



RESEARCH NOTE

Isolation of native isolates of fluorescent pseudomonads from castor wilt field in North Gujarat area

■ M. N. MAHESHWARI* AND V.A. SOLANKI

Department of Plant Pathology, S.D. Agricultural University, SARDARKRUSHINAGAR (GUJARAT) INDIA

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*Corresponding author:
mnpatan@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT

Fusarium wilt is a very serious disease in castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) growing areas of the state but particularly in North Gujarat. The pathogen is soil-borne and application of fungicides is very expensive and also polluting the ecosystem. Fifteen fluorescent pseudomonads isolates were obtained on King's B medium from the rhizosphere and rhizoplane of castor plant. Fifteen fluorescent pseudomonads isolates were obtained on King's B medium from the rhizosphere and rhizoplane of castor plant grown under different types of soils of Patan and Banaskantha districts. Out of twenty samples collected from ten villages of Patan district, nine fluorescent pseudomonads isolates (FP-I to FP-IX) were obtained, whereas, six isolates (FP-X to FP-XV) were gained from thirty samples from seven villages of Banaskantha district. All the bacterial isolates were characterized on the basis of morphological, physiological and biochemical tests and placed under the group of "Fluorescent pseudomonads" because all the isolates produced yellow green pigments on King's B medium which fluoresced under ultraviolet light.

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The present days need is to develop and utilize the effective low cost eco-friendly technologies in the crop production programmes. The increasing use of potentially hazardous fungicides for the management of soil borne plant diseases have created the problem of resistance in plant pathogens, besides posing a serious problem of pollution in the ecosystem. Castor wilt is serious in Gujarat state and caused heavy losses in past and also causing in present. Up to 80 per cent wilt incidence was recorded in north Gujarat. (Patel *et al.*, 2003). Castor wilt is difficult to manage due to soil borne nature. The indigenous potential isolates of fluorescent pseudomonads from the rhizosphere and roots of field grown castor plants and their biocontrol capabilities against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ricini* is effective and eco-friendly biological control as an alternative strategy for the castor wilt. Several strains of fluorescent pseudomonads isolates have been reported to suppress soil-borne diseases caused by fungal pathogens (Samanta and Datta, 2004; Bhatia *et al.* 2005).

Collection of soil and plant samples :

Fifty soil and roots samples were collected from established castor field plots of different locations of Patan and Banaskantha districts where the castor is commonly grown. Healthy plants of castor of 60-75 days growth were carefully uprooted alongwith adhering soil and was carried to the laboratory in polythene bags. The soil particles loosely adhering to the roots were gently teased out and used for isolation of rhizosphere bacteria. Soil particles adhering tightly to the roots were allowed to go with the roots for isolation of rhizoplane bacteria.

Isolation of fluorescent pseudomonads :

Excess of soil adhering with roots was removed by gentle shaking. From each sample, 10 g of closely associated rhizosphere was added to 250 ml flask containing 90 ml sterilized distilled water. For isolation of rhizoplane bacteria, roots were cut into approximately 2-3 cm long pieces and 10 g of root bits