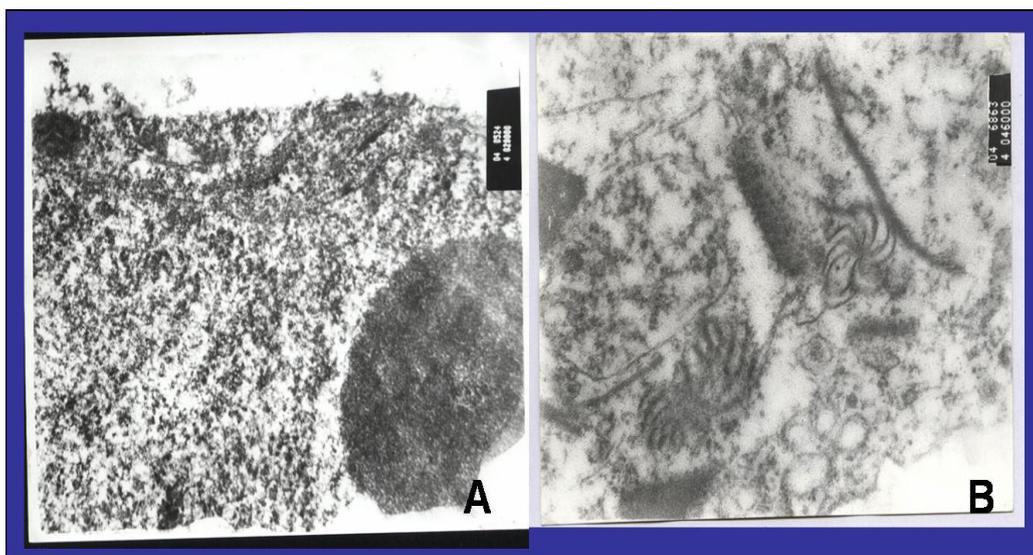


Fig (4) .(A) The ultra-thin section of SbMV-infected leaves showed aggregates filamentous virus particles, (B) Inclusion pinwheel, degenerated mitochondria and virus aggregates in cytoplasm of soybean leaf cells infected with SbMV.

Detection of SbMV using RT-PCR:

RT-PCR was performed on total RNA extracted from 30 mg infected and uninfected plant materials using SV- Total RNA Isolation System. The RNA was reverse transcribed by AMV reverse transcriptase. The reverse transcription reaction was primed with the complementary primer specific for SMV. The resulting complementary DNA (cDNA) was amplified by PCR after adding the complementary and homologous primers. The expected size is~ 340 bp. Obtained data in **Fig (5)** illustrate the agarose gel electrophoresis of RT-PCR amplified SbMV-CP cDNA from infected soybean Giza 35 cv. (lane 1 cv. *Phaseolus vulgaris* Giza 3 cv. (lane 2); soybean leaves Giza 111 cv. (lane 3). No amplified fragments of cDNA were obtained from uninfected soybean leaves Giza 35 cv. (lane 4).

PCR is an extremely sensitive and specific technique for the amplification of genomes , and became widely used as adiagnostic technique for infection by phytoplasma (**Schaff et al., 1992**), bacteria (**Minsavage et al., 1994**), viroids (**Rezaian et al.,1992**) and plant viruses belonging to several different groups (e.g.,the geminiviruses, luteoviruses and potyvirus groups (**Henson and French, 1993; Langeveld et al., 1991; Robertson et al., 1991 and Rojas et al., 1993**)). RT-PCR has been used to detect plant viruses (**Singh et al., 1995**). The assay has been applied to enhance detection sensitivety of potyviruses such as plum pox virus (**Wetzel et al., 1991**) sugarcane mosaic virus (**Smith and Van de Velde, 1994**), zucchini yellow mosaic virus (**Thomson et al., 1995**) , two sweet potato viruses (**Colinet et al., 1994**) and SbMV (**Omunyin et al., 1996**).



Fig. (5): 1.2% agarose gel electrophoresis showing PCR amplification of SbMV using specific SbMV1 and SbMV2 primers (~340 bp) from infected soybean Giaza 35 cv., infected *Phaseolus vulgaris* Giza 3 cv. and soybean leaves Giza 111 cv. (lane 2 and 3). Healthy soybean plants showing no amplified product (lane 4). M: DNA Molecular Weight Marker IX (Roche Diagnostics GMBH).

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تم عزل فيروس التبرقش فى فول الصويا من نباتات فول الصويا أصناف كلارك وجيزة ١١١، جيزة ٢٢، جيزة ٨٣، وجيزة ٣٥. أظهرت النباتات المشخصة المصابة بالفيروس أعراضا عبارة عن تبرقش وشفافية العروق علي نباتات فول الصويا صنف كلارك وتبرقش علي صنف جيزة ١١١ او جيزة ٢٢؛ تبرقش خفيف مع اصفرار علي صنف جيزة ٨٣ وتبرقش خفيف علي صنف جيزة ٣٥ ؛ وكذلك تصاب بعض أصناف الفاصوليا والبسلة بهذه العزلة كما أعطت هذه العزلة أعراض عبارة عن بقع ميته علي نباتات الزربيح. أظهرت تجارب النقل الحشري أن الفيروس ينتقل بطريقة غير باقيه بواسطة حشرات المن. كما أظهرت دراسات الميكروسكوب الإلكتروني أن الفيروس يسبب تشوة للميتوكوندريا ويعطى أجسام محتواة عبارة عن pinwheel وهذا الشكل هو ما يميز مجموعة فيروسات Potyvirus وخاصة فيروس SbmV. تم استخدام الطرق السيرولوجية مثل طريقة الأليزا وطريقة البصمة الأمينوجينية فى الكشف عن هذا الفيروس وذلك باستخدام أنتيسيرم المتخصص لهذا الفيروس. كما تم استخدام تفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل العكسى النسخ كطريقة أكثر حساسية ودقة فى الكشف عن العزلة المصرية لفيروس التبرقش فى نباتات فول الصويا وقد أظهرت النتائج وجود حزمة من الحامض النووى الديوكسى الناتج من هذا التفاعل وزنها الجزينى حوالى ٣٤٠ نيوكليوتدة وذلك باستخدام بادئ متخصص فى منطقة الغلاف البروتينى لهذا الفيروس.