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## Fusarium species in the grains of spelt (Triticum spelta L.) from fields in Hungary

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**S** pelt (*Triticum spelta L.*) is well known traditional cereal used in human diet and animal feed as well. The cultivation of spelt is popular among farmers especially in ecological farming. However, limited scientific information is available on pests (invertebrates, fungi and weeds) from spelt that pose risk for the proper cultivation practice, food and feed safety and quality. Therefore, a program started with development of pest management of spelt with surveying the occurrence of pest species, their densities and damage in selected spelt fields in Hungary. Our initial results on Heteropteran (sucking) pests have already been published. The *Fusarium* species are widespread fungal pathogens on small-grains including spelt in Europe. *Fusarium* species are known to produce mycotoxins. Cereal products are one of the main sources of mycotoxins in both human and animal diets. Therefore detection, identification and control of *Fusarium* species which can infect spelt is important. According to surveys, *fusarium* head blight (FHB) on wheat are predominantly caused by F. graminearum and F. culmorum. In our studies we sampled spelt grains from fields and isolated *Fusarium* species from kernels. The laboratory study showed that the highest percentage of spelt kernels were infected by *Fusarium* poae. Identification of *Fusarium* species starts with rearing the pathogens on artificial media. However, rearing on modified Nash and Snyder medium is difficult due to the rapid growth of Alternaria and other fungi contamination. The PCR based identification confirmed in most cases the traditional morphology based results.