

Attempts to Produce Antibodies to
Synthetic Double-strand RNA Poly
Inosine: Cytosine

STOCKHAUSEN, Anne
West Virginia University
Department of Plant Science
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506

Attempts were made to produce antibodies to synthetic double-strand RNA (dsRNA) as a technique for rapid field assay for dsRNA in *Endothia parasitica* and to correlate the amounts and types of dsRNA with hypovirulence. A weakly synthetic poly I:0 (Inosine:Cytosine) injection was administered intramuscularly to 4,5-pound New Zealand white rabbits for 3 weeks, followed by an intravenous injection the 4th week. Then the rabbits were bled weekly for 3 weeks. Immuno-diffusion tests of the serum were used as a qualitative probe for the presence of dsRNA in fungal extracts. A second series of injections were given 1 month after the last bleeding. These experiments have been discontinued because the attempts to produce antibodies to dsRNA were unsuccessful.