

THE EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE DURING THREE DEVELOPMENTAL  
STAGES OF THE WHEAT LEAF RUST SYSTEM

by

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INTRODUCTION

Race-specific resistance to the cereal rusts and some other diseases result from the function of corresponding gene pairs in the host and parasite. Corresponding gene pairs are comprised of genes for resistance in the host and complementary genes for avirulence in the parasite. When both genes are present, the disease process is interrupted. If, however, the gene for resistance or avirulence is absent, the disease process continues uninterrupted (6). The phenotype expressed when a parasite and a host interact is a result of the genotype of both entities functioning in the extant environment. Loegering (33) called this genetic interaction an aegricorpus. An aegricorpus acts as a third entity, deriving its phenotype from the genotypes of the host and parasite and the influence that environment has on all three.

Several studies have shown the influence of environment on the genetic mechanisms which interrupt the association between parasites and their hosts. Waterhouse reported (54) that some cereal rust infection types were altered by temperature changes. Environmental influences are not limited to temperature effects; light also plays an important role in disease development. Light is important in determining the infection type of poplar rust (15,52), stem rust of wheat (1,17, 28), stem rust of oats (24), and corn rust (53). Chemicals also play

a role (30); DDT was shown to influence infection types of stem rust of wheat. DDT, applied to control white flies and other greenhouse insects on the wheat variety Khapli, resulted in high infection types instead of the normally low infection types. Many gene pairs appear to be specific to the temperature at which the parasite and host associate, in several parasite:host systems (2-4, 6-11, 13-14, 16-23, 25-27, 29, 31-32, 34-40, 42-53, 55-56). All corresponding gene pairs in the wheat leaf rust system are temperature specific (6). This phenomenon is not restricted to the wheat leaf rust system, but is universally applicable to all parasite:host systems (6).

Most of the studies have reported the effect of postinoculation environments on expression of resistance. Sharp (47,48) and Mohamed (41) have reported that preinoculation temperatures influenced final infection types. It has been demonstrated that Ipl/Ir1, Ipl6/Ir16, and Ipl7/Ir17 do not function at a 5 C postinoculation temperature (10). An experiment designed to determine if a low preinoculation temperature and moist period temperature also influenced the corresponding gene pairs is reported in this paper.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four lines of wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) were inoculated with two cultures of Puccinia recondita f. sp. tritici Rob. ex Desm. and exposed to eight temperature-regime environments.

The wheat cultivar Thatcher, CI 10003, (abbreviated as TC) and three backcross-derived, near-isogenic lines of TC that vary in the presence or absence of the genes for low reaction Lr1, Lr16, and Lr17, were used to test the effect of preinoculation, moist period, and post inoculation temperatures on infection types. The lines used were LR1(TC), RL6003; LR16(TC), RL6005; and LR17(TC), RL6008; these lines were developed by P. L. Dyck and D. J. Samborski of the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Winnipeg, Manitoba (10). Thatcher and the three backcross lines have the following known genotypes: TC—Hr1Hr16Hr17, LR1(TC)—Lr1Hr16Hr17, LR16(TC)—Hr1Lr16Hr17, and LR17(TC)—Hr1Hr16Hr17. The abbreviation Hr refers to the absence of the Lr gene (10). The recurrent parent Thatcher was included as a control since it had none of the three genes for low reaction under consideration.

These lines were inoculated with Puccinia recondita f. sp. tritici cultures PRIUS3 and PRIUS21. Culture PRIUS3 had corresponding genes for low pathogenicity to Lr1, Lr16, and Lr17, when grown at continuous 20 C (10). Culture PRIUS21 had no identified genes for low pathogenicity corresponding to any genes for low reaction in the wheat lines utilized in the study (10).

Eight environments were created by varying sequences of 5 C and 20 C at each of three different phases of infection: preinoculation (PR), moist period (MP), and postinoculation (PT). A random design was used to determine the temperature each set of plants received during each phase.

Ten to twelve seeds of each of the four wheat lines were planted separately in one of the four positions in each four-inch diameter plastic pot. Order of host lines within pots, plants to be inoculated with the different cultures, and pots to be placed in the different environments were randomly selected. The experiment was performed three times with four replications of each parasite:host:environment treatments in each run. The seedlings were grown in a soil mix consisting of three parts loam:one part sand:one part peat moss. No supplemental nutrients were added throughout the experiment; water was added as needed. Each pot was marked to establish the first relative plant position in that pot. Plants to be placed in 5 C preinoculation treatment were seeded 25 days early, to compensate for slow seedling growth at the lower temperature. The remaining pots were seeded 10 days before inoculation. The staggered planting dates permitted a uniform inoculation.

