Procedures Used to Extract Double-strand RNA

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A general procedure for isolating double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) was described. The procedure is based on conventional techniques employing CF-11 chromatography and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The procedure was adapted for routine use in screening for dsRNA in small quantities of *Endothia parasitica.* A method based on the differeutial solubility of nucleic acids in lithium chloride was judged to be useful primarily for isolating dsRNA from batch samples.

All virulent strains isolated In the *field* lacked dsRNA, but many suspected hypovirulent strains contained dsRNA, as did all isolates obtained from Italian and French healing cankers. The dsRNA gel profiles exhibited one, two, and three major bands on 5 percent gels. All European strains tested appear to have a single common band. Current work is on determining the dsRNA status of isolates obtained from hypovirulent-like cankers on American chestnut growing in Michigan.