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POTENTIAL OF BACILUS AMYLOLIQUEFACIENS STRAINS SS-12.6 AND SS-38.4 IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF POTATO ROT PATHOGENS

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Background: Bacterial pathogens *Ralstonia solanacearum*, *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* and *Dickeya dianthicola* are quarantine bacteria in EPPO region and lead to severity losses in potato production. Widespread *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *brasiliensis* also causes damages under favorable conditions. The available bactericides are not enough effective, therefore biological agents in their control are emerging as a possible solution.

Objectives: The aim of this study was evaluation of antibacterial activity of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* against recently found bacteria in Serbian potatoes (*R. solanacearum*, *D. dianthicola* and *P. c. subsp. brasiliensis*).

Methods: Two antagonistic *B. amyloliquefaciens* strains coded as SS-12.6 and SS-38.4 were used in in vitro screening of antimicrobial activity against *R. solanacearum* (strain Rs81/18), *D. dianthicola* (strain Dd31) and *P. c. subsp. brasiliensis* (strain Pcb62). Pathogens and antagonists strains were grown in LB medium for 48 h at 26 °C and 30 °C, respectively. Supernatants and suspended pellet of full culture of SS-12.6 and SS-38.4 were tested by well diffusion assay and drop-plate method, respectively. Diameter of inhibition zones were measured and expressed in mm. Biofilm formation was performed on microtitre plates and measured by multi-well plate readers.

Results: Supernatants of antagonists formed inhibition zones for *R. solanacearum* (SS-12.6 10×10 mm; SS-38.4 11×11 mm) and *P. c. subsp. brasiliensis* (SS-12.6 10×10 mm; 38.4 12×12 mm), while result for *D. dianthicola* was negative. Pellet of full antagonist cultures produced inhibition zones only for *R. solanacearum* (SS-12.6 10×11 mm; 38.4 11×11 mm). The biofilm were formed in poor formation for all tested pathogens (category 1).

Keywords: antagonistic, quarantine bacteria, biological control