

## ABSTRACT

To determine the importance of weeds associated to *Capsicum annuum* in the field as a inoculum source of *Potato virus Y*, a survey was carried out during the season 2003 – 2004.

A total of 51 samples showing virus like symptoms were collected from peppers and weeds plants from two different commercial fields at Curicó, Maule Region. All these samples were analysed through DAS –ELISA using commercial kits, at the Phytopathology laboratory, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad de Talca. At the same times *Nicotiana tabacum* healthy plants were inoculated with tissue extract obtained from each sample.

The virus was detected in 57,6% and 40% of the samples collected in both locations respectively . In the first field the incidence of PVY was 63,3% in the weed samples and 50% in the samples obtained from the pepper plants. In the second location surveyed PVY was found both weeds and pepper in 40% of the samples.

The results obtained with ELISA resulted the same with the inoculation of *Nicotiana tabacum* plants is 68,6% of the samples.