

Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizal (VAM) Association With the Roots of Red Rot Resistant and Susceptible Varieties When Inoculated with *Colletotrichum falcatum* Went

CH. VARAPRASADA RAO AND M. SRINIVAS

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See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

**CH. VARAPRASADA
ROA**

Department of Plant
Pathology, Agricultural
Research Station
Ragolu,
SRIKAKULAM (A.P.)
INDIA

SUMMARY

Varieties resistant to red rot (*Colletotrichum falcatum* M.) showed higher per cent colonization of vesicular arbuscular mycorrhiza (VAM) compared to susceptible varieties both under inoculated and uninoculated conditions of sugarcane.

Key words :

Red rot,
*Colletotrichum
falcatum*,
Vesicular
arbuscular
Mycorrhiza,
Colonization

Sugarcane is one of the important commercial crops in India. Among several diseases attacking sugarcane, red rot is the major disease causing severe yield losses to the sugarcane growing farmers. The role of vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizal (VAM) fungi in host nutrition is more and more appreciated in several crops. In the present investigations, an attempt has been made to correlated resistance to red rot. Mosse(1973) observed that the mycorrhizal colonization alters the host metabolism, which may result in an increase or decrease in host resistance. Certain chemical, physiological and morphological alterations in the host plant are known to induced by the mycorrhizal infection, some of which may be correlated to the altered host resistance or susceptibility. Significant reduction in number of chlamydospores of the root rotting fungus, *Theviolopsis bassicola* were observed on mycorrhizal association in tobacco roots (Baltruschat and Schonbeck, 1975).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three resistant (Co 7706, CoA 7602 and Co8013) and three susceptible varieties (Co 419, Co997 and Coc 671) varieties were included in the present studies. About fifty stalks of eight months old February planted crop in each of six varieties were inoculated with three pathotypes of red rot fungus viz., Cf 419, Cf 997 and Cf 671. Plug method of inoculation

was followed. Root samples were collected by random sampling at 60 days after inoculation. Corresponding healthy uninoculated canes were also maintained.

The root samples were treated at 90°C for about two hours in 10 per cent KOH (Potassium permanganate) solution then washed with fresh 10 per cent KOH solution. The samples were then immersed in an alkali solution of hydrogen peroxide, the root samples were acidified in dilute hydrochloric acid. The samples were then stained by steaming for five minutes in 0.05 per cent trypan blue in lactophenol and washed the excess stain with clear lactophenol. The root bits were examined under microscope for the presence of mycorrhizal mycelium, arbuscules or vesicles and the per cent vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizal (VAM) infection was noticed in each variety both in healthy and inoculated ones.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The native mycorrhizal association in the roots of three red rot susceptible (Co 419, Co997 and Coc 671) and three resistant varieties (Co 7706, CoA 7602 and Co8013) were studied under uninoculated and inoculated conditions with three pathotypes viz., Cf 419, Cf 997 and Cf 671 and the data are presented in the Table 1.

Under uninoculated conditions, the per cent mycorrhizal colonization in the resistant (Co

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