Effect of Some Bacteria and Iron Chelators on Potato Colonization by Arbuscular Mycorrhiza Fungi Inoculated by Rhizoctonia

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Abstract

Background/Objectives: Arbuscular mycorrhiza is a symbiosis between plants and glomeromycota fungi. This relationship gives several important benefits to the plants including increasement tolerance against abiotic and biotic stresses. Methods/Statistical Analysis: In this study, the effects of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacterium (PGPR) and chemical chelating factors (EDTA, EDDHA) in the presence of Rhizoctonia solani AG3 were studied on mycorrhizal colonization on potato. To investigate the mycorrhizal colonization percentage, root staining was performed. The existence of hyphae, vesicle and arbuscule estimate as Arbuscular mycorrhiza colonization. Findings: The results revealed that interaction of chelating factor of iron (EDTA and EDDHA) mycorrhizal colonization and bacterial strains had positive effects on root colonization and in consequence leads to increase fresh and dry weight, other growth factors and chlorophyll. Application/Improvements: It is concluded that combinations of chelating agents (EDTA and EDDHA) may increase the growth and resistance to soil borne pathogens.

Keywords: Arbuscular Mycorrhiza, Chelators, Colonization, Potato, Rhizoctonia

1. Introduction

Arbuscular mycorrhiza is a obligate symbiotic and surviving of this fungi depend on a host. Colonization of plant roots can be induced by an AMF hypha. The specificity of interaction of the arbuscule mycorrhizal with its host is very low1. Tolerant for soil pathogens was induced by AM fungi. Also results showed that disease symptoms of several fungi such as a Gaeumannomyces, Fusarium, Chalara (Thielaviopsis), Rhizoctonia, Sclerotium and Verticillium, oophyceous micro-organisms and nematodes reduced in the interaction of AM. It has been proposed that excreted materials from roots are important factors in the initial phase of infection in the soil pathogens. In this case, AM fungi controls pathogen population by reducing the available plant roots material2. AM fungi may also affect pathogens through the infection sites. Results showed that arbuscules reduced the penetration of root cells by soils pathogens2. Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi have great impact on surroundings microorganisms' community and changed the roots microflora. Excreted compounds of roots alternatively modified to other nutrition materials for other microbes by AM3. The rhizosphere of plants is colonised by a large number of microbes. Some of them are pathogens and some others such as nitrogen-fixing bacteria are beneficial for growth promoting. The effects of Mycorrhizal on rhizosphere bacteria depend to taxonomic positions4. The microbial community in the rhizosphere also influences germination, spore production and hyphal growth of AM fungi. Bacteria that are beneficial to mycorrhizal fungi are often called the as mycorrhiza (or mycorrhization) helper bacteria (MHB), or mycorrhization promoting rhizobacteria24. Plant growth

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2. Material and Methods

2.1 Fungal and Bacterial Isolates and Potato Cultivar

Isolate of *Rhizoctonia solani* AG3, *Glomus intraradices* and *G. mosseae* were obtained from Mycology and biological control Collections, Department of Plant Protection, Val-e-Asr University of Rafsanjan. Barley seeds were used for preparing the pathogen inoculum. 500 cm³ barley seeds and 300 ml water poured into 1-liter flask and sterilized two times at 121°C, 1.5 atmosphere pressure for 1 hour with one day interval⁸. Five segments of 5 mm (7 days old) colony of fungi in PDA transferred into the flasks and stored at 24°C for 20 days. Due to the high sensitivity of Marphona cultivar to *Rhizoctonia solani*, tuber of this cultivar was applied in this study.

2.2 Chemical Chelating Agents

Two grams of Fe-EDTA and Fe-EDDHA chelating agents were dissolved in irrigation water and added to pots each containing 3 kg of soil.

2.3 Greenhouse Experiments

Pots containing 3 kg sterile soil from potato fields with appropriate EC (8 ds/m) and pH (0.5) were used to do the tests in this study. 50 g of Mycorrhizal propagules containing soil and root mixed with substrate and one tuber was planted. Bacterial strains and chemical chelating factors were added in the first irrigation phase of this treatment.

2.4 Staining the Roots and Determination of Root Colonization

To investigate the mycorrhizal colonization percentage, root staining was performed according to the method of Philips and Hyman⁹. Root colonization percentage was determined randomly based on Bearman and Lyndrmn¹⁰ in 30 pieces of 1 cm stained roots segment. Each piece of root evaluated under microscope. The existence of hyphae, vesicle and arbuscule estimate as AM colonization. The estimated percentage of root length colonization was calculated by comparing to the total root length.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Mycorrhizal Colonization of *Glomus Mossea* and *Glomus Intraradices*

The results of potato root colonization by these mycorrhizal indicate that *G. mossea* and *G. intraradices* root colonization rate were significantly different and about 66/33% and 22/16% respectively (Table 1). However, in the treatment contain R. solani as plant pathogens AM colonization rate were reduced but the reduction rate was not significant.

3.2 The Effect of *P. Fluorescens* on AM Colonization

In the compared to the control, bacterial treatments had different effect on mycorrhizal colonization according to fungal species and bacterial strain at the presence of *R. solani* AG3. Our results show that, in comparison with the control, AM colonization significantly increases in interactive treatment of *G. mossea* with *P. fluorescens* F₁₄₀ and *G. intraradices* with *P. fluorescens* T₁₇-₄ in the presence of Marphona cultivar to *Rhizoctonia solani*, tuber of this cultivar was applied in this study.
of *R. solani* AG3. However, maximum mycorrhizal colonization was observed in interactive treatments of *P. fluorescens* F140 and *P. fluorescens* T17-4 with *G. mossea* in absence of fungal pathogen (Table 2). After all, in mycorrhizal-bacterial interactions, *G. intraradices* is more efficient than *G. mossea* and it is due to higher production of internal organs in this species. It has been reported that bacterial species having stimulating effects on AMF colonization are called mycorrhiza helper bacteria11 and these promotion cause by stimulation spore germination and mycelial development12,13,14.

