

Original Research Article

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Isolation and Identification of Soil Fungi of Banana Fields form Baramati Area of Pune District of Maharashtra, India

Sandhya Shitole*, Vivek Kadam, Prasad Bankar, Anuradha Bhosale, Sourabh Chandankar, Sujit Wagh and M.B. Kanade

P. G. Research Center, Department of Botany, Tuljaram Chaturchand College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Baramati, Dist. Pune - 413 102, Maharashtra, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

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Present investigation emphasizes on isolation and identification of soil fungi of banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L.) fields from Baramati area of Pune district of Maharashtra. The isolation of soil fungi was done by using serial dilution method and Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) medium. Morphological characters of fungi were used for their identification. Total 22 fungal species were recorded throughout the study. The contribution of Deuteromycotina was 63.63% followed by Zygomycotina 18.18%, Ascomycotina 13.63% and Mastigomycotina 4.54%. During the study *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Trichoderma*, *Mucor*, *Alternaria*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium* and *Rhizoctonia* were noticed as predominant genera and *Pythium*, *Chaetomium*, *Botrytis*, *Cladosporium*, *Drechslera*, *Helminthosporium* and *Nigrospora* were found intermittently.

Introduction

Banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L.) is popular, important and commercial fruit crop of many tropical and sub-tropical regions of India. Banana fruits can play significant role in human nutrition by supplying the important growth factors such as vitamins and essential minerals (Muhammad *et al.*, 2018). In India it is largely cultivated in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (Salve *et al.*, 2019). It is cultivated in India an

area of 830.5 thousand ha and total production is around 29,779.91 thousand tons (Gnanasekaran *et al.*, 2015). Wide variety of bacteria, fungi, viruses and nematodes affected on banana crops and causes hazardous diseases. Among these the fungal diseases are most destructive once for example *Fusarium* wilt (Panama disease) is caused by the soil fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* (Tushemereirwe *et al.*, 2004), Anthracnose is caused by *Colletotrichum musae* (Thangavelu *et al.*, 2004), black sigatoka by

Mycosphaerella fijiensis (Churchill, 2011), fruit rot by *Botryosphaeria ribis*, black root rot by *Rosellinia bunodes* and leaf spot caused by *Curvularia eragrostidis* (Jones, 1997). Fungal infection affected on yellowing, rusting and wilting of leaves, rotting of root, stem and fruits, decaying of fruits and ultimately affected on shelf life, nutritional profile and economy of fruits. In connection with this, the present study is designed to study the composition and concentration of soil fungi of banana fields from Baramati area of Pune district of Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods

The rhizosphere soil samples were collected from banana (*Musa paradisiaca* L.) fields of different localities of Baramati area during June, 2018 to April, 2019. The soil samples were collected in sterilized polythene bags and brought in laboratory for isolation of soil fungi. Serial dilution method was adopted for isolation of soil fungi (Aneja, 2003) using Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) medium supplemented by Streptomycin antibiotic. Inoculated plates were kept for incubation at room temperature for 7 days. During the incubation period the fungal growth was observed regularly and observation were noted. After 7 days of incubation the photographs of plates were taken. Isolated fungal colonies were used for preparation of slides. Slides were prepared using cotton blue stain and lactophenol as mounting medium. Slides were observed under light microscope and micro-photography was also done. Fungi were identified on the basis of morphological characters of spores by using standard literature (Nagamani *et al.*, 2006).

Results and Discussion

In the present study total 22 fungal species were noticed from rhizosphere soil samples of banana fields from Baramati area. Among

these 04 species of *Aspergillus*, 03 species of *Rhizopus* and 02 species of *Trichoderma* and 01 species of *Pythium*, *Mucor*, *Chaetomium*, *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Cladosporium*, *Drechslera*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium*, *Helminthosporium*, *Nigrospora*, *Penicillium* and *Rhizoctonia* was noticed.

The percentage contribution of Deuteromycotina was maximum i.e. 63.63% followed by Zygomycotina 18.18%, Ascomycotina 13.63% and Mastigomycotina 4.54%. *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Trichoderma*, *Mucor*, *Alternaria*, *Curvularia*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium* and *Rhizoctonia* were found frequently during the study on the other hand *Pythium*, *Chaetomium*, *Botrytis*, *Cladosporium*, *Drechslera*, *Helminthosporium* and *Nigrospora* were found occasionally (Table 1).

Soils are extremely complex systems, with many components playing varied functions mainly due to the activity of soil organisms (Chiang and Soudi, 1994). Fungi are vital component of soils present very rich in amount compared to bacteria and other microorganisms (Gnanasekaran *et al.*, 2015).

