Isolation and characterization of bacterial endophytes of *Curcuma longa* L.

Ajay Kumar\(^1\) · Ritu Singh\(^1\) · Akhilesh Yadav\(^1\) · D. D. Giri\(^1\) · P. K. Singh\(^1\) · Kapil D. Pandey\(^1\)

Received: 26 July 2015 / Accepted: 8 November 2015
© The Author(s) 2016. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com

**Abstract** Fourteen endophytic bacterial isolates were isolated from the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* L. were characterized on the basis of morphology, biochemical characteristics and 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis. The isolates were identified to six strains namely *Bacillus cereus* (ECL1), *Bacillus thuringiensis* (ECL2), *Bacillus* sp. (ECL3), *Bacillus pumilis* (ECL4), *Pseudomonas putida* (ECL5), and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (ECL6). All the strains produced IAA and solubilized phosphate and only two strains produced siderophore (ECL3 and ECL5) during plant growth promoting trait analysis. All the endophytic strains utilized glucose, sucrose and yeast extract as a carbon source where as glycine, alanine, cystine and glutamine as nitrogen source. The strains were mostly sensitive to antibiotic chloramphenicol followed by erythromycin while resistant to polymixin B. The endophytic strains effectively inhibit the growth of *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and some of the fungal strain like *Fusarium solani* and *Alterneria alternata*. The strain ECL2 and ECL4 tolerated maximum 8% of NaCl concentration while as strains ECL5 and ECL6 6% in salinity tolerance.

**Keywords** Antimicrobial activity · *Curcuma longa* · Endophyte · 16S rRNA analysis · Substrate utilization

**Introduction**

*Curcuma longa* L. commonly known as turmeric is a rhizotomous herb of family Zingiberaceae cultivated in Indian sub-continent and the Middle East countries. The mature dried rhizome is most common ingredient of Indian kitchen as spice and well known antiseptic, antipyretic since ancient times. The medicinal properties are assigned due to the presence of curcuminoid and sesquiterpenoid compounds. Curcumin, the most important curcuminoid, is used as antioxidant, antimicrobial anti-inflammatory and is even effective against cancer and HIV (Srimal 1997; Aggarwal et al. 2007; Aggarwal and Sung 2009). Plants interact with diverse communities of microorganisms for various purposes including growth promotion, yield enhancement and disease management. In turn, the microbes derive shelter and nutrients from the host plants (Reiter and Sessitsch 2006). Rhizosphere is the most prominent zone for the microbial interaction, while some of the bacterial species enter inside the plant tissue and resides as endophytes without causing any symptoms. During endophytic colonization the microbe resides in almost every internal part of plant ranging from tissues of the underground roots to stem, leaf, flower, fruit and seed (Hallmann et al. 1997a, b). The endophyte population varies depending upon the tissue, plant developmental stage and the surrounding environment such as season as reported in soybean (Kuklinsky-Sobral et al. 2004). Endophytes actively or passively trigger the physiological changes in the plant cell (Conrath et al. 2006). They are superior in growth promotion over the rhizobacteria owing to better adaptations against abiotic or biotic stresses (Pil-lay and Nowak 1997). Bacterial endophytes promote host plant growth through direct mechanisms by producing phytohormones IAA, gibberellins, cytokinins (Lee et al. 1996).
phosphate solubilization (Wakelin 2004), N₂ fixation (Complant et al. 2005), or indirectly by production of antibiotics (Ezra et al. 2004), siderophores (Lodewyckx et al. 2002) and lytic enzymes against the pathogens (Chernin and Chet 2002). Many endophytes constitute the common soil bacteria (Pseudomonas, Burkholderia and Bacillus) that produce diverse range of secondary metabolites, antibiotics and volatile organics to counters the deleterious effects of pathogens by mechanisms in line with the PGPR (Kloepper et al. 1999; Lodewyckx et al. 2002). In addition, endophytes also counteract the adverse effects of salinity for sustainable agriculture. The underground turmeric rhizome favors growth of various microbial communities or endophyte, which modulates plant growth through the synthesis of biochemicals and secondary metabolites. The present study was undertaken to study the endophytic bacterial community of the turmeric rhizome and their response to the salinity stress, antimicrobial agents and substrate utilization pattern.

