

New Host Plants of *Erwinia amylovora* in Bulgaria

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Z. Naturforsch. **60c**, 893–898 (2005); received April 28/May 30, 2005

Nine strains of *Erwinia amylovora* were isolated from new host plants in Bulgaria – chokeberry and strawberry. The strains were characterized morphologically and biochemically using the API 20E and BIOLOG system. It was established that they showed three different API 20E metabolic profiles, not found by previous studies of *E. amylovora*. All strains were identified as *E. amylovora* due to their metabolic fingerprint patterns obtained by the BIOLOG system. The identification was confirmed by PCR amplification of a specific region of plasmid pEA29 and genome *ams*-region. This study is the first characterization and identification of *E. amylovora* strains isolated from chokeberry and strawberry by the API 20E and BIOLOG system and by polymerase chain reaction.

Key words: *Erwinia amylovora*, Chokeberry, Strawberry