

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E777_04

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard pages 99/100.

Question:

On the issue of the 20-year presence for the particular virus, I understand that Dr Peacock said during a National Press Club address on 16 June 2003 that there was an error and only one strand of the virus was believed to be present in Australia. Was that the case?

Can we reconcile the two statements: the one made at the National Press Club by the then head of the division and the view that two strains of the virus were present in Australia. I take it you share the view that there were two strains present.

Could you clarify the apparent discrepancy between the evidence you have presented today and the statements at the National Press Club?

I am interested in this apparent conflict between a recent arrival and the 20-year claim, whether or not there is one strain or two.

Answer:

Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

Based on its analysis, CSIRO has concluded there is only one strain of Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus in Australia, but that there are slight variants of that strain. This variation supports the conclusion of the National Management Group that the Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus is established and widespread in south-eastern Australia and has been for a long time without causing noticeable production losses.