Materials and methods

For the isolation of endophytic bacterial isolates, the rhizomes of C. longa L. (Turmeric) were collected from the Botanical garden of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India (20°18’N and 80°36’E, elevation 80.71 m). Fresh and healthy rhizomes were washed thoroughly under running tap water and surface sterilized (70 % C₂H₅OH, 3 min, 0.5 % NaOCl, 3 min and 70 % C₂H₅OH, 30 s). Finally, they were washed thrice with sterile distilled water (Sun et al. 2008). Surface sterilization efficiency of the sterilizers was checked by inoculating surface sterilized unsliced rhizome on nutrient agar plate, prior to inoculation of endophytic bacteria. The surface sterilized rhizomes were air dried, sliced into thin sections and placed aseptically over nutrient agar plate Petri dishes and incubated at 30 °C for 2–4 days in bacteriological incubator. The bacterial colonies surrounding rhizome section were picked and streaked on the fresh nutrient agar for the selection of clone.

Characterization of bacterial isolates

Endophytic bacterial isolates were characterized on the basis of colony morphology, biochemical characteristics and molecular phylogeny. The morphological and biochemical characteristics of the isolates were examined according to the Bergey’s manual of determinative Bacteriology (Kumar et al. 2015).

16S rRNA gene amplification and sequencing

Genomic DNA was isolated using Genei Pure™ bacterial DNA purification kit (Genei™, Bangalore, India) following the manufacturer’s protocol. Universal eubacterial primers F-D1 5’-CCGAATTCGTCGACAACAGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG-3’ and R-D1 5’-CCCGGGATCCAGCTTAAGGAGGTGATCCAGCC-3’ (Kumar et al. 2015) were used to amplify 1500 bp region of 16S rRNA gene using a thermal cycler (BioRad, USA). Amplification products were resolved by agarose-gel electrophoresis (1.5 %), and visualized using a gel documentation system (Alfa Imager, Alfa Innotech Corporation, USA). The ampicons were purified using Genei Pure™ quick PCR purification kit (Genei™, Bangalore, India) and quantified at 260 nm using a spectrophotometer taking calf thymus DNA as control. The purified partial 16S rDNA amplicons were sequenced in an Applied Biosystems 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems®, CA, and USA).

Analysis of 16S rDNA sequences

The partial sequences of nucleotides were compared with available sequences from NCBI databases and sequences showing >99 % similarity were retrieved by Nucleotide Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST N) program available at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) BLAST server (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST).

PGP traits analysis

Production of IAA

Bacteria were cultivated at 25 ± 2 °C for 48 h in the nutrient agar broth supplemented with 100–400 μg ml⁻¹ of L-tryptophan were harvested through centrifugation (8000 rpm, 10 min). Supernatant (2 ml) was mixed with 2 drops of orthophospheric acid and 4 ml of the Salkowski reagent (50 ml, 35 % of perchloric acid, 1 ml 0.5 M FeCl₃ solution) (Bric et al. 1991). Production of IAA was confirmed by the development of pink color.

Phosphate solubilization

The bacterial strains were inoculated at three to four places on the Pikovskaya medium containing tricalcium phosphate on nutrient agar plate and incubated at 28 ± 2 °C for 2–3 days (Pikovskaya 1948). Development of clear halo zone around the strains exhibited their positive phosphate solubilization activity.
Siderophore production

The cultured bacterial strains were spotted on the Chrome azurol S agar plate (Schwyn and Neilands 1987). Development of yellow orange hallow zone around the bacterial spot has been considered as positive indication for siderophore production.

Substrate utilization

Carbohydrate utilization was performed by modifying the Simmon’s Citrate medium with mixture of amino Acids (i.e. alanine, glycine, glutamine, cysteine, methionine and tryptophan in equal amount), A5 and A6 trace element, multivitamin capsule and by replacing the sodium citrate with 0.2 % (w/v) of different carbohydrates. Growth was examined after fifth day of incubation in comparison with negative control. Nitrogen utilization pattern was tested by adding 0.1 % (w/v) different nitrogen source in Jansen’s medium. Growth was examined after incubation for 5 days in comparison with negative control.

