

Sunflower broomrape (*Orobanche cumana* Wallr.) in Castilla-León, a traditionally non broomrape infested area in Northern Spain.

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ABSTRACT

Spanish sunflower acreage is basically divided in 3 main and isolated areas, the Guadalquivir valley, Southern Spain, represents the 37 % of the total acreage, the Cuenca area located in Spain's Central plateau, with 28% and the Castilla-León area, Northern Spain, with 29 %. Sunflower broomrape (*Orobanche cumana*, Wallr.) has been present in Spain since the 1960's. From that time on, different waves of dissemination and dispersion of the parasite have been found. The latest correspond to broomrape race E dispersion in the early 1990's and race F in the first years of 2000. These broomrape dissemination waves have been circumscribed only to the Guadalquivir and Cuenca areas. In the Castilla-León area, the presence of broomrape had not been noticed until now. In 2008, a highly virulent broomrape infection focal point (about 300 m²) has been detected in one sunflower plot near Medina del Campo (Valladolid), south of the centre of the Castilla-León area. Racial determination has proved that this broomrape inoculum belongs to race F. Key word: *Orobanche cumana*, broomrape, sunflower, dissemination, F race