

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Utilization of Endophytes Fungi from *Jatropha* Leaves (*Jatropha curcas* L.) Against *Fusarium oxysporum* Causing Tuber Rot Disease Onion (*Allium cepa* var. *Ascalonicum* (L.) Backer)

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Abstract

Tuber rot is one of the important diseases in onion caused by *Fusarium oxysporum*. Endophytes are biological agents that are currently widely used in controlling plant diseases. Excessive use of pesticides and continuously has shown negative impacts such as resurgence, resistance to pests and pathogens, and the death of natural enemies. Currently, pests and pathogens control effort are directed at the utilization of natural enemies or better known as biological control. Endophyte is a microorganism that grows in plant tissues without causing symptoms. Endophytes allegedly capable of producing a variety of phytochemical compounds generated by their host. The leaves of *Jatropha* (*Jatropha curcas* L.) is one part of the plant that contains secondary metabolites. Phytochemical tests on the *Jatropha* show that *Jatropha* contains alkaloids, flavonoids, and saponins that are an antimicrobial potential of plant-pathogen control agents. This study aimed to determine the effect of some Endophytes isolates and their impact on the growth of *F. oxysporum* in vitro in onion. Exploration (endophyte isolation from *Jatropha* healthy leaves) and observation (antagonist test of Endophytes of the *Jatropha* leaves) method used in this study was a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with a single factor (10 treatment) repeated three times. There were 14 endophytes isolated from *Jatropha* leaves with a growth ratio of 4.5 cm/2 days. The best treatment to inhibit the growth of *F. oxysporum* in vitro is Jc5, Jc8, Jc10.

Keywords: Biological Agents, Inhibition, Pathogenicity, antagonistic

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INTRODUCTION

Red onion is one of the featured vegetable crops that have long been intensively cultivated by farmers. Shallots belong to a group that serves as a spice seasoning and traditional medicine. National shallot production is sufficient to supply the domestic consumption, but its production fluctuates under abnormal climatic conditions (Kelvin, 2014). One of the important diseases in shallot is a tuber rot caused by *Fusarium oxysporum*. The disease causes direct damage to the tubers and reduces tuber yield by 50% (Zuleika, 2014). Korlina et al. (2000) suggested that damage caused by tuber rot can reach 75% at 42 days after planting (DAP) and will increase if not controlled. Pathogen control is generally conducted by utilizing pesticides. Excessive use of pesticides has shown negative impacts such as resurgence, resistance to pests and pathogens, and the death of natural enemies. Currently, pests and pathogens control effort directed at the utilization of natural enemies of pests and pathogens, or better known as biological control. One of the biological control efforts is using endophyte.

Endophytes microbes are microbes that live in healthy plant tissues such as leaves, flowers, branches, or roots without causing symptoms of the disease. Endophyte performs beneficial symbiosis with the host plant, where they get the nutrients from plant metabolism, and produce secondary metabolites that help the host against pathogen attack. (Taechowishan et al., 2003). Endophytes phytochemistry can produce various compounds that are also produced by the host plant. It is considered related to the presence of genetic recombination between endophyte and its host during its evolution.

Jatropha (*Jatropha curcas* L.) has been widely used as a traditional medicine in the community, especially the leaves. *Jatropha* also has high potential for the development of medicinal products for agriculture and chemical industries. *Jatropha* extracts showed antimicrobial and antioxidant activity (Windarwati, 2011). Phytochemical test of its roots, leaves, seeds, and bark indicates that *Jatropha* contains flavonoids, saponins, alkaloids, terpenoids which have antimicrobial and bioactive potential to control plant pathogens (Chain et al., 2013).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials used in this study were *F. oxysporum* isolates, *Jatropha* healthy leaves, PDA, sterile distilled water, and 70% alcohol. A tool used in this study were petri dish, pipette, needle ose, aluminum foil, cotton, cling wrap, Enkas, autoclave, bunsen burner, microscopes, glass beaker, tweezers, scissors, analytical balance, calipers, and a scalpel blade,

Sterilization Equipment

All the glassware used was washed with running water until clean, then dried. After drying, the apparatus which has a mouth surface was plugged with cotton. Then, all the tools were wrapped in newsprint and sterilized by autoclaving for ten minutes at 121°C.