Antibiotic sensitivity test

Sensitivity test was performed using antibiotic impregnated discs (6 mm diameter). Antibiotic sensitivity of the strains were tested against chloramphenicol, erythromycin, rifampicin, polymyxin B by Kirby Bauer disc-diffusion assay method (Kumar et al. 2015). The quantities of antibiotics used were 30 μg/disc. On the basis of inhibition zone recorded, organisms were categorized as resistant or sensitive according to DIFCO Manual 10th edition (1984).

Antibacterial activity

All endophytes strain were screened for antibacterial properties against Escherichia coli, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Klebsiella pneumonia. The nutrient agar plates were inoculated with bacterial endophytes as a single streak at the centre of the petri-plate and incubated for 7 days at 30 °C. Overnight grown cultures of the test organisms were streaked at right angle to the producer endophyte and observed for its growth/inhibition after 24–48 h of incubation at 30 °C. The length of inhibition zone was measured to nearest mm (Kumar et al. 2015).

Antifungal activity

All the endophytic strains were tested against four moulds Fusarium solani, Alterneria alternata, Byssoschlamys fulva and Aureobasidium pullulans for the fungistatic activity. The 24-h-old cultures of separate strains grown in nutrient broth were spotted on the fungal test cultures prepared on the PDA medium (Kumar et al. 2015). The plates were incubated at room temperature for 7 days and fungal growth inhibition was measured (Owen and Hundley 2004; Kumar et al. 2015).

Salt tolerance

To assay the salt tolerance of endophytic bacterial isolates a 20 μl aliquots of an 24 h old test culture was inoculated with 1 % protease peptone in a sequential series of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 % NaCl concentrations and left incubated under growth condition. After 24–48 h their growth was measured by absorbance at 600 nm in a spectrophotometer (UV/VIS Spectrophotometer117, Systronics, India).

Results

Physio-biochemical characterization

A total of 14 different bacterial clones on the basis of colony morphology and colors were isolated from the sliced turmeric rhizome while no bacteria could be observed near the surface sterilized unsliced rhizome. Based on the morphological and biochemical characteristics, isolates were assigned to three genera Bacillus (9), Pseudomonas (3) and Clavibacter (2). Nearly two-third of the bacterial isolates were rod shaped and Gram positive; details of the biochemical characteristics are presented in Table 1.

On the basis of 16S rRNA gene sequence, isolates were identified as Bacillus cereus ECL1 (KF793818), Bacillus thuringiensis ECL2 (KF793819), Bacillus sp. ECL3 (KF793820), Bacillus pumilus ECL4 (KF793821), Pseudomonas putida ECL5 (KF793822), Clavibacter michiganensis ECL6 ((KF793823). Endophytic bacterial strains belonged to Bacteroidetes (Clavibacter), Firmicutes (Bacillus), γ-Proteobacteria (Pseudomonas). The details of the strains and the nearest relative based on 16S rRNA gene sequence are given in Table 2. The DNA sequences were aligned and phylogenetic tree constructed by neighbor-joining method using MEGA5.01 (Fig. 1).

PGP traits

All the endophytic bacterial strains produced IAA with maximum (23 μg ml⁻¹) in P. putida (ECL5) and minimum (14 μg ml⁻¹) in Clavibacter michiganensis (ECL6) on supplementation of 400 l-tryptophan (μg ml⁻¹) and remaining four strains value of IAA were in between them. Siderophore production was observed only in Bacillus sp. (ECL3) and P. putida (ECL5). All the strains solubilized tricalcium phosphate except B. thuringiensis ECL2 (Table 3).
The endophytes strains showed different level of tolerance to the increasing salt concentration strain *B. thuringiensis* (ECL2) and *B. pumilus* (ECL4) withstand higher salt level (8 % NaCl) whereas *B. cereus* ECL1 and *Bacillus* sp. ECL3 tolerated 7 % of NaCl. Pseudomonas putida (ECL5) and *Clavibacter michiganensis* (ECL6) bacterial population survived at 6 % of NaCl concentration.