Inoculation was accomplished by spraying fully expanded primary leaves with urediniospores suspended in Soltrol 170 oil. The inoculated seedlings were then placed inside black plastic bags, misted with tap water, sealed, and transferred to the appropriate moist period. The seedlings were removed from the bags after 16 hours and then transferred to the various postinoculation treatments.



Three types of data were recorded. First, the date of first sporulation was recorded and used to ascertain the length of the latent period. First sporulation was considered to occur when the majority of pustules were producing spores. Latent period was recorded as the time from inoculation to the date of first sporulation. If no sporulation was observed then the latent period was recorded as the length of the observation period. Next, estimates of the relative number of infection sites were recorded. Three categories were used: low (approximately 1 to 10 pustules per leaf), moderate (approximately 11 to 20), and heavy (21 and above). Finally, the amount of sporulation observed for each near-isogenic line was coded at the end of the observation period, utilizing the system proposed by Browder (5) and Browder and Young (12), during the postinfection period. Color slide photographs were made, after the observation period, of representative observations of the materials to illustrate differences within the results and determine consistency of the three experimental runs.

## RESULTS

Results from combining four host lines to two *P. recondita* cultures are summarized in Tables 1 through 4. Table 1 summarizes the statistical analysis of the experiment. Differences in the relative amount of sporulation, relative number of infection sites, and latent periods were consistent among replications and trials when compared to Thatcher.

All four lines, regardless of environmental treatment, were observed with high infection types when associated with PRIUS21. These results indicate that PRIUS21 has a genotype of HplHpl6Hpl7. The only discernible difference in the associations between the three near-isogenic lines with PRIUS21 occurred when the moist period temperature was 5 C. Numbers of infection sites were greatly reduced, from the heavy infection obtained by the other treatments to as little as a total of five pustules on all of the plants in one position (Table 3). This phenomenon was consistent on all four lines, except for LR1(TC) in the 20 C postinoculation environment. The total amount of spores produced per treatment by the pustules remained constant even though the relative number of infection sites had decreased (Table 2). Latent periods were lengthened with increasing exposure to 5 C (Table 4). Plants held constantly at 20 C for the preinoculation, moist period, and postinoculation periods had aegricorpi that were the first to sporulate, while the plants treated with constant 5 C had aegricorpi that sporulated last. Only LR1(TC) had a latent period longer than in

Table 1. Statistical analysis of  $I_{01}/I_{11}$ ,  $I_{02}/I_{12}$ , and  $I_{03}/I_{13}$  interactions involving latent period, relative mean sporulation, and relative number of infection sites

Source	Latent Period			Relative Sporulation			Infection Sites					
	DF	Type III SS	F Value	DF	Type III SS	F Value	DF	Type III SS	F Value	DF		
CUT	1	378.58	15.60	0.0001	1	673.48	759.14	0.0001	1	1.06	2.14	0.14
LINE	3	910.82	12.51	0.0001	3	318.05	119.50	0.0001	3	26.73	17.92	0.0001
CULT*LINE	3	799.97	10.99	0.0001	3	314.43	118.14	0.0001	3	40.79	27.36	0.0001
CULT*ER	1	4.79	0.20	0.67	1	0.30	0.34	0.56	1	3.27	6.59	0.01
CULT*REP	1	128.91	5.31	0.02	1	0.29	0.33	0.57	1	37.81	76.08	0.0001
CULT*PT	1	169.89	7.00	0.01	1	444.55	501.10	0.0001	1	14.43	29.03	0.0001
LINE*ER	3	14.05	0.19	0.90	3	0.06	0.02	1.00	3	1.03	0.63	0.57
LINE*REP	3	7.03	0.10	0.96	3	3.07	1.15	0.33	3	0.61	0.41	0.75
LINE*PT	3	356.83	4.90	0.0022	3	304.22	114.31	0.0001	3	25.35	17.00	0.0001
CULT*LINE*REP	3	88.49	1.22	0.30	3	2.05	0.77	0.51	3	2.92	1.96	0.12
CULT*LINE*ER	3	50.35	0.69	0.56	3	1.13	0.43	0.74	3	0.23	0.19	0.91
CULT*LINE*PT	3	683.66	9.39	0.0001	3	292.07	109.74	0.0001	3	21.61	14.49	0.0001
CULT*LINE*REP*PT	32	1006.98	1.30	0.13	32	27.40	0.97	0.52	32	17.40	1.03	0.33
ER	1	757.66	31.24	0.0001	1	7.65	8.62	0.0034	1	39.54	79.55	0.0001
REP	1	966.41	39.83	0.0001	1	23.81	26.84	0.0001	1	92.58	186.28	0.0001
PT	1	84232.67	3471.93	0.0001	1	889.26	1082.48	0.0001	1	1.58	3.18	0.03
REP	3	16.18	0.22	0.88	3	2.19	0.82	0.48	3	1.93	1.33	0.26

