

## ***In vitro* Evaluation of Fungicides, Botanicals and Bio-agents against *Phomopsis vexans*, the Causal Agent of Fruit Rot of Brinjal**

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Fruit rot (*Phomopsis vexans*) of brinjal is an important disease of Northern dry zone of Karnataka resulting into heavy losses. Recently the production of brinjal has been drastically reduced due to incidence of fruit rot disease caused by a fungus *Phomopsis vexans*. An investigation was carried out to test the efficacy of fungicides, botanicals and bio-agents *in vitro*. Among fungicides tested carbendazim, tebuconazole and hexaconazole at 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1.00 per cent concentration showed high inhibition of 100 per cent of mycelial growth of the pathogen. The least mycelial inhibition was observed in case of captaf (63.33%). The results of botanicals tested *in vitro* revealed that highest inhibition of mycelial growth of *Phomopsis vexans* was observed in 5 and 10 per cent of garlic extract, kokum extract and onion extract. The results of dual culture technique revealed that fungal bio agents were better than bacterial bioagents in inhibiting the growth of fruit rot pathogen. *Phomopsis vexans* was effectively inhibited by *T. harzianum*-p.

**Keywords:** Fungicides, botanicals, bio-agents, Brinjal.

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Brinjal or egg plant (*Solanum melongena* L.) is an important vegetable crop belongs to the family solanaceae. Brinjal is one of the most common, popular and principal vegetable crops grown in the tropical and sub tropical areas. It's a highly productive and usually finds its place as the poor man's crop. This crop is extensively grown in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and

Phillipines. South Asia accounts for almost 50 per cent of world brinjal area under cultivation (Harish *et al.*, 2011). This sturdy crop is cultivated throughout the year, even in the hot wet monsoon season when other vegetables are in short of supply. In India, brinjal is mainly grown in the states like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka etc. with an area of 7.22 lakh hectare with a production of 135.58 metric tonnes and productivity of 19.10 tonnes per ha (Anon., 2014). It contributes about 12.47 per cent of the total production of vegetables in India. In

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Karnataka, brinjal is cultivated over an area of 15,800 ha with a production of 4002.50 tonnes (Anon., 2014). It is mainly grown in the Bagalkot district. The fruit rot caused by a fungi *Phomopsis vexans*, is becoming severe disease in northern dry zone. The disease was first reported from the Gujarat state in 1914 and since then from many parts of India. In general, the crop loss due to this disease ranges from 15-20% (Hossain *et al.*, 2013). It has been reported that *Phomopsis vexans* reduces yield and marketable value of the crop by nearly 20-30% (Jain and Bhatnagar 1985). The fruit infection takes place during fruit formation just some days prior to the harvest of the crop. This infection becomes severe at the time of harvesting to marketing. Hence the investigation was carried out in the Department of Plant Pathology, UHS, Bagalkot, Karnataka to know the effective fungicides, botanicals and bio-agents for the effective management of fruit rot of brinjal caused by *Phomopsis vexans*.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The efficacy of 5 systemic fungicides at the concentration of 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 per cent and three non-systemic fungicides at the concentration of 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 per cent was determined. The evaluation of fungicides was based on the active ingredient consideration. Required quantity of individual fungicide was added separately into sterilized molten PDA so as to get the desired concentration of the fungicides. Later, 20 ml of the poisoned media was poured into sterilized Petri plates. Mycelium discs of five mm diameter from seven days old culture of the fungus were cut out by sterile cork borer and one such disc was placed at the centre of each plate. PDA without any fungicide served as control. Three replications were maintained for each concentration. Plates were incubated at room temperature for seven days and radial growth was measured when fungus attained maximum growth in control plates. The efficacy of the fungicides was expressed as per cent inhibition of mycelial growth over control which was calculated by using the formula of Vincent (1927). To evaluate the antifungal activity of botanicals fresh samples were washed in tap water and finally washed thrice using sterilized distilled water. They were crushed in a

sterilized pestle and mortar by adding little quantity of alcohol (1:1 w/v) just enough to moisten the samples so that it was easy to crush. The extracts were strained through the two layers of muslin cloth. Finally, filtrates thus obtained from the leaves were used as stock solution (Begum and Bhuiyan, 2006). To study the antifungal mechanism of plant extracts, poisoned food technique was followed as suggested by Nene and Thapliyal (1982). For this, 5 and 10 ml of stock solutions were mixed with 95 and 90 ml of sterilized molten potato dextrose agar medium respectively so as to get 5 and 10 per cent concentration. The medium was shaken thoroughly for uniform mixing of plant extract.

