

# Bibliography of Viroid Reviews through 1983

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Forty-eight review articles dealing with viroids were published between 1971 and 1983. About 80% of the articles were contributed by two groups, i.e., T.O. Diener and associates (60%) and H.L. Sanger and associates (20%). As high as 10 review articles were published in the year 1979 and 1983, respectively.

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Quarante-huit articles de synthèse sur les viroïdes furent publiés de 1971 à 1983. Environ 80% de ces articles proviennent de deux groupes de chercheurs soit, T.O. Diener et associés (60%) et H.L. Sanger et associés (20%). Jusqu'à dix de ces articles furent publiés en 1979 et 1983 respectivement.

## Introduction

In the early 1970's it was reported that spindle tuber disease of potatoes was caused by a low-molecular weight RNA called a viroid. Since that time review articles on viroids have appeared frequently. Some of the articles have appeared in medical journals or journals not commonly available to most plant pathologists. These early reviews describe the prevalent thinking about the viroids before their true nature was elucidated by biophysical and biochemical methods. Therefore, these reviews are of historical significance. In order to make these titles available to plant pathologists, I have compiled a listing of the review articles published between 1971 and 1983. It appears that viroids are the most reviewed plant pathogen to date!

## Result and Discussion

Table 1 shows that a total of 48 review articles were published in a 13- year period, an average of almost four articles a year. Although there is no consistent pattern, certain years appear to have more than others. For example, a total of 10 reviews appeared in 1979. This could account for the increased publicity generated by the complete sequence analysis of potato spindle tuber viroid by German scientists the previous year. Similarly, there were ten reviews in year 1983, which may reflect the use of viroid in recombinant DNA experimentation.

From the bibliographical list it becomes very clear that over 60% of the reviews were written by T.O. Diener and associates, followed by about 20% by H.L. Sanger and associates. In the remaining 20% are the other authors from Canada, United States and U.S.S.R.

Table 1. The number of review articles dealing with viroids, published between 1971 and 1983

Year	Number of articles	References
1971	1	4
1972	1	5
1973	2	6,7
1974	5	8,9,10,11,31
1975	0	
1976	3	12,13,42
1977	6	14,15,16,17,28,29
1978	1	18
1979	10	3,19,20,21,36,37,43,44,45,47
1980	3	30,38,39
1981	4	22,23,24,32
1982	2	25,40
1983	10	1,2,26,27,32,34,35,41,46,48
Total	48	
Average	3.7	

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