### Carbon and nitrogen source utilization pattern

All the endophytic strains variably utilized glucose, sucrose and yeast extract as a C source. Mannitol was utilized by the strains *B. cereus* (ECL1) and *Bacillus* sp. (ECL3), where as no strain utilized mallic acid and methanol as carbon source. All the strains utilized glycine, alanine, cystine and glutamine as N-source, *P. putida* ECL5 also utilized aspartic acid and

| Gram staining   | Bacillus cereus ECL1 | Bacillus thuringiensis ECL2 | Bacillus sps. ECL3 | Bacillus pumilus ECL4 | Pseudomonas putida ECL5 | Clavibacter michiganensis ECL6 |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| **Shape**       | Rod                  | Rod                         | Rod                | Rod                   | Rod                     | Rod                             |
| **Catalase**    | +ve                  | +ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Oxidase**     | -ve                  | -ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Glucose**     | +ve                  | +ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Lactose**     | -ve                  | -ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Maltose**     | +ve                  | -ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | -ve                     | -ve                             |
| **Mannitol**    | +ve                  | +ve                         | -ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Sucrose**     | +ve                  | +ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Nitrate reduction** | +ve         | +ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **H₂S production** | -ve          | -ve                         | -ve                | +ve                   | -ve                     | -ve                             |
| **Starch hydrolysis** | +ve          | +ve                         | +ve                | +ve                   | +ve                     | +ve                             |
| **Salt tolerance** | 7 %               | 8 %                         | 7 %                | 8 %                   | 6 %                     | 6 %                             |

*+ve*, positive; *-ve*, negative
inhibited growth of any of the test organism(s) was considered having antibacterial activity and the length of inhibition zone was measured in mm (Table 4). All the strain showed antibacterial activity against E. coli, where as strain B. cereus ECL1, Bacillus sp. (ECL3), B. pumilus (ECL4), C. michiganensis (ECL6) showed antibacterial activity against K. pneumonia whereas no any strains inhibits the growth of P. aeruginosa. Strain B. cereus (ECL1) and P. putida (ECL5) possessed strong antibacterial property among all the tested strain.

### Antifungal activity

To assess fungistatic property of the bacterial strains, four fungal species namely F. solani, Alternaria alternata, B. fulva and A. pullulans were used. Fungistatic activity was observed by zone of growth inhibition in the area where the bacteria were inoculated on the agar plate. All the strains exhibited antifungal property but Bacillus sp. (ECL3) did not show fungistatic activity against B. fulva and A. pullulans strain (Table 4).

### Discussion

The turmeric rhizome was rich in endophytic bacterial diversity. In the turmeric, isolated endophytic bacterial isolates belonged to six different species B. cereus (ECL1), B. thuringiensis (ECL2), Bacillus sp. ECL3, B. pumilus (ECL4), P. putida (ECL5) and C. michiganensis (ECL6). These strains previously reported as endophytes in different plant species like Bacillus sp. and Pseudomonas sp. in tomato and rhizomes of ginger (Rashid et al. 2012; Jasim et al. 2013). B. cereus isolated from Chenopodium majus (Goryluk et al. 2009), P. putida in Zingiber officinale (Jasim et al. 2013) and Poulus tree (Taghavi et al. 2009). C. michiganensis strain reported as a pathogen which cause cankar of tomato and goss wilt of corns but it is also reported as non-pathogenic in the Prairie plants (Zinniel et al. 2002). Pathogenesis is a multi-factorial process which depends on the immune status of the host, ability to invade host tissue and plants exudates. Turmeric endophytic isolates C. michiganensis (ECL6) was non-pathogenic in nature, this may be due to the properties of biochemical

| Table 2 Closest relative of the isolated strains as revealed by 16S rRNA gene sequencing |
| Source | Strains | Accession number | Nearest phylogenetic neighbour | Similarity (%) |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1      | Curcuma longa | ECL1 | KF793818 | Bacillus cereus V1752 | 100 |
| 2      | Curcuma longa | ECL2 | KF793819 | Bacillus thuringiensis GTG-29 | 100 |
| 3      | Curcuma longa | ECL3 | KF793820 | Bacillus sp. GutB2 | 100 |
| 4      | Curcuma longa | ECL4 | KF793821 | Bacillus pumilus strain LXII | 99 |
| 5      | Curcuma longa | ECL5 | KF793822 | Pseudomonas putida NBUS12 | 100 |
| 6      | Curcuma longa | ECL6 | KF793823 | Clavibacter michiganensis LPPA982 | 100 |

| glutamic acid. Ammonium sulphate was utilized by all the isolates except C. michiganensis (ECL6), Arginine is utilized by four strains except B. cereus (ECL1) and Bacillus sp. (ECL3). |

