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