About 20 ml of medium was poured into each of the 90 mm sterilized Petri plates. Each plate was seeded with 5 mm mycelial discs aseptically taken from the periphery of 7 days old culture and incubated at  $27\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  till the growth of the colony reaches maximum in control plate. Three replications were maintained for each treatment. Suitable control plates were maintained. Mean colony diameter in each case was recorded. The efficacy of the botanicals was expressed as per cent inhibition of mycelial growth over control which was calculated by using the formula as given by Vincent (1927).

Bio-agents were evaluated for their efficacy through dual culture technique. Twenty ml of sterilized and cooled potato dextrose agar medium was poured into sterilized Petri plates. Fungal antagonists were evaluated by inoculating a pathogen at one side of the Petri plate and the antagonist at exactly opposite side of the same plate by leaving about 4 cm gap. For this, actively growing cultures were used. In case of bacterial antagonist evaluation, two mycelial discs of pathogen were inoculated at the periphery of the Petri plate and bacterial antagonist was streaked in the centre of the same plate. After required period of incubation *i.e.*, when the growth in control plate recorded 90 mm in diameter, the radial growth of the pathogens was measured. Per cent inhibition over control was worked out according to the equation given by Vincent (1927). The different antagonistic organisms used against brinjal fruit rot pathogens included, *Trichoderma harzianum* strains T-21, T-28, T-29, T-72, T-p, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Bacillus subtilis* maintained at biocontrol unit of UHS Bagalkot.

$$\text{Per cent inhibition (I)} = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100$$

Where,

I = Per cent inhibition

C = Growth in control

T = Growth in treatment

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The per cent inhibition of radial growth off *Phomopsis vexans* by different systemic and non systemic fungicides was recorded and presented in Table 1.

Table (1) revealed that there was significant difference between the fungicides, concentrations and interaction. The per cent inhibition was reduced as the concentration of fungicides increased from 0.25 per cent to 1.00 per

cent. The mean inhibition per cent in carbendazim, hexaconazole and tebuconazole was 100 per cent as they inhibited 100 per cent growth of the *Phomopsis vexans* in all the concentrations tested. The results are depicted in the Fig.1. At 0.25 per cent concentration carbendazim, tebuconazole and hexaconazole recorded 100 per cent inhibition followed by propiconazole (82.00%) and difenoconazole (81.67%). At 0.5 per cent concentration it showed that carbendazim, tebuconazole and hexaconazole recorded 100 per cent inhibition followed by propiconazole (93.67%) and difenoconazole (88.00%). It is found that as the concentration increased per cent inhibition of mycelial growth also increased in all fungicides. With reference to interaction between fungicides and concentrations, carbendazim, tebuconazole and hexaconazole recorded 100.00 per cent inhibition at all concentration. The least mycelial inhibition was observed in case of captaf (63.33%). The results found are in accords with Hossain *et al.* (2013) who reported that Bavistin 50 WP (0.1%) proved to be effective arresting the spore germination and mycelial growth of *Phomopsis vexans*. Das *et al.* (2014) also reported that carbendazim at 0.1% found to inhibit completely the mycelial growth of *Phomopsis vexans*. Muneeshwar *et al.* (2012) conducted the *in vitro* evaluation of fungicides against brinjal leaf blight and fruit rot pathogen *Phomopsis vexans*. Carbendazim recorded 100% inhibition of *P. vexans* over control at 1 ppm concentration. Suman and Sujan (2012) conducted the experiment on efficacy of various fungitoxicants alone and in combination

Botanicals used for *in vitro* evaluation.

Sl. No	Common name	Botanical name	Parts used
1	Clerodendron	<i>Clerodendron inermis</i>	Leaves
2	Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Cloves
3	Kokum	<i>Garcinia indica</i>	Fruit
4	Lantana	<i>Lantana camera</i>	Leaves
5	Neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Kernel
6	Onion	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Bulb
7	Turmeric	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Rhizome

