## National Plant Diagnostic Network Virus Diagnostics workshop

# Serology-based assays







## What are Viruses?

-- Viruses are very small (submicroscopic) infectious particles (virions) composed (minimally) of a protein coat and a nucleic acid core. Some viruses may also be enveloped by a membrane (with the addition of glycoproteins or lipids).

-- They carry genetic information encoded in their nucleic acid, which typically specifies two or more proteins. Translation of the genome (to produce proteins) or transcription and replication (to produce more nucleic acid) takes place within the host cell and uses some of the host's biochemical "machinery".

-- Viruses do not capture or store free energy and are not functionally active outside their host. They are therefore parasites (and usually pathogens) but are not usually regarded as genuine microorganisms.

-- Most viruses are restricted to a particular type of host. Some infect bacteria, [are called bacteriophages], whereas others infect algae, protozoa, fungi [mycoviruses], invertebrates, insects, vertebrates or vascular plants.











POLYCLONAL ANTIBODIES	MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES		
<ul> <li>Immunogen: Must be pure. Antibodies are generated to 'all' proteins and analytes in the immunogen.</li> <li>Binds specific epitope?: Typically no.</li> <li>Advantages: Diverse antibodies against different epitopes. More tolerant to changes to the antigen (denature, polymorphism, heterogeneity).</li> <li>Production: Low cost. 2–4 months. Entirely in animal models (rabbit, goat, norse).</li> <li>Disadvantages <ul> <li>Lot-to-lot heterogeneity: High</li> <li>Shelf life: Limited</li> <li>Affinity and specificity: Vary for a given target.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Immunogen: 'Crude' or semi-purified antigens are acceptable. Antibodies generated to non-target antigens (epitopes) are not selected in hybridoma screening assays.</li> <li>Binds specific epitope?: Yes.</li> <li>Advantages: Highly specific recognition of only one epitope of a target antigen. Minimum 'noise'.</li> <li>Lot-to-lot heterogeneity: Low</li> <li>Shelf life: Unlimited</li> <li>Production: Higher cost. 6-8 months. Requires animal models with tumor parent cell line (mouse, rat).</li> <li>Disadvantages - More vulnerable to loss of epitope through mutation .</li> </ul>		







## Serological assays = antibody-based - 8

Virus-specific vs. Broad-spectrum (highly cross-reactive) antibodies

**Table.** Summary of an example of ELISA results of various healthy and potyvirus-infected ornamental plant samples using the broad-spectrum reacting genus potyvirus monoclonal antibody PTY-1 in an antigen-coated plate assay.

Sample	ELISA A <sub>405</sub> OD	Sample	ELISA A <sub>405</sub> OD
Euphorbia milii (EuRSV)	0.9	Osteospermum (LMV)	1.1
Omphalodes (OmVY)	1.6	Schizostylis 'Kafir Lily' (BYMV)	1.8
Spiranthes Orchids (SpiMV-2, -3)	2.2	Tricyrtis 'Toad Lily' (TrVY)	0.7
Spiranthes cernua (DsMV)	0.6	Verbena (BYMV-PMV)	0.8
Lily (LMoV)	1.2	Ornithogalum (OrMV)	2.3
Brugmansia (CDV)	1.9	New Guinea Impatiens (IFBV)	0.8
Potato virus Y (in tobacco)	2.8	Bean yellow mosaic virus (purified)	2.3
Healthy Nicotiana tobacum	<0.1		





Cloning and Construction of Single-chain Variable Fragments (scFv) to Cucumber Mosaic Virus and Production of Transgenic Plants		Transgenic Plants Expressing a Single-chain Fv Antibody to Toma spotted will virus (TSWV) are Resistant to TSWV Systemic Infectio				
Present addre	J.A. Aebig <sup>14</sup> , H.H. Albert <sup>2</sup> , B.L. Zhu <sup>13</sup> , J.S. Hu <sup>3</sup> and H.T. Hu <sup>1</sup> PNFRU, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dpt, Agr. Below, H.B. 20705 [PNFRU], Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dpt, Agr. Below, H.B. 20707 [Pept; Plant and Barvion, Protection Science, University of Hawaii, Henolulu, HI 90822 Present address: NHN NALD NYDU, 56404 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20850, USA Present address: FFA Sciences, 3550 General Atomics Court, San Diego, CA 92121.		M.Q. Xu <sup>1</sup> , H.P. Li <sup>1</sup> , M. Wang <sup>1</sup> , Z.C. Wu <sup>1</sup> , W.B. Borth <sup>1</sup> , H.T. Hsu <sup>2</sup> and J.S. Hu <sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Department of Planat and Environmental Protection Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Henolubu, HI 96822 USA <sup>2</sup> USDA-ARS, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, Beltsville, MD 20705 USA			
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### Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA] - 10

#### Difficulty differentiating between a low-positive and negative? Background signal (noise!) is a common ELISA problem.

The good news is that there are many recommendations out there for how to resolve the issue. The only problem is...your assay is unique just like everyone else's assay. The best place to start is to rule out the classic culprits.

#### **Top 5 Key Causes**

- 1. Insufficient blocking.
- 2. Insufficient plate washing.
- 3. Cross reactivity between antibodies and samples on the plate surface.
- 4. Primary (capture), secondary (detecting), or conjugate antibody concentration is too high.
- 5. Incubation time is excessive for your sample antibodies and/or substrate.

### **Recommended Solutions**

- 1. Consider an alternative blocker, the same blocker may not work for all ELISAs.
- 2. Wash 3 times with 3 minute soak periods between each wash.
- A. Dilute your antibodies and samples in your block solution to avoid cross-reaction.
   B. Remove non-target specific antibodies [cross-absorb polyclonal antisera against "healthy sap" using membrane-bound extract].
- 4. Titrate your antibodies to a concentration that provides the right sensitivity.
- 5. Try shortening your incubation times.



























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Questions? Thanks!

...Then break...