Table 2. The effect of preinoculation, moist period, and postinoculation temperatures on mean sporulation<sup>a</sup> on two cultures and four lines

Treatments (PR-MP-PT) <sup>b</sup>	Mean sporulation with Culture x Line interaction							
	PRIUS3				PRIUS21			
	LR1	LR16	LR17	TC	LR1	LR16	LR17	TC
5- 5- 5	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.5	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0
20- 5- 5	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
5-20- 5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
20-20- 5	7.9	8.3	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.5
20-20-20	0.4	5.5	3.0	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
5-20-20	0.0	5.0	3.6	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.2
20- 5-20	0.3	4.3	2.5	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.5
5- 5-20	0.0	5.0	2.1	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.6	7.6

<sup>a</sup>Mean sporulation on a 0-9 scale with 0 = no sporulation and 9 = largest amount of sporulation.

<sup>b</sup>PR = preinoculation temperature in Celsius; MP = moist period temperature; PT = postinoculation temperature.

Table 3. The effect of preinoculation, moist period, and postinoculation temperatures on the relative number of infection sites<sup>a</sup> on two cultures and four lines

Treatments (PR-MP-PT) <sup>b</sup>	Infection sites with Culture x Line interaction							
	PRIUS3				PRIUS21			
	LR1	LR16	LR17	TC	C			
5- 5- 5	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.5	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0
20- 5- 5	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
5-20- 5	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.0
20-20- 5	7.9	8.3	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.5
20-20-20	0.4	5.5	3.0	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9
5-20-20	0.0	5.0	3.6	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.2
20- 5-20	0.3	4.3	2.5	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.6	7.5
5- 5-20	0.0	5.0	2.1	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.6	7.6

<sup>a</sup>Mean sporulation on a 0-9 scale with 0 = no sporulation and 9 = largest amount of sporulation.

<sup>b</sup>PR = preinoculation temperature in Celsius; MP = moist period temperature; PT = postinoculation temperature.

Table 4. The effect of preinoculation, moist period, and postinoculation temperatures on latent period (in days) on two cultures and four lines

Treatments (PR-MP-PT) <sup>b</sup>	Latent period with Culture x Line interaction							
	PRIUS3				PRIUS21			
	LR1	LR16	LR17	TC	LR1	LR16	LR17	TC
5- 5- 5	34.4	34.0	35.4	36.6	37.6	35.7	33.1	35.1
20- 5- 5	32.8	31.4	32.0	33.1	34.9	34.9	34.4	30.0
5-20- 5	36.6	32.8	35.4	33.0	31.1	31.8	31.4	32.7
20-20- 5	30.6	28.1	28.9	28.3	27.7	27.9	28.2	28.9
20-20-20	17.9 <sup>a</sup>	8.6	8.8	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.1
5-20-20	17.2 <sup>a</sup>	9.5	9.7	8.4	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
20- 5-20	18.3 <sup>a</sup>	9.8	10.3	8.7	8.9	8.8	8.7	9.2
5- 5-20	19.3 <sup>a</sup>	9.3	11.5	9.0	10.2	12.0	10.0	12.3

<sup>a</sup>When no sporulation was observed a value of 21 (length of observation) was given for the latent period.

<sup>b</sup>Preinoculation temperature in Celsius; MP = moist period temperature; PT = postinoculation temperature.

the 5-5-5, and that occurred within the 5-20-5 treatment. Corresponding gene pairs Hp1/Ir1 and Hp17/Ip17 performed in a manner identical to that of Hp1/Hr1, Hp17/Hr17, and Hp16/Hr16 in all treatments; gene pair Hp16/Ip16 did not perform the same as Hp16/Hr16 (Table 4). At a constant temperature of 20 C for all three periods, PRIUS21:IR16(TC) were observed with similar sporulation amounts, latent period, and relative number of infection sites as compared to the other associations, but a chlorotic ring surrounded all of the pustules. This chlorotic ring was associated only with the constant 20 C treatment and did not seem to alter any of the parameters being measured, yet it was clearly detectable.

