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COVER



Apple stem pitting virus (ASPV) is the type species of the genus *Foveavirus*, family *Betaflexiviridae* in the order *Tymovirales*. The virus can cause different pear diseases. Nowadays, the infection status and molecular characteristics of the virus in old pear trees have never been investigated. ASPV isolate LYC is identified from an over 300-year-old tree of a local *Pyrus bretschneideri* cultivar 'Chili' specifically grown at Laiyang area, Shandong Province, China. ASPV-LYC possesses a chimeric genome harboring a recombination region, is serologically and biologically related to other ASPV isolates. It provides clues for understanding molecular evolution of ASPV. The photo is provided by the research team of Prof. Hong Ni from Huazhong Agricultural University, China. See pages 2549–2560 for details.