Fungicides used in the *in vitro* study

Sl. No.	Common name	Chemical name	Trade name
Systemic fungicides			
1	Carbendazim	Methyl 1-2-benzimidazole carbamate	Bavistin 50WP
2	Difenoconazole	Triazole	Score 25 EC
3	Hexaconazole	(RS)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-(1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)hexan-2-ol	Contaf 5 EC
4	Propiconazole	1-(2-(2,4 dichlorophenyl)-4-propyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)mythyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole	Tilt 25 EC
5.	Tebuconazole	1-(4-Chlorophenyl)-4,4-dimethyl-3-(1H,1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)pentan- 3-ol	Folicur 26 EC
Non-systemic fungicides			
1	Captaf	N(1,12,2,tetrachloroenc-1-2-dicorboximide)	Difoltan 25 WP
2	Copper oxychloride	Copper oxychloride	Blitox 50 WP
3	Chlorothalonil	2,4,5,6-Tetrachloroisophthalonitrile	Kavach 75 WP

against the fruit rot of brinjal caused by *Phomopsis vexans*, under *in vitro* and the reported that ridomil-MZ (0.25) and mancozeb (0.25%) alone were most effective in controlling fruit rot infections. Davidse (1986) studied that carbendazim induced nuclear instability disturbing the mitosis and meiosis, Sudhakar (2000) also studied the efficacy of carbendazim against fungi attributed to the inhibition of biosynthesis process and synthesis of DNA of fungi (Davidse, 1973) carbendazim being a benzimidazole fungicide interferes with energy production and wall

**Table 1.** In vitro evaluation of different systemic and non systemic fungicides against *Phomopsis vexans*

Sl. No.	Fungicides	Per cent inhibition over control				Mean
		Concentration				
		0.25 (%)	0.5 (%)	0.75 (%)	1.0 (%)	
1	Captaf (25 WP)	18.33(25.33)*	30.00(33.20)	48.67(44.23)	63.33(52.73)	40.08(38.89)
2	Carbendazim (50 WP)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)
3	Chlorothalonil (75 WP)	48.33(44.04)	52.00(46.14)	64.67(53.52)	77.33(61.58)	60.58(51.32)
4	Copper oxychloride (75 WP)	17.67(24.81)	38.00(38.05)	47.67(43.67)	73.00(58.69)	44.08(41.30)
5	Difenoconazole (25 EC)	81.67(64.67)	88.00(69.78)	92.00(73.59)	100.00(89.71)	90.41(74.43)
6	Hexaconazole (5 SC)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)
7	Propiconazole (25 EC)	82.00(64.90)	93.67(75.49)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	93.91(79.95)
8	Tebuconazole (26 EC)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)
Mean	68.50(61.61)	75.20(66.47)	81.62(71.73)	89.20(77.69)	78.63(69.37)	
	Fungicides	Concentration	F×C			
SEm±	0.88	0.61	1.75			
CD@1%	2.67	1.86	5.24			
CV	1.16					

\*Figures presented in parenthesis are angular transformed values.

**Table 2.** In vitro evaluation of botanicals against *Phomopsis vexans*

Sl. No	Common name	Percent inhibition		
		5%	10%	Mean
1	Clerodendron leaf extract	35.66(36.65)*	52.00(46.14)	43.80(41.39)
2	Drumstick leaf extract	30.33(33.41)	43.66(41.36)	37.16(87.38)
3	Garlic bulb extract	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)
4	Kokum fruit extract	65.00(53.76)	100.00(89.71)	82.50(71.73)
5	Lantana leaf extract	31.33(33.97)	61.00(51.35)	46.16(42.86)
6	Neem seed kernel extract	45.66(42.50)	51.00(45.57)	48.33(44.03)
7	Onion bulb extract	41.66(40.18)	100.00(89.71)	70.83(64.94)
8	Turmeric rhizome extract	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)	100.00(89.71)
	SEm±CD@ 1%CV	0.40	0.75	0.95
		1.21	2.27	2.85
		3.9	3.32	3.61

\*Figures presented in parenthesis are angular transformed values.

synthesis of fungi (Nene and Thapliyal, 1973)

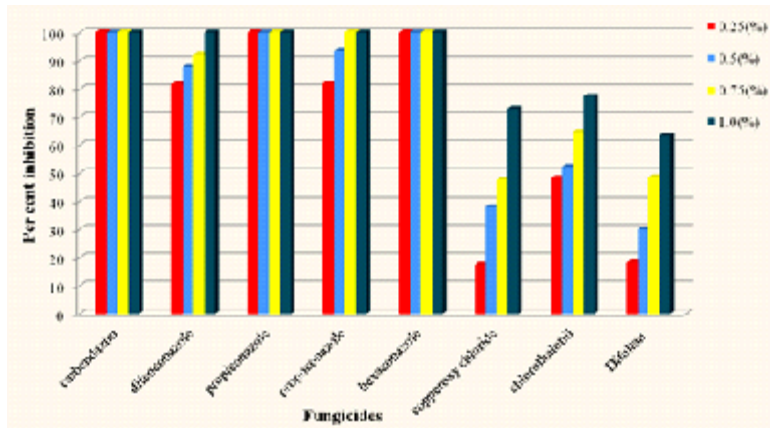
The results on the efficacy of botanicals against *Phomopsis vexans* (Table 2) showed that