Variations in sporulation were clearly visible with the associations of all three isolines and PRIUS3. Browder and Eversmeyer (1986) found that temperatures at which the three near-isogenic lines and the parasite were placed regulated aegricorpus phenotype. The PRIUS3:IR1(TC) association was interrupted when the environment was maintained at a constant 20 C. By lowering the temperature, the association could be reinitiated. Only when the postinoculation temperature was at 20 C was the interaction interrupted. Both the preinoculation and moist period temperatures could be at 20 C, but when the postinoculation temperature was 5 C, a high infection type would result. The opposite also held true; i. e., the preinoculation and moist periods could be set at 5 C, but a low infection type would result from a 20 C postinoculation temperature (Table 2). Relative sporulation amounts of the PRIUS3:IR1(TC) association with a 20 C postinoculation treatment were a

.4 or lower on the inoculated leaves. However, a 5 C postinoculation treatment had a relative sporulation rating of between 7.5 and 8 (Table 2). Regardless of the previous temperature treatments, the postinoculation treatment determined the amount of relative sporulation. This holds true for both LR1(TC) and LR17(TC) associating with PRIUS3. PRIUS3:LR16(TC) associations did not result in the same low relative amounts of sporulation as did LR1(TC) or LR17(TC). Instead, a rating of 5 was recorded when the association was interrupted at the 20 C temperature. At a postinoculation temperature of 5 C, the relative amount of sporulation was the same as for Thatcher and PRIUS3 at all temperatures, but the latent period was increased and the relative number of infection sites decreased. PRIUS3:LR17(TC) had an average sporulation rating of around 3 at 20 C (postinoculation). Once again, the parasite:host association was interrupted with a postinoculation temperature of 20 C, but was successful at 5 C. At a postinoculation temperature of 5 C, all three corresponding gene pairs produced similar aegricorpus phenotypes to that of Thatcher with PRIUS3 (Table 2). Utilizing infection types obtained at a 20 C postinoculation temperature for the three isolines with PRIUS3, the extrapolated parasite genotype for PRIUS3 is Ip1Ip16Ip17.

The number of infection sites decreased with increasing lengths of time during which the aegricorpus was being established at the lower temperature. PRIUS3:host associations had more infection sites at the lower temperatures than did the PRIUS21:host associations. Although the frequency was recorded as "low" on the constant 5 C treatments and



5 C moist periods, infection sites could be observed on most of the plants inoculated with PRIUS3, but PRIUS21 associations often were observed on only a few leaves of each individual host. Apparently, the relative number of infection sites was determined by the temperature of the moist period. Plants grown in 20 C moist periods produced the highest number of infections while associations in 5 C produced the fewest (Table 3). As with the associations involving PRIUS21, a constant 5 C treatment had the fewest number of infections, but the constant 20 C treatment had the highest number.

Length of the latent period was directly related to the duration of exposure of the associations to 5 C (Table 4). All results were compared to the results observed from the 20-20-20 environment. Preinoculation temperatures of 20 C had the shortest latent periods. Moist periods of 20 C also shortened latent periods, but did not have as much impact as the higher preinoculation temperatures. Treatments of 5 C increased latent periods, with postinoculation having the largest effect, moist period, and preinoculation the least.

## DISCUSSION

The results of this experiment support the concept that aegricorpus genotypes are expressed in specific environments and are dependent upon the parasite and host genotypes. They also indicate that the aegricorpus phenotype observed is dependent upon the postinoculation temperature and not preinoculation temperature for the Ip1/Lr1, Ip16/Lr16, and Ip17/Lr17 corresponding gene pairs in the Puccinia recondita:Triticum aestivum system.

Although this experiment demonstrated that, for these three gene pairs, postinoculation temperature was the determining factor, in the Puccinia recondita:Triticum aestivum system, preinoculation temperature could alter aegricorpus' phenotypes. Sharp has detailed the impact of preinoculation temperatures on infection types associated with Puccinia striiformis and Triticum aestivum. In his 1962 paper, he describes how a previously undescribed race of P. striiformis produced different infection types with various wheat varieties. When the parasite and host were allowed to associate in a 15 C preinoculation environment, some associations, such as with Omar and Idaed, produced a "susceptible" reaction, but a "resistant" reaction resulted when the association occurred in a 24 C environment. However, the opposite reaction was observed on other varieties. Webster and Holzapfels associations were labeled as "resistant" in a 15 C preinoculation temperature, but "susceptible" in a 24 C environment. A third group of varieties produced no change in infection type, regardless the preinoculation

temperature. Sharp also notes that all of the varieties investigated were "resistant" with a postinoculation temperature of continuous 24 C, but by varying the length of exposure in the postinoculation period to 24 C, the interactions became variable. Mohamed (41) wrote of the sensitivity of the association between Race 139 of Puccinia graminis var. tritici and the wheat variety Lerma 52, when exposed to various preinoculation, moist period, and postinoculation temperatures. Warmer preinoculation temperatures increased the number of infection sites and increased the infection type. The same phenomenon occurred with moist and postinoculation periods.

