

function. Knowledge of CP function(s) in a particular plant–virus interaction will be useful to design gene constructs.

Since CP accumulation levels in transgenic plants do not always correlate with resistance, newly generated transgenic plant lines are now frequently tested for virus resistance before further characterization. However, if the objective of a transformation experiment is also to study the mechanism of CPMR, it is necessary to determine transcript and protein levels in the transgenic plants. Gene constructs encoding nontranslatable and antisense CP transcripts should be included in the experiment. If possible, transgenic plants should be inoculated with virions and viral nucleic acid, and replication in isolated protoplasts should be determined.

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