

ACTINOBACTERIA FROM BRAZILIAN CERRADO SOIL: POTENTIAL BIOCONTROL AGENT TO SOYBEAN AND WHEAT DISEASES

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Abstract

The Cerrado biome, located in the Middle West region of Brazil, has showed a significant increase in soybean (*Glycine max* L. Merrill) and wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) production. In these crops the fungi *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and *Magnaporthe grisea* constitute severe phytosanitary problems, once they commonly inhabit the soil favored by their latency structures. These fungi are responsible for great economic losses during the entirely crop production cycle. The soil is considered a complex habitat due to the extensive variety of physical, chemical and microbiological processes, and is essential for different forms of life, once this ecosystem offers great support to the maintenance of microbiological diversity. Actinobacteria, one of the main Phylum present in the soil, are currently highlighted because of their great biotechnological relevance. They are responsible for many of known antibiotics and by being great enzymatic producers with several industrial applications. We obtained many microorganisms with biological activity from an isolation process of the Cerrado soil. One of them was the Actinobacteria identified as 3-AS-4. It showed significant antagonistic activity *in vitro* and its crude extract, obtained with ethyl acetate at pH 3, strongly inhibited *S. sclerotiorum* and *M. grisea* growth. Moreover, this isolate was able to solubilize organic and inorganic phosphorus and presented chitinolytic and cellulolytic activity. These results highlight the broad and diversity mechanisms of action of this isolate as an interesting potential tool to integrate management of diseases. The knowledge of the ecological aspects of this Actinobacteria, such as the interaction with other members of the rhizosphere from these crops, and the variation of the soil community in the presence of this isolate, is essential to a possible future application as a new tool to biological control of diseases.

Keywords: Biological control, Actinobacteria, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, *Magnaporthe grisea*

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