### Antibiotic sensitivity

Antibiotic sensitivity pattern of the endophytic bacterial isolate was determined against four different antibiotics by disc diffusion method. Results shown in Table 4 depict that endophytes of turmeric were mostly sensitive to chloramphenicol followed by erythromycin while resistant to rifampicin and polymixin-B. Bacillus thuringiensis (ECL2) and B. pumilus (ECL4) showed high resistance for two (rifampicin and polymixin-B) of the four used antibiotics whereas strains B. cereus (ECL1) and Bacillus sp. (ECL3) were most susceptible to all the antibiotic disc.

### Antibacterial activity

Antibacterial properties of all bacterial endophytes were assessed against three bacterial test organisms, E. coli, P. aeruginosa and Klebsiella pneumoniae. The isolate which inhibited growth of any of the test organism(s) was

| Table 3 Characterization of selected bacterial isolates for plant growth promoting (PGP) traits |
|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                | IAA production | P. solubilization | Siderophore production |
| Bacillus cereus ECL1             | +ve            | +ve               | -ve                   |
| Bacillus thuringiensis ECL2      | +ve            | -ve               | -ve                   |
| Bacillus sp. ECL3                | +ve            | +ve               | +ve                   |
| Bacillus pumilus ECL4            | +ve            | +ve               | -ve                   |
| Pseudomonas putida ECL5          | +ve            | +ve               | +ve                   |
| Clavibacter michiganensis ECL6   | +ve            | -ve               | -ve                   |
constituents curcuminoids and sesquiterpenoids present in the plant which have antimicrobial, antifungal, antioxidant properties. In the previous study of Ding et al. (2011) also used Calvibacter sp. as inoculants in Chorispora bungeana for chilling tolerance. During the plant growth promotion trait analysis, all the endophytic strains produced significant amount of IAA, which has already been reported in B. cereus (Rana et al. 2011) and P. putida (Jasim et al. 2013). The extent of production was found maximum in case of P. putida (ECL5) and minimum in C. michiganensis (ECL6) in the presence of tryptophan. IAA is the most common plant hormone, which stimulate the growth and reproduction of plants (Taghavi et al. 2009). IAA produced by bacteria interacts with the plants in diverse ways from pathogenesis to phytostimulation. IAA is the main auxin in the plants which involved in cell enlargement and division, tissue differentiation, physiological processes (Woodward and Bartel 2005; Spaepen et al. 2007). The amount of IAA produced by bacteria play important role in plant–microbe interaction (Xie et al. 1996). The modulation of plant growths takes place by optimal IAA concentration range. In the study of Persello-Cartieaux et al. (2003) it is found that inoculation of IAA producing bacteria Pseudomonas thivervalensis at the amount 10^5 CFU ml^{-1} in Arabidopsis resulting reproducible morphological changes but the amount of 10^6 CFU ml^{-1} inoculants inhibit the plant growth.

Siderophore production by the bacterial strain is one of the biocontrol mechanism. The iron-chelation by bacteria makes them better competitors for the available iron and in this way, prevents growth of the pathogenic microorganisms. In this study siderophore production was observed only in two strains Bacillus sp. (ECL3) and P. putida (ECL5), similar to the previous report by Jasim et al. (2013). Plant growth promoting bacteria solubilize insoluble phosphates to make them available to enhance crop productivity. Four endophytic strains B. cereus (ECL1), Bacillus sp. (ECL3), B. pumilus (ECL4) and P. putida (ECL5) solubilized phosphate which strengthen the results as reported previously in Bacillus sp. and P. putida (Pandey et al. 2006; Forchetti et al. 2007).