The results from this experiment support both Mohamed and Sharp's assertions that temperatures influence disease systems. Although preinoculation and moist period temperatures did not alter the final aegricorpus phenotype (relative mean sporulation), they did influence the length of the latent period and the relative number of infection sites. All of the corresponding gene pair and Thatcher associations were effected equally by the lower preinoculation and moist period temperatures. The corresponding gene pairs produced reactions not significantly different from nonfunctional gene pairs (Table 1). From these results it can be concluded that temperature effects not only the aegricorpus, but the host and parasite separately. There are two levels at which temperature influences a disease system. First, temperature effects the host and parasite separately, before they can interact with each other. Tables 3 and 4 demonstrate that a low preinoculation and moist period temperature lengthened latent period and lowered the relative number of infection sites of all parasite:host

associations. If only the corresponding gene pairs had been affected, then the PRIUS21:LINE associations would not have demonstrated the same effect. However, all of the PRIUS21:LINE associations did perform the same as the corresponding gene pairs. The second point of influence is on the aegricorpus itself. At a postinoculation temperature of 20 C, the corresponding gene pairs interrupted the association. When the postinoculation temperature was lowered to 5 C the association was not interrupted. Evidence of this point of influence is given by examining the mean sporulation of all eight temperature regimes and noting that the PRIUS3 associations had mean sporulation values that did not vary significantly from PRIUS3:Thatcher and PRIUS21:LINE associations at 5 C PT (Table 1). When the postinoculation temperature was at 20 C, there was a significant difference in the resulting mean sporulation values for I<sub>p1</sub>/I<sub>r1</sub>, I<sub>p16</sub>/I<sub>r16</sub>, and I<sub>p17</sub>/I<sub>r17</sub> when comparing them to PRIUS3:Thatcher and all PRIUS21 associations (Table 1).

In conclusion, the results from one experiment examining a small subsection of all of the corresponding gene pairs of a parasite:host system should not be used to extrapolate to the remaining corresponding gene pairs within that system or other systems. One conclusion that can be seen is the influence that environment exercises over parasite:host systems. Environment not only affects corresponding gene pairs, but also the parasite, the host, and the other genotypes of the aegricorpus other than corresponding gene pairs. While infection types are determined by gene pairs, the length of latent period and the number of infection sites can be influenced by the environment without the presence of corresponding gene pairs.

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THE EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE DURING THREE DEVELOPMENTAL  
STAGES OF THE WHEAT LEAF RUST SYSTEM

by

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## ABSTRACT

Experiments were designed to determine the effect of preinoculation temperatures on the Lp1/Lr1, Lp16/Lr16, and Lp17/Lr17 corresponding gene pairs of the wheat leaf rust system. Three near-isogenic lines of Triticum aestivum, with the Lr1, Lr16, or Lr17 genes, and their recurrent parent Thatcher, were inoculated with two cultures of Puccinia recondita f. sp. tritici. From previous studies, it was determined that, at 20C, one culture (PRTUS3) is virulent on Thatcher and avirulent on the isolines, and that the second rust culture (PRTUS21) is virulent on all four lines. The materials were then exposed to eight different temperature combinations of preinoculation, moist (infection), and postinoculation periods. Two temperatures, 5C and 20C, were used in the various periods. Data obtained from the experiment indicate that, for all three corresponding gene pairs, postinoculation temperature determines the relative amount of spores produced, while the preinoculation temperature has no effect on the final spore numbers. The moist period temperature regulates the number of infection sites but not the infection type. Exposing the various associations to low temperatures during the moist period decreased the number of infection sites on the four lines. Latent period was lengthened by increasing the amount of time the materials were exposed to 5C. Low temperatures during the postinoculation period resulted in the failure of all three corresponding gene pairs to produce their characteristic low infection types when associating with PRTUS3. Temperature did not alter the infection type associated with PRTUS21 and the four lines.