

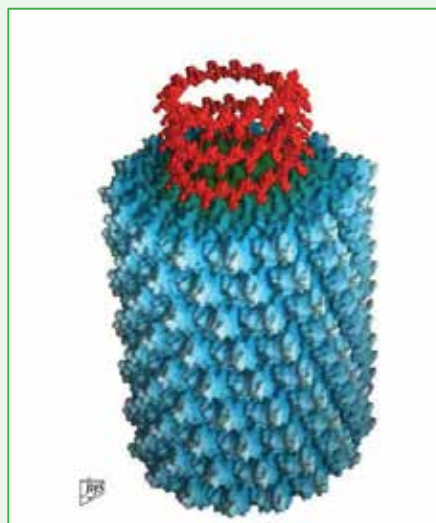
Viruses

- Viruses are very, very small. This helps them to squeeze into plants.
- Often the viruses are injected into plant tissue by insects like aphids.
- Viruses can turn plants into 'virus making machines' by using their code, which is coiled up inside the virus.
- Because the plant is tricked into making lots of copies of the virus, the plant doesn't grow as much.
- Viruses can cause leaves to have spots, a bit like our skin when we get chicken pox.



Tobacco mosaic virus

- Lots of identical coat blocks: easy to put together to make new viruses.
- A coil of virus code: tricks the plant into becoming a 'virus making machine'.



Created by the British Society for Plant Pathology (2013)

Images: 1. Credit BSPP Outreach, 2. TMV symptoms on orchid leaves by the USDA Forest Service, Department of Plant Pathology Archive, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org, 3. Grasp image by J.Y. Sgro, UW-Madison, from PDB data 1VTM.