Fungal flora of agricultural soils is affected by various physico-chemical properties of soil. Organic content, moisture and pH of soil have great impact on fungal diversity of any soil (Gaddeyya *et al.*, 2012). The fungal diversity of soils affected positively as well as negatively on growth of crop plants (Ratna Kumar *et al.*, 2015).

Gnanasekaran *et al.*, (2015) studied the soil mycoflora of banana field at Manachanallur, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu and recorded 65 fungal species belonging to 26 genera. Furthermore they reported that *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* and *Trichoderma* were dominant genera. Fungal diversity from rhizosphere soil of banana fields at Jalgaon district of

Maharashtra was studied by Salve *et al.*, (2019). They analyzed eighteen banana field's rhizosphere soils and reported total 1354 fungal colonies belonging to 35 fungal species and 21 genera. They found *Cladosporium*, *Fusarium* and *Aspergillus* as dominant species. Kumar and Saxena (2015) isolated the fungi from infected banana stem and banana field soils and reported 19 fungal species belonging to 13 genera.

Furthermore they reported that, the *Fusarium* showed maximum percentage contribution in

rhizosphere soil i.e. 83.4%. Same results were also found in our investigation.

Fungal diversity of rhizosphere soils from paddy, pulses, ragi, sugarcane, vegetables and banana fields of Nanjangud taluk of Mysore district, Karnataka were studied by Chandrashekar *et al.*, (2014). They described total of 10 fungal species belonging to 7 genera from studied agricultural fields and found that *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* and *Mucor* species were dominant throughout the investigation.

Table.1 Soil mycoflora of banana fields form Baramati Area of Pune District

Sr. No	Fungi	Division
1.	<i>Pythium debaryanum</i>	Mastigomycotina
2.	<i>Rhizopus oryzae</i>	Zygomycotina
3.	<i>Rhizopus stolonifer</i>	Zygomycotina
4.	<i>Rhizopus</i> sp.	Zygomycotina
5.	<i>Mucor mucedo</i>	Zygomycotina
6.	<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	Ascomycotina
7.	<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	Ascomycotina
8.	<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	Ascomycotina
9.	<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	Deuteromycotina
10.	<i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
11.	<i>Aspergillus brunneo-uniseriatus</i>	Deuteromycotina
12.	<i>Aspergillus kanagawaensis</i>	Deuteromycotina
13.	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	Deuteromycotina
14.	<i>Botrytis</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
15.	<i>Cladosporium</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
16.	<i>Drechslera</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
17.	<i>Curvularia lunata</i>	Deuteromycotina
18.	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	Deuteromycotina
19.	<i>Helminthosporium</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
20.	<i>Nigrospora</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina
21.	<i>Penicillium aurantiogriseum</i>	Deuteromycotina
22.	<i>Rhizoctonia</i> sp.	Deuteromycotina

Muhammad *et al.*, (2018) studied the fungi associated with spoilage of sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*) and banana (*Musa sapientum*) from Sokoto, Metropolis. During the investigation they found most

predominant fungi isolated from sweet orange were *Cladosporium* sp. (40%), *Fusarium* sp. (30%), *Alternaria* sp. (20%) and *Chrysonilia* sp. (10%) while from banana were *Fusarium* sp. (50%), *Mucor* sp. (30%) and *Rhizopus* sp.

(20%). Ratna Kumar *et al.*, (2015) analyzed the soil samples of paddy fields from 05 different localities of Tekkali Mandal, Srikakulam, AP to study fungal diversity and reported 18 species belonging to 6 genera of fungi. Among these *Aspergillus flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. nidulans*, *A. niger*, *A. terreus*, *Penicillium chrysogenum*, *P. frequentans* were predominant. Isolation and identification of soil mycoflora from paddy, corn, ragi, red gram, cotton and sugarcane crop fields at Salur Mandal were investigated by Gaddeyya *et al.*, (2012). They noticed total of 15 fungal species belonging to 6 genera and found *Aspergillus flavus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. niger*, *A. nidulans*, *A. terreus*, *P. chrysogenum*, *P. frequentans*, *P. funiculosum*, *Trichoderma viride*, *T. harzianum*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *F. solani*, *Curvularia clavata*, *C. lunata* and *Rhizopus stolonifer* as most dominant genera during the study.

Taking into consideration of our results and literature survey it may be concluded that, the Deuteromycotina fungi frequently found in soil because of their faster rate of asexual reproduction, as they causes diverse diseases to crop plants and their abundant flora in air and soil.

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