PDA Media Preperation

About 200 g of potatoes were washed thoroughly, then cut into small pieces and boiled in 1000 ml of distilled water until tender. 20 g dextrose and 20 g agar should be added and stir until blended. After boiling, the PDA then poured into the Erlenmeyer, and the mouth was plugged with cotton and wrapped with aluminum foil. Furthermore, the media was sterilized using autoclave at 2 atm, 121°C for 30 minutes.

Endophytes Isolation of *Jatropha* leaves, Purification, and the Distance Measurement Growth

Jatropha healthy leaves were cleaned with alcohol and distilled water and then dried on filter paper. The leaves were cut into small pieces of 0.5 × 0.5 cm and placed into a dish containing PDA medium. The edge of the petri dish was sterilized using a Bunsen burner. Then it was covered with cling wrap and incubated for 7 days. On the 7th day, the isolate from each leaf was purified. Cup containing pure isolates from each Endophytes growth were measured on days 3, 5, and 7 after inoculation (DAI).

Inhibitory Power Test

The inhibition test (antagonism test) was conducted using a double culture (dual culture). On the 7th day after purification, Endophytes pathogens that grow to 9 cm diameter will be divided into 3 parts (3 cm each) then incubated for 7 days at room temperature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Endophytes Isolation and Purification of Jatropha leaf (*Jatropha curcas* L.)

A total of 20 pure Endophytes isolates were obtained from Jatropha leaf isolation (*J. curcas* L.) but out of 20 endophyte pure, they were only 14 isolates can grow well namely Jc1, Jc2, Jc3, Jc4, Jc5, Jc6, Jc7, Jc8, Jc9, Jc10, Jc11, Jc12, Jc13, and Jc14. Microscopic observation showed that all the endophytes have antagonist potency as an agent because of its higher growth than the *F. oxysporum*. Shehata et al. (2008) state that one of the characteristics of microbial antagonists is characterized by faster growth compared to the pathogen.

Mycellium growth of Jatropha leaf Endophytes isolates (*Jatropha curcas* L.) and *Fusarium oxysporum*

Based on Fig. 1, on the 3rd to 5th day, the mycelia growth of each isolate increase sharply. It is estimated to occur because fungal isolates

were in the exponential/logarithmic phase. Whereas, isolates showed a low growth on 5 to 7-day. This may occur because endophyte enters the stationary phase so that the growth rate decreases. In the exponential phase, the isolates will grow fast and constant. In this phase, the fungus becomes very sensitive to the environment and require higher energy to consume nutrients in the media. At the end of the exponential phase, the fungus will produce metabolic waste that might inhibit growth. While in stationary phase, the number of cells grow and die will be equal.

Based on Fig. 2, the highest mycelium growth was shown by Jc10 isolate of 8.1 cm/2 days. The lowest mycelium growth was shown by Jc4 and Jc14 isolates, which was 4.5 cm/2 days.

Power Test Method with Dual Inhibition Culture

Analysis of variance at 5% level showed that the inhibitory variable of Endophytes isolates against *F. oxysporum* was insignificant. Inhibition test test showed that some Endophytes

