

Research Paper :

## Screening of fungicides against okra leaf spot under laboratory condition

A.D. PHAPALE, K.U. SOLANKY, S.C. TAYADE AND P.R. SAPKALE

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See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :  
A.D. PHAPALE  
Department of Plant Pathology, Dr. Ulhas Patil College of Agriculture, JALGAON (M.S.) INDIA

### SUMMARY

*Alternaria alternata* is a major constraint in economic production of okra crop. *Alternaria* leaf spot is always found associated at all the places and through the crop season causing serious losses. To overcome this problem, screening of different fungicides against *A. alternata* has been tried, for inhibition of disease intensity. Therefore, an investigation was carried out on okra leaf spot to find out effective fungicides. Propiconazole (Tilt), difenconazole (Score) and hexaconazole (Contaf) all at three concentrations 250, 500, 1000 ppm and Copper oxychloride (Blitox) at three concentrations 1500, 2000, 2500 ppm while mancozeb (Dithane M-45) at 2500 ppm resulted cent per cent inhibition of the causative fungus.

### Key words :

*Alternaria alternata*,  
Fungicides, Okra,  
Leaf spot

Okra is an annual vegetable crop belonging to family Malvaceae. It is the most profitable summer vegetable. It occupies a place of prominence amongst summer vegetables in our country. Okra is cultivated extensively in tropical and subtropical parts of the world and is a commonly grown as vegetable in India. Its adaptability to a wide range of growing conditions makes it popular among vegetable growers. It is widely grown for its immature tender pod which is used as vegetable. Specific varieties are grown even in lower hills with moderate climate. It is also grown in Ethiopia, Africa, central America and other warmer regions of the world (Chadha, 2006).

*Alternaria* leaf spot caused by (*Alternaria alternata* (Fr.) Keissler and *A. tenuissima*) is the major constraint in economic production of the crop (Singh, 1999). *Alternaria* leaf spot disease was always found associated at all the places and throughout the crop season causing serious losses. Meagre information the effect of fungicides against *Alternaria alternata* causing leaf spot in okra is available. So, an experiment was conducted on the efficacy of fungicides against this pathogen *in vitro*.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The screening of fungicides was performed in laboratory condition. Ten fungicides belonging to different chemical groups at three different concentrations (Table 1) were tested for their efficacy *in vitro* against

*A. alternata* by poisoned food technique. The required quantities of each test fungicide were incorporated in conical flask containing 100 ml molten PDA medium so as to get required concentration in parts per million (ppm). The flask containing poisoned medium was well shaken to facilitate uniform mixing of fungicides and 20 ml was poured in each sterilized Petriplate. On solidification of the medium, the plates were inoculated in the centre by placing 5mm diameter mycelial culture block, cut aseptically with the help of cork borer from 10 days old pure culture of *A. alternata* grown on PDA. Three repetitions were kept for each concentration of respective fungicide. The inoculated plates were incubated at  $27 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ . The required concentration in ppm was calculated based on active ingredient present in a formulation. The colony diameter of the fungus was recorded from three repetitions periodically. The per cent growth inhibition (PGI) was worked out by using the formula given by Vincent (1927).

$$\text{PGI} = \frac{100(\text{DC} - \text{DT})}{\text{DC}}$$

where,

PGI = Per cent growth inhibition

DC = Average diameter of mycelial colony of control plate (mm)

DT = Average diameter of mycelial colony of treated plate (mm)

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