The endophytic bacterial isolates reside and multiply in the plants where the environment contains relatively high ionic strength which successively tolerated both the biotic and abiotic factors. Previously many authors reported the endophytic strain which successively tolerated the high salt concentration (Hallmann et al. 1997a, b; Lopez et al. 2011; Rashid et al. 2012; Singh et al. 2013; Kumar et al. 2015). In this study the endophytic isolates were able to grown differentially at different salt levels. In a previous study, Pseudomonas sp. tolerated up to 4 % NaCl, while Bacillus sp. 2 % NaCl (Rashid et al. 2012). The endophytic bacterial strains of Momordica charentia showed tolerance to 4–10 % NaCl (Singh et al. 2013).

Many endophytic bacterial strains exhibited antibiotic properties that inhibit the growth of an antagonistic bacterium. Amongst all bacterial strains were sensitive to Chloramphenicol and Erythromycin but the strain B. thurienogenesis (ECL2), B. pumilus (ECL4) resistant to polymixine-B and rifampicin respectively. The antibiotic disc acts differentially on the growth of same bacterial strains of different isolation source. In case of Cassia tora bacterial isolate Pseudomonas sp. resistant to chloramphenicol and amoxicillin (Kumar et al. 2015) in contrast to Pseudomonas species of Andrographis paniculata which showed resistance only to amoxicillin (Arunachalam and Gayathri 2010). Many natural products produced by endophytes have proven to be antibacterial, antifungal, antidiabetic, antioxidants and immunosuppressives and great source of bioactive natural products. The majority of endophytic bacteria produced different kinds of novel antibiotics like Ecomycins, Pseudomycins, Munumbicins, Kakadumycins. These compounds inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria and fungi (Christina et al. 2013).
The bacterial strains secrete different types of natural products to inhibit or kill a wide variety of harmful disease-causing agents including, bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoans that affect humans and animals (Demain 1981). The bacterial secretes 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol (DAPG), phycocyanin, siderophores, lytic enzymes, chitenase which degrade the cell wall of pathogens and act as natural biological control. In present investigation the strain B. cereus (ECL1) and P. putida (ECL5) have shown the inhibition zones and indicated a strong antibacterial property among the all isolates.

During the antifungal activity the tested fungal strain are potent pathogens and cause severe infection to living organisms. Fusarium solani is a filamentous fungus commonly isolated from the soil and plant debris. A. alternata is known to produce mycotoxins, A. pullulans and B. fulva are responsible for fruit rot in certain plants. The antifungal activity of the isolated strains is due to the secretes of the strains like lytic enzymes, chitenase, production of certain antibiotics. Our finding showed that all bacterial isolates posses antifungal characteristics against above pathogens except the strain Bacillus sp. (ECL3) and C. michiganensis (ECL6), which did not show fungstatic activity against the fungal strain B. fulva and A. pullulans and they may be helpful to host for resistance against virulent fungi.

Conclusion

The diverse endophytic bacterial strains (ECL1, ECL2, ECL3, ECL4, ECL5, ECL6) are isolated from the rhizome of C. longa. They harbor PGP traits of variable degree to accomplish the need of the host. All the strains produced IAA; two-third solubilized phosphate while one-third produced siderophore and tolerated high salt (8 % NaCl) concentration during salinity tolerance. All the bacterial strains differentially utilized the carbon and nitrogen source. The strains were sensitive to antibiotic chloromphenicol followed by erythromycin where as most of them were resistant to polymixine B. The endophytic strains effectively checked the growth of E. coli, Enterobacter and some of the fungal strain like Fusarium solani and A. alternata.

Acknowledgments  Ajay kumar is thankful to University Grant Commission, New Delhi for financial assistance in the form of JRF and SRF and Head, Department of Botany to providing lab facilities.

Open Access This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.