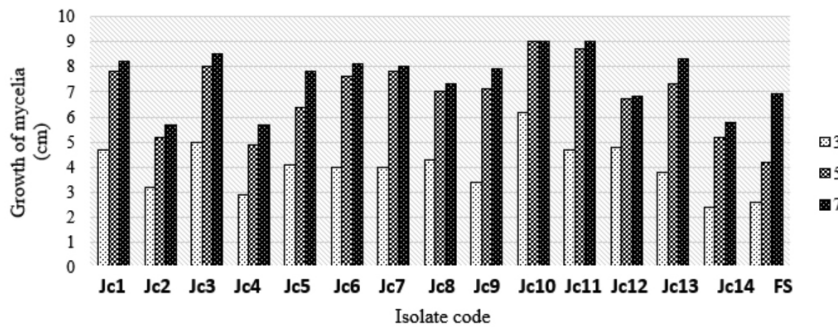


Fig. 1. Mycelia growth of Jatropha leaf Endophytes isolates (*J. curcas* L.) and *F. oxysporum* on 3, 5, and 7 days after inoculation (DAI).

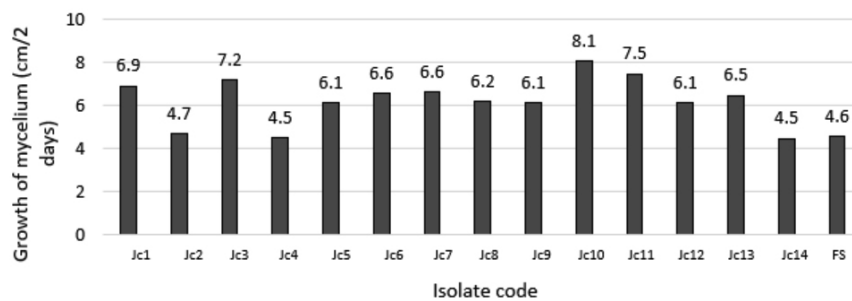


Fig. 2. Mycelium growth of Jatropha leaves Endophytes isolates (*J. curcas* L.) and *F. oxysporum*.

isolates grew more active than *F. oxysporum*. This was indicated by the average value of percent inhibition against *F. oxysporum*, which was more than 40%. The inhibitory ability of fungal antagonist is caused by differences in the production of secondary metabolites, which are

determined by the type, antagonists fungal strains, and types of pathogens. Secondary metabolites cause inhibition of pathogenic Endophytes growth. Also, it is influenced by the type and concentration of the antibiotic compound, the presence of other fungi, the balance rate of

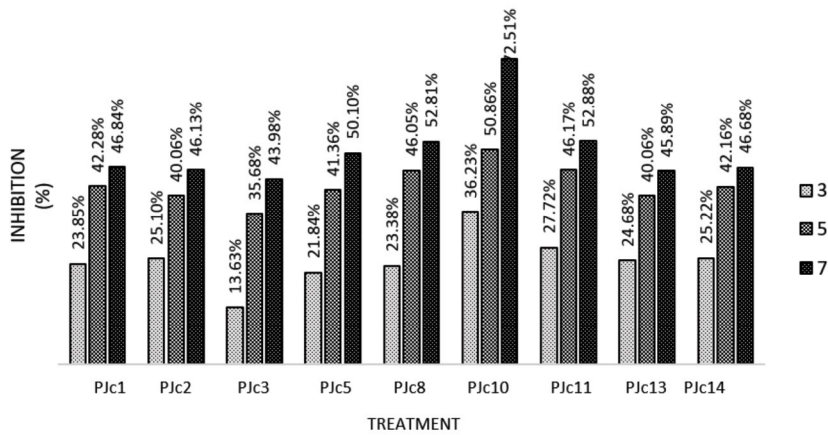


Fig. 3. Power Inhibition Assay results Endophytes of *Jatropha* leave (*J. curcas* L.) with the pathogen *F. oxysporum* on 3, 5, and 7 days after incubation (DAI).

