

ABSTRACT

The Effect of Biocontrol Agents on Latency of Mango Anthracnose caused by Colletotrichum gloeosporioides Penz.

Usha Dianne Fakira

Colletotrichum gloeosporioides Penz. the anthracnose pathogen incites the most serious disease affecting mