



IPPC Draft Diagnostic Protocol – *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) and *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV) (2004-019)

Standards Committee responses to objection received

*(Prepared by Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols, approved by the Standards Committee
(2017_eSC_May_01))*

- [1] During the 01 July – 15 August diagnostic protocol (DP) notification period, the draft DP for *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) and *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV) (2004-019) received some comments and it was objected by the European Union (E.U.) on 29 July, 2016¹.
- [2] In the comments received it was stated that the main reason for the objection was that the DP would be outdated before publication as tests described in the protocol “were quite old and that specificity data was lacking”.
- [3] The IPPC DPs are meant to provide “the minimum requirements for reliable diagnosis” as defined in ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*). The age of a test does not in itself invalidate a test or render it useless, if that test fits then it is fit for purpose. The DPs may be useable by all contracting parties of the IPPC, regardless of economic status or technological advancements hence a range of diagnostic tests is required (ISPM 27). Regular review/update of DPs means that as new and/or improved tests become available DPs can be updated or revised as appropriate. It is indeed true that the full scopes of specificity of some tests are not precisely defined, especially as new tospoviruses were discovered and described. The potential for cross-reactions was identified in paragraph 50 of the DP. Also the lack of data on the specificity of molecular methods is described in paragraphs 58 and 59 of the DP. The issue of specificity does not influence the ability of the appropriate ELISA or PCR methods to detect *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) or *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV), but affects reliable identification.
- [4] All issues identified in the objection are now addressed in the DP and the appropriate changes were made. The DP has been updated to include information on specificity and on cross-reactions, based on the publication by Hassani-Mehraban et al. (2016) as suggested by the EU. This publication has been added to the list of references. Interpretation of ELISA results as described in the EPPO (2015) publication is now added and the reference added to the list of references.

¹ Objection received: *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) and *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV) (2004-019): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/82787/>