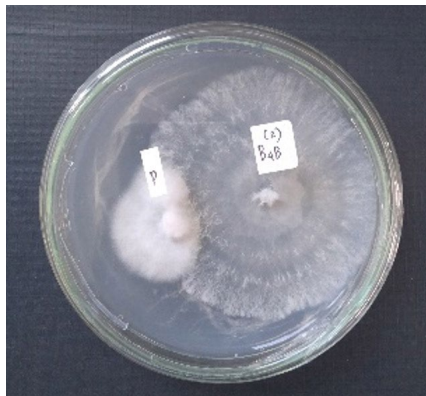


Fig. 4. Dual culture in PjC10

biosynthesis, and biotransformation (Vinale et al., 2009). The highest percentage yield resistor was PjC 10 treatment with inhibition percentage of 73.51%, while the lowest was PjC3 of 43.98%. The dominance of space that occurs in PjC10 treatment associated with endophyte Jc4 current growth rate of purification (Fig. 2). The ability to inhibit pathogens in PjC10 treatment is estimated due to its ability to dominate the nutrient, so it can grow fast and inhibit the growth of pathogenic *F. oxysporum*. The space factor becomes one of the important factors that affect the endophytes performance. The endophytes can grow faster and



PjC5



PjC8



PjC11

Fig. 5. Dual culture in PjC5, PjC8, and PjC11 treatment

suppress the growth of pathogenic antagonistic agents so that they cannot develop. While on the PJc3 treatment, the inhibition percentage is relatively low compared to other treatments. It is in contrast with the growth rate when pure Jc3 isolate is cultured (Fig. 2). The low percentage of inhibition on PJc3 treatment allegedly because when cultured with dual culture method *F. oxysporum* produces toxins that inhibit the growth of Jc3 Endophytes.

Several treatments show a vary percentages, and others have inhibitory above 50%, such as PJc5, PJc8, PJc11, and PJc10 (Fig. 3). Fig. 3 also shows the highest inhibitory ability is in the PJc10 treatment, with a value of 72.51%.

The results show that PJc10 treatment was able to dominate space faster than other treatments. PJc5, PJc8, and PJc11 treatment show a lower ability in dominating space compare to PJc10 treatment. However, the three endophytes show the ability to inhibit the growth of pathogens, characterized by color changes in the contact area.

Antagonistic microorganisms can use one or more mechanisms to suppress the pathogen, and its performance can be different for other pathogens. The interaction between pathogen and endophyte based on three criteria: competition, antibiosis, and parasitism. Competition mechanism has shown in PJc10 treatment. It shows that endophyte colonies grow over the pathogenic colonies and grow faster in the Petri dish.

In PJc5, PJc8, and PJc11 treatment, discoloration occurred at the contact point between pathogen and endophyte. It may occur because the PJc5, PJc8, and PJc11 endophyte have the antagonism ability against pathogens by attaching hyphae to pathogens then secrete enzymes that degrade the cell. The activity of these enzymes causes damage and discoloration in cell walls of pathogenic hyphae. PJc8 and PJc13 treatment are supposed to have parasitism ability against pathogens. This demonstrated by the growth of Endophytes mycelia above pathogens. Fungal hyphae that grow on the surface of pathogens will wrap the pathogen hyphae so that pathogen cells will undergo lysis.

CONCLUSION

Antagonistic microorganisms can use one or more mechanisms to inhibit the growth

of starch and their performance can be different against other types of pathogens. The interaction mechanism that occurs between pathogens and endophytes is based on three criteria, namely competition, antibiosis and parasitism. The competition mechanism can be shown in PJc10 treatment because endophytic colonies grow to cover the coloni of pathogens and endophyte growth fills the petri dishes faster. Organisms with fast growth have the ability to produce antibiotics and tolerant of antibiotics produced by other organisms.

Based on the results obtained, it is concluded that Endophytes isolates derived from the leaves of *Jatropha (J. curcas L.)* can inhibit growth of the pathogen *F. oxysporum* on onion in vitro, and the best treatment is PJc5, PJc8, PJc10, and PJc11 with the percentage of inhibition ranged from 50.1% - 72.52%.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

FUNDING

None.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Not applicable.

DATA AVAILABILITY

All datasets generated or analyzed during this study are included in the manuscript.

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