References

Aggarwal BB, Sung B (2009) Pharmacological basis for the role of curcumin in chronic diseases: an age-old spice with modern targets. Trends Pharmacol Sci 30:85–94

Aggarwal BB, Sundaram C, Malani N, Ichikawa H (2007) Curcumin: the Indian sweet gold. Adv Exp Med Biol 595:1–75

Arunachalam C, Gayathri P (2013) Studies on bioprospecting of endophytic bacteria from the medicinal plant of Andrographis paniculata for their antimicrobial activity and antibiotic susceptibility. Int J Curr Pharm Res 2(4):63–68

Bric JM, Bostock RM, Silverstone SE (1991) Rapid in situ assay for indole acetic acid production by bacteria immobilized on nitrocellulose membrane. Appl Environ Microbiol 57(2):535–538

Chernin L, Chet I (2002) Microbial enzymes in biocontrol of plant pathogens and pests. In: Burns RG, Dick RP (eds) Enzymes in the environment: activity, ecology and applications. Marcel Dekker, New York, pp 171–225

Christina A, Christopher V, Bhore SJ (2013) Endophytic bacteria as a source of novel antibiotics: an overview. Pharmacogn Rev 7(13):11–16

Compant S, Reiter B, Sessitsch A, Nowak J, Clément C, Ait Barka E (2005) Endophytic colonization of Vitis vinfera L. by a plant growth promoting bacterium, Burkholderia sp. strain PsJN. Appl Environ Microbiol 71:1685–1693

Conrath U, Beckers GMJ, Flors V, García-Agustín P, Jakab G, Mauch F (2006) Priming: getting ready for battle. Mol Plant Microbe Interact 19:1062–1071

Demain AL (1981) Industrial microbiology. Science 214:987–994

Ding S, Huang C, Sheng H, Song C, Li Y, Li A (2011) Effect of inoculation with the endophyte Clavibacter sp. strain Enf12 on chilling tolerance in Chorispora bungeana. Physiol Plant 141:141–151

Ezra D, Castillo UF, Strobel GA, Hess WM, Porter H, Jensen JB, Condron MAM, Tempow DB, Sears J, Maranta M, Hunter M, Weber B, Yaver D (2004) Coronamycins, peptide antibiotics produced by a verticillate Streptomyces sp. (MSU-2110) endophytic on Monstera sp. Microbiology 150:785–793

Forchetti G, Masciarelli O, Alemano S, Alvarez D, Abdala G (2007) Endophytic bacteria in sunflower (Helianthus annuus L.): isolation, characterization, and production of jasmonates and abscisic acid in culture medium. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 76:1145–1152

Goryluk A, Rekosz-Burlaga H, Blaszczyk M (2009) Isolation and characterization of bacterial endophytes of Chelidonium majus L., Pol J Microbiol 58(4):355–361

Hallmann J, Quadt-Hallmann A, Mahaffee WF, Kloeper JW (1997a) Bacterial endophytes in agricultural crops. Can J Microbiol 43(10):895–914

Hallmann J, Quadt-Hallmann A, Rodriguez-Kabana R, Kloeper JW (1997b) Interaction between Meloidogyne incognita and endophytic bacteria in cotton and cucumber. Soil Biol Biochem 30:925–937

Jasim B, Joseph AA, John CJ, Mathew J, Radhakrishnan EK (2013) Isolation and characterization of plant growth promoting endophytic bacteria from the rhizome of Zingiber officinale. 3 Biotech. doi: 10.1007/S13205-013-0143-3

Kloeper JW, Rodriguez-Kabana R, Zeherdner GW, Murphy J, Sikora E, Fernandez C (1999) Plant root-bacterial interactions in biological control of soil borne diseases and potential extension to systemic and foliar diseases. Australas J Plant Pathol 28:27–33

