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Bacteriocin Typing of Some Turkish Isolates of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola*

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Abstract: Eighty-six *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola* isolates collected from different bean growing areas in Eskişehir were typed for the production of bacteriocin. All the isolates tested produced bacteriocin and 24 bacteriosin groups were determined. No correlation was found between the bacteriocin groups and geographical origin. Authentic isolates of the bacterium representing 3 different races were also tested for bacteriocin production and bacteriocin types did not correlate with the races.

Key Words: *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola*, bacteriocin, bacteriocin typing.

Türkiye Orijinli Bazı *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola* İzolatlarının Bakteriosin Tiplendirmesi

Özet: Eskişehir’de çeşitli fasulye üretim alanlarından toplanan 86 *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola* izolatu, bakteriyosin üretme yeteneğine göre tiplendirilmiştir. Test edilen tüm izolatlar bakteriosin üretmiş ve 24 bakteriosin grubu tespit edilmiştir. Bacteriosin grupları ve strainlerin coğrafik orijinleri arasında bir ilişki bulunmamıştır. Bakterinin 3 farklı ırkını temsil eden tanınmış izolatları da bakteriosin üretim için test edilmiş ve bakteriosin grupları ile ırklar arasında da bir ilişki gözlenmemiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola*, bacteriosin, bakteriosin tiplendirmesi.

Introduction

Bacteriocins are non-replicating, proteinaceous antibiotics with specificity generally restricted to closely related bacterial strains and species. Small amounts of bacteriocins are produced spontaneously in cultures of bacteriocinogenic strains, but the substances can also be induced by treating cells with ultraviolet light or Mitomycin C. Because bacteriocins specifically kill the cells of sensitive bacteria, bacterial isolates from distinct sources can be differentiated or typed by their sensitivity to panels of bacteriocins.

Bacteriocins have found widespread application in epidemiological studies as specific markers for bacteria. Various typing schemes have been based upon either the production of, or sensitivity to a range of different bacteriocins (1-5).

Bacteriocins have important applications in plant pathology. They can be used in epidemiological studies to type strains of phyto-bacteria. Identification and classification of bacteria can be carried out with bacteriocins. Plant pathogens can be controlled by use of bacteriocins (6).

Bacteriocins are produced by the major groups of plant pathogenic bacteria (7-17). Particular bacteriocins are produced by nearly all strains of *P. s.* pv. *syringae*, *P. s.* pv. *glycinea* and *P. s.* pv. *phaseolicola* making them enable to type as producers (18-21).

Pseudomonas syringae pv. *phaseolicola* (Burkholder) Young, Dye and Wilkie is the causal agent of halo blight disease of beans worldwide and the bacterium has three races which were differentiated by their pathogenicity on *Phaseolus vulgaris* cultivars (22).

The present study is a survey of bacteriocin production by 86 isolates of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola*, the causal agent of halo blight of beans in Eskişehir. The bacteriocin typing pattern of the isolates tested were compared with authentic strains of three races.

Materials and Methods

Test strains

Eighty-six *P. s.* pv. *phaseolicola* isolates, obtained from different bean growing areas in a previous study (22) were used as the bacteriocin producer strains (Table 1). Conventional biochemical tests and LOPAT tests were carried out to identify the test strains as described by Sands et al. (23) and Fahy and Hayward (24).

Indicator strains

Six strains of *P. s.* pv. *syringae*, namely PS281, PS6, PSC1-B, PS14, PS17 and GN2, a strain of *P. s.* pv. *glycinea*, PG1-T, and a strain of *P. s.* pv. *phaseolicola*, HB6, which had been originally described by Vidaver et al. (19), were kindly provided by the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Table 2).

The Production of Bacteriocin by Induction

Production of bacteriocin by Mitomycin C and detection of the bacteriocins were carried out by procedure as described by Gross and Vidaver (21). Ninety-eight isolates of *P. s.* pv. *phaseolicola* shown in Table 1 were grown on Nutrient-broth yeast extract (NBY) agar plates (25) by incubating at 25°C for two days. The cultures were then inoculated into 10 ml of NBY broth and grown on a rotary shaker (250 rpm) to obtain 1 to 5X10⁸ cfu/ml. After addition of Mitomycin C to the bacterial cultures to obtain a final concentration of 1 µg/ml, the cultures were further incubated on a rotary shaker in the dark for 4 hours and then stored overnight at 2-5°C. The cells and debris of *P. s.* pv. *phaseolicola* were pelleted by centrifugation at 12 100 g for 15 min. The supernatant fluids of the bacterial cultures were pipetted into a new bottle. Chloroform (10 % v/v) was added onto the supernatant fluids and then stored in screw-cap bottles at 2-5°C.

The Detection of Bacteriocin

Log phase cultures of the indicators were adjusted to a cell concentration of 10⁸ cfu/ml. Then, 0.1 ml of the culture was suspended in 2.5 ml of NBY soft agar which was melted and cooled to 46°C. The mixture was poured over an NBY plate and once it solidified, 10 µl of test preparations from the producer strains were spotted onto the surface of an NBY plate. Plates

were incubated for 16 to 24 hours at 25°C to permit clear observation of zones of inhibition. All the experiments were carried out in duplicate. Bacteriocin groups were determined according to the presence of a clear (C) or a turbid (T) zone. If there was no inhibition zone results were recorded as negative (-).