### 3.3 The Effect of Chemical Chelating Agents on AM Colonization

Both iron chemical chelating factors, EDTA and EDDHA, increase AM colonization. Though colonization of both mycorrhizal species decreased in interaction with these chelating factors, compared to the control. The presence of *R. solani* in pots containing mycorrhizal fungi with chemical chelating factors of iron had negative effects on performance on AM colonization (Table 3). It is noteworthy that *G. intraradices* has high colonization only in the presence of EDTA, while *G. mossea* showed high colonization effect in the presence of both chelating factors. Nevertheless, addition of fungal pathogen to all treatments led to decrease this effect. However, it can be concluded that chemical chelating factors of iron increase colonization.

### 3.4 The Effect of Chemical Chelating Agents and Bacterial Strains on AM Colonization

The results revealed that interaction of chemical chelating factor of iron (EDTA and EDDHA) mycorrhizal colonization and bacterial strains had positive effects on colonization and in consequence leads to increase fresh and dry weight, other growth factors and chlorophyll (Table 4). This may arise from uptake of metallic elements and increase in thaloid size. It has been thought that beside the plant nutrient uptake the competition for space and nutrients, changes

| Table 1. | Average percentage of mycorrhizal colonization roots in the presence and lack of pathogenic |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Control  | In presence of *R. solani* AG3 | Mycorrhizal species |
| 66.33    | 60.16                         | *Glomus mossea*     |
| 22.16    | 18.33                         | *Glomus intraradices*|

| Table 2. | Percentage of mycorrhizal colonization in interactions with bacterial strains |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Control  | In presence of *R. solani* AG3 | Bacterial strains – Mycorrhizal species |
| 59.67    | 24.67                         | *P. fluorescens* T17-4 + *G. mossea* |
| 26.16    | 47.5                          | *P. fluorescens* T17-4 + *G. intraradices* |
| 59.5     | 36.5                          | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *G. mossea* |
| 4.5      | 11.5                          | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *G. intraradices* |
| 34.33    | 48.5                          | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *G. mossea* |
| 27.16    | 18.33                         | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *G. intraradices* |

| Table 3. | Percentage of mycorrhizal colonization in interactions with chemical chelatings |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Control  | In presence of *R. solani* AG3 | Mycorrhizal species - chemical chelatings |
| 83       | 75                             | *Glomus mossea* + EDTA |
| 80       | 71.67                          | *Glomus mossea* + EDDHA |
| 70       | 34.67                          | *Glomus intraradices* + EDTA |
| 35       | 21                             | *Glomus intraradices* + EDDHA |

| Table 4. | Percentage of mycorrhizal colonization in association with bacterial strains and chemical chelating agents |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Control  | In presence of *R. solani* AG3 | Bacterial strains - Mycorrhizal species - Chemical chelatings |
| 78       | 8.5                            | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 70       | 62                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
| 61       | 30                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
| 65       | 45                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 7.5      | 40                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 58       | 58                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
| 43       | 34                             | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
| 27       | 36.5                           | *P. fluorescens* VUPf5 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 75       | 18                             | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 16.41    | 2.5                            | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
| 30.25    | 52.5                           | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *Gm* + EDTA |
| 33       | 23                             | *P. fluorescens* F140 + *Gm* + EDDHA |
in root system, mycorrhizosphere effect and the activation of plant defense mechanisms are responsible for disease inhibition by AMF\textsuperscript{11,15}. The same researchers acknowledged that the competition for iron (siderophore production) was used for the inhibition of \textit{R. solani}. So, it has been reported that dual application of AMF and bacterium inhibited the pathogen more efficiently\textsuperscript{6} and caused decrease plant deaths\textsuperscript{11} than single applications. Moreover, it has been stated that dual applications of both AMF and rhizobacteria (PGPR) are becoming efficient by inhibiting parasitic growth of any pathogen on the plant root\textsuperscript{6}. Their mutual establishment also improves plant rooting and enhances plant growth and nutrition\textsuperscript{11}. AMF and rhizobacteria, as the most important symbionts of rhizosphere, have shown stimulating\textsuperscript{11–15} or inhibiting\textsuperscript{16} effects on each other or on the growth of plants and pathogens. This was also confirmed in our study. Linderman\textsuperscript{15} reported that some antagonistic interactions might occur among the microorganisms inhibiting the same pathogen. It is not clear how AMF root colonization may be affected by soil-borne pathogens. Some reports stated that AMF root colonization was not affected by pathogens such as \textit{Fusarium} spp. and some confirmed that AMF was negatively affected by the pathogens in different pathosystems and the root colonization was reduced\textsuperscript{17}. Recent studies have demonstrated that underlying mechanisms of these differential interactions are still unclear\textsuperscript{18}. However, it has been hypothesized that these effects may be related to the species and varieties of bacteria and the conditions in the rhizosphere\textsuperscript{19,20}. The present study demonstrates that the two groups of rhizosphere organisms, AMF and rhizobacteria, can coexist without exhibiting adverse effects on each other. Moreover, it is concluded that suitable combinations of these biocontrol agents may increase the plant growth and resistance to pathogens. In future studies, therefore, more detailed investigations of the relationships in various pathosystems and of the interactions between the microorganisms and the host plant are needed for further developing the biocontrol of the related diseases.

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