Kuklinsky-Sobral J, Araújo WL, Mendes R, Gerald J, Pizzirani-Kleiner AA, Azevedo JL (2004) Isolation and characterization of
soyabean associated bacteria and their potential for plant growth promotion. Environ Microbiol 12:1244–1251
Kumar V, Kumar A, Pandey KD, Roy BK (2015) Isolation and characterization of bacterial endophytes from the roots of Cassia tora L. Ann Microbiol 65:1391–1399
Lee S, Flores-carnacion M, Contreras-Zentella M, Garcia-Flores L, Escamilla JE, Kennedy C (2004) Indole-3-acetic acid biosynthesis is deficient in Glucon acetobacter diazotrophicus strains with mutations in cytochrome C biogenesis genes. J Bacteriol 186:5384–5391
Lodewyckx C, Vangronsveld J, Porteous F, Moore ERB, Taghavi S, Mezgeay M, van der Lelie D (2002) Endophytic bacteria and their potential applications. Crit Rev Plant Sci 21:583–606
Lopez BR, Bashan Y, Bacilio M (2011) Endophytic bacteria of Mammillaria fraileana an endemic rock colonizing cactus of the southern Sonoran desert. Arch Microbiol 193:527–541
Owen NL, Hundley N (2004) Endophytes—the chemical synthesizers inside plants. Sci Prog 87:79–99
Pandey A, Trivedi P, Kumar B, Palni LMS (2006) Characterization of a phosphate solubilizing and antagonistic strain of Pseudomonas putida (BO) isolated from a Sub-Alpine location in Himalaya. Curr Microbiol 53:102–107
Persello-Cartieaux F, Nussaume L, Robaglia C (2003) Tales from the underground: molecular plant-rhizobacteria interactions. Plant, Cell Environ 26:189–199
Pilovskaya RI (1948) Mobilization of phosphorus in soil in connection with the vital activity of some microbial species. Microbiologia 17:362–370
Pillay VK, Nowak J (1997) Inoculums density, temperature, and genotype effects on in vitro growth promotion and epiphytic and endophytic colonization of tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum L.) seedlings inoculated with a pseudomonad bacterium. Can J Microbiol 43:354–361
Rana A, Saharan B, Joshi M, Prasanna R, Kumar K, Lata N (2011) Identification of multi-traits PGPR isolates and evaluating their potential as inoculants for wheat. Ann Microbiol 61:893–900
Rashid S, Charles TC, Glick BR (2012) Isolation and characterization of new plant growth promoting bacterial endophyte. Appl Soil Ecol 61:217–224
Reiter B, Sessitsch A (2006) Bacterial endophytes of the wildflower Crocus albuliflorus analyzed by characterization of isolates and by a cultivation independent approach. Can J Microbiol 52:140–149
Schwyn B, Neillands JB (1987) Universal chemical assay for the detection and determination of siderophores. Anal Biochem 160:47–56
Singh R, Kumar A, Singh M, Pandey KD (2013) Effect of salt stress on endophytic bacteria isolated from root of Momordica charantia. In: Indian Society of Vegetable Science, National Symposium on Abiotic and Biotic Stress Management in Vegetable Crops
Spaepen S, Vanderleyden J, Remans R (2007) Indole-3-acetic acid in microbial and microorganism-plant signaling. FEMS Microbiol Rev 31:425–448
Srima RC (1997) Turmeric: a brief review of medicinal properties. Fitoterapia 68(6):483–493
Sun QJ, Guo LD, Zang W, Ping WX, Chi DF (2008) Diversity and ecological distribution of endophytic fungi associated with medicinal plants. Sci China, Ser C Life Sci 51(8):751–759
Taghavi S, Garafola C, Monchy S, Newman L, Hoffman A, Weyens N (2009) Genome survey and characterization of endophytic bacteria exhibiting a beneficial effect on growth and development of poplar. Appl Environ Microbiol 75:748–757
Wakelin S (2004) Phosphate solubilization by Penicillium spp. closely associated with wheat roots. Biol Fertil Soils 40:36–43
Woodward AW, Bartel B (2005) Auxin: regulation, action, and interaction. Ann Bot (London) 95:707–735
Xie H, Pasternak JJ, Glick BR (1996) Isolation and characterization of mutants of the plant growth-promoting rhizobacterium Pseudomonas putida GR12-2 that overproduce indoleacetic acid. Curr Microbiol 32:67–71
Zinniel DK, Lambrecht P, Harris NB, Feng Z, Kuczmarski D, Higley P, Ishimaru CA, Arunakumari A, Barletta RG, Vidaver AK (2002) Isolation and characterization of endophytic colonizing bacteria from agronomic crops and prairie plants. Appl Environ Microbiol 68(5):2198–2208