First report of tobacco mosaic virus infecting *Benincasa hispida* in Jiangxi Province in China

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Foliar virus-like symptoms, including green-yellow mosaic and mottling were observed on winter melon, *Benincasa hispida*, in Pengze County, Jiangxi Province, in eastern China in July 2017. Leaf samples were collected from six symptomatic winter melon plants. All samples were assayed by western blotting using antisera to cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (Zhu et al. 2013). Results revealed that the six samples were positive for TMV but negative for CMV. RT-PCR was performed using primers identical to nucleotides 5354 to 5369 (TMV-MP-F: 5'-GTTT CTGTCCGCTTTC-3') and complementary to nucleotides 5595 to 5610 (TMV-MP-R: 5'-GTTCTTGTTCCGGCACT-3'), which were designed to amplify the partial movement protein region of TMV. The expected 257 bp amplicon was amplified from the six symptomatic leaf samples that were positive for TMV in western blotting assay. DNA products were purified and cloned into the pMD19-T vector (TaKaRa) (Zhu et al. 2017) and sequenced. Results showed that the six TMV sequences were identical. Therefore, only one of these sequences was submitted to GenBank as accession no. MG214779. Nucleotide BLAST analysis revealed that the sequence showed 100% nucleotide identity with

another TMV isolate (AF273221). The virus was mechanically transmissible by inoculating sap from symptomatic winter melon leaves to *Nicotiana tabacum*, which showed foliar green–dark green mosaic, distortion and blistering and tested positive for TMV by RT-PCR with the aforementioned primers. To our knowledge, this is the first report of TMV in winter melon in Jiangxi Province in China.

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