Results and Discussion

All the isolates shown in Table 1 produced bacteriocin by Mitomycin C induction. The bacteriocin activity spectrum of the *P. s. pv. phaseolicola* isolates on eight indicator strains are listed in Table 2. Although the isolates tested were *P. s. pv. phaseolicola* and they do not have different plant species origin, the activity spectra of the bacteriocins were different.

Group A (Table 2) contained the majority of the isolates (57 isolates), and no correlation was obtained between the bacteriocin typing group and geographical origin. Group B (Table 2) representing mostly the authentic strains contained 8 of the isolates and only 3 of the isolates were from our collection. Group C (Table 2) represented 4 of the isolates obtained from different areas. Group H (Table 2) consisted of 7 of the isolates, 3 of which were authentic cultures. Group E and group T (table 2) contained 2 of the isolates which were collected in our study. Other groups were represented by only 1 isolate and groups Q and Y consisted of authentic isolates (Table 2).

Different races of the bacterium (race 1, race 2 and race 3) did not give specific typing patterns, therefore, no correlation between the race of the bacterium and the bacteriocin typing pattern was observed.

Typical typing experiments were performed to check the reproducibility of results by inducing bacteriocin production on at least two separate occasions by using strains of *P. syringae* pathovars known to produce characteristic bacteriocins. Bacteriocin preparations used in our study were tested immediately after production since some bacteriocins will lose activity or develop unusual typing patterns (21).

There are some reports (20, 26) on *P. s. pv. syringae* isolates tested, 86 to 100% of which produced bacteriocins inhibitory to the above indicators. In our study, all the isolates tested produced bacteriocins to the indicators. Less successful results could be obtained if the conditions were changed or combinations of strains were used.

When we compare the bacteriocin groups of our study with Vidaver and Buckner's (20), only group A overlaps with their groups. Therefore, we obtained new sensitivity patterns by the isolates used in our study.

The isolation and characterisation of a particulate bacteriocin, syringacin W-1, from *Pseudomonas syringae* were described by Smidt and Vidaver (27). In the present study it was not necessary to purify the bacteriocins for typing of the strains.

In conclusion, the present study showed that the isolates of *P. s. pv. phaseolicola* from Turkey could be typed for the production of bacteriocin since all the isolates produced bacteriocin. Bacteriocins produced in this study can be isolated and purified for the control of plant pathogens in future studies.

Table 1. Bacterial strains used in the assay and groups of bacteriocin producer test.

Strains	Geographical Source (Country, city or town)	Bacteriocin producer group (see Table 2)
Authentic isolates		
NCPBB 52* (race 1)	Canada	B
T 1302* (race 3)	Rwanda	B
T1817* (race 2)		B
T 1599* (race 2)		Y
T 1355* (race 1)		A
T 1516* (race 1)		B
T 1374* (race 2)		B
T 1360* (race 1)		C
Q 1945*(race 2)		H
T 1318* (race 3)		H
T1301* (race 3)	Tanzania	H
TPPB 4101**(race 1)	Turkey	Q
Eskişehir isolates		
	City center	
P3, P4, P45, P41, P42, P43, P44, P61, P35, P36, P37, P52, P53, P54, P55, P56, P57 P47 P64 P58 P46, P71, P84, P83 P62, P63 P70 P73 P85 P74 P75 P81, P86 P82 P87 P88		A B C E H J K N O V P R T U W X
P2, P5, P13, P9, P10, P11, P12 P6, P7, P14, P15, P16, P17, P19	Sivrihisar	

Table 1.

P20, P21, P22, P23, P18, P24, P80	A
P78	B
P25	D
P79	S
Seyitgazi	
P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31	
P39, P48, P49, P50, P51, P76	
P32, P67, P68, P59, P60	A
P77	B
P33, P65	C
P34	E
P38	F
P40	G
P66	L
P69	M

* Obtained from Dr. John Turner, University of East Anglia, Norwich UK.

** Obtained from Dr. Kemal Benlioğlu, Adnan Menderes University, Aydın-Turkey.

Table 2. Bacteriocin groups of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *phaseolicola* isolates.

Ind. str.	Bacteriocin group																							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
1	T	C	T	T	T	T	C	C	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	-	T	C	T	T	C	T	T	T
2	T	T	T	T	-	-	-	T	T	-	-	-	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
3	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	C	C	C	T	C	C	T	T	T	T	T	T
4	T	T	T	-	T	-	T	T	C	T	T	-	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	-
5	T	T	C	-	T	T	C	C	T	-	C	T	-	C	C	-	T	C	T	-	T	-	-	-
6	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	-	T	T	T	T	T	-	T	C	T	T	T	T	C	T
7	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	-	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	T	C	T	T	-
8	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	-	-	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	C	T	T	C	T	T

Indicator strain (Ind. str.): 1: Ps281, 2:Ps6, 3: PsC-1B, 4: Ps14, 5: PG1-T, 6: Ps17, 7: HB6, 8:GN-2.

C: clear zone, T: turbid zone, -: no zone.

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