Structure-function relationship between tobacco mosaic virus coat protein and hypersensitivity in Nicotiana sylvestris.

Alterations in the structure of the tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) coat protein affect the elicitation of the N' gene for hypersensitivity (HR) in Nicotiana sylvestris. A model for HR elicitation is proposed, in which disassembly of coat protein aggregates exposes a host "receptor" binding site.