

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E778_04

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 100.

Question:

Is it the case that an officer of the plant industry division visited, either formally or informally, any overseas laboratory during 2003 where studies of the wheat streak mosaic virus were being undertaken?

Answer:

Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

A CSIRO scientist conducted a visit of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln and Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Panhandle Res. & Ext. Center, Scottsbluff on 27 and 28 May 2003.

The purpose of the visit was to find out more about the Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus, to understand its epidemiology, and to seek advice regarding the course of actions that could be taken to minimise potential impacts in Australia's grains industry.

The National Management Group subsequently agreed on Friday 30 May 2003 that based on available evidence, 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. The original source of the virus is unknown.