**Table 3.** *In vitro* evaluation of bio-agents against *Phomopsis vexans*

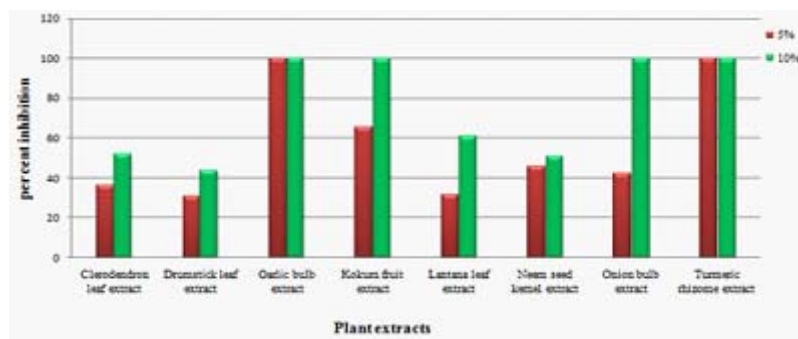
Sl. No	Bio-agents	Per cent inhibition of mycelia growth
1	<i>Trichoderma</i> -21	56.33(48.63)*
2	<i>Trichoderma</i> -28	63.00(52.53)
3	<i>Trichoderma</i> -29	64.33(53.32)
4	<i>Trichoderma</i> -72	57.33(49.21)
5	<i>Trichoderma</i> -P	70.66(57.20)
6	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	9.33(17.78)
7	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	6.66(14.89)
	SEm±CD@ 1%CV	0.50
	1.54	
	1.85	

\*Figures presented in parenthesis are angular transformed values

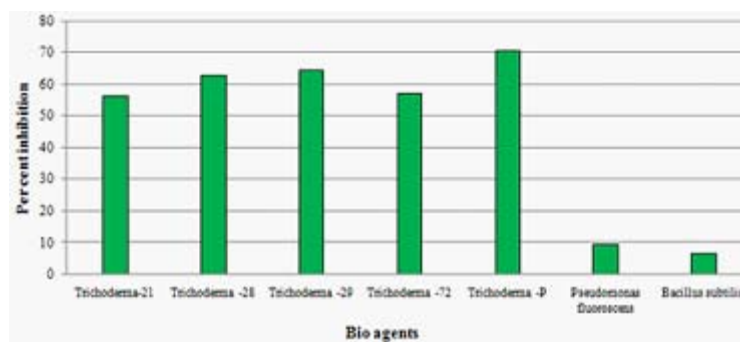
there was a significant difference between the treatments with respect to per cent inhibition of radial growth. At 5 per cent concentration garlic bulb extract and turmeric rhizome extract recorded highest inhibition (100%) followed by kokum fruit extract (65.00%) and neem seed kernel extract (45.66%). Lantana leaf extract recorded 31.33%, which was on par with drumstick leaf extract (30.33%). The lowest inhibition was recorded in drumstick leaf extract (30.33%). The results are depicted in the Fig. 2. At 10 per cent concentration maximum inhibition of radial growth was recorded in garlic and onion bulb extract, kokum fruit extract and turmeric rhizome extract all (100%). Lantana leaf extract (61.00%), clerodendron leaves extract all 52.00% and neem seed kernels extract (51.00%). The lowest inhibition of radial growth of mycelium was observed in drumstick leaf extract (43.66%). The observations of present investigation are in close conformity with Alam (2005) who tested 11 botanicals to control *Phomopsis* fruit rot of egg



**Fig. 1.** *In vitro* evaluation of different fungicides against *Phomopsis vexans*



**Fig. 2.** Evaluation of different plant extracts on the growth of *Phomopsis vexans* under *in vitro* conditions



**Fig. 3.** Evaluation of different bio-agents against *Phomopsis vexans* under *in vitro* condition

plant. Among them garlic (*Allium sativum* L) bulb and Allamanda (*Allamanda cathartica* L.) leaf extract were found promising in arresting mycelial growth and inhibiting spore germination of *Phomopsis vexans*, *in vitro* and also controlled *Phomopsis* blight and fruit rot of egg plant in the field significantly. Panda *et al.* (1996) reported that leaf extract from *Polyanthia longifolia*, *Aegle Mermelos*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Catheranthus roseus*, *Ocimum sanctum* and *Allamanda cathartica* showed maximum inhibition for control of *Phomopsis vexans*. Leaf extract of *Allamanda cathartica* had excellent potential as fungicide. The antimicrobial property of onion bulbs is due to the presence of numerous organic sulphur compounds, including trans-S-(1-propenyl) cysteine sulfoxide, S-methyl-cysteine sulfoxide, S-propylcysteinesulfoxide and cycloalliin; flavonoids; phenolic acids; sterols including cholesterol, stigma sterol, b-sitosterol; saponins; sugars and a trace of volatile oil composed 72 compounds mainly of sulphur compound (Hiba *et al.*, 2014). The antimicrobial activity of garlic extract obtained in this study is similar to that reported by Esimone *et al.*, 2010. However the Ankri and David Mirelman., 1999 reported that garlic extracts also have a strong antifungal effect and inhibit the formation of mycotoxins like the aflatoxin of *Aspergillus parasiticus*. Allicin was assumed to be the main component responsible for the inhibition of fungal growth. A concentrated garlic extract containing 34% allicin, 44% total thiosulfates, and 20% vinylidithiins possessed potent *in vitro* fungistatic and fungicidal activity against three different isolates of *Cryptococcus neoformans*. Pure allicin was found to have a high

anticandidal activity with a minimum inhibitory concentration of 7¼g/mL. Yamada and Azuma (1977) reported that pure allicin was effective *in vitro* against species of *Candida*, *Cryptococcus*, *Trichophyton*, *Epidermophyton*, and

*Microsporium* at low concentration (minimal inhibitory concentrations of allicin were between 1.57 and 6.25 ¼g/mL). Allicin inhibits both germination of spores and growth of hyphae.

The results on the efficacy of bio-agents against *Phomopsis vexans* (Table 3) revealed that there was significant difference between the treatments with respect to the per cent inhibition of mycelial growth of *Phomopsis vexans*. Highest inhibition was observed in *T. harzianum*-p (70.66%) which was significantly superior over all other bioagents followed by *T. harzianum*- 29 (64.33%), and *T. harzianum* -28 (63.00%) and the latter two bio-agents were on par with each other and next in order. Least inhibition was observed in case of *B. subtilis* (6.66%) followed by *P. fluorescens* (9.33%). The results are depicted in the Fig.3. Observation in present investigation are similar with those findings of Muneshwar *et al.* (2012) who reported the *in vitro* evaluation of biocontrol agents against brinjal fruit rot pathogen. Among bio control agents *Trichoderma viride* (Tv-1), *T. virens* (Ts-1), *T. harzianum* (Th-1) and *T. viride* (JMU-24) overgrew the pathogen exhibiting antagonism. The antagonism of *Trichoderma* spp. against many fungi is mainly due to production of acetaldehyde compound (Robinson and Park, 1966 and Dennis and Webster, 1971). Though, the genus *Trichoderma* comprises a large number of species some of which act as biological control agents through one or more mechanisms. Sharma *et al.*,

2012 reported that *Trichoderma* strains exert control against fungal phytopathogens either indirectly by competing for nutrients and space, modifying the environmental condition, promoting plant growth, plant defensive mechanisms and antibiosis, or directly by mechanisms such as mycoparasitism.

### CONCLUSION

*In vitro* evaluation of eight fungicides against fruit rot pathogens was taken up. Among systemic fungicides, carbendazim, propiconazole and tebuconazole showed 100 per cent inhibition of mycelia growth at all four concentrations and difenconazole @ 0.75 per cent. Among non systemic fungicides tested against same fungus, chlorothalonil was most effective followed by copper oxychloride and captaf found more effective respectively. *In vitro* evaluation of botanicals against fruit rot pathogens was studied. Highest inhibition of mycelial growth of *Phomopsis vexans* was observed in 5 and 10 per cent garlic extract, kokum extract and onion extract. The results of dual culture technique revealed that fungal bio agents were better than bacterial bioagents in inhibiting the growth of all fruit rot pathogens. *P. vexans* was effectively inhibited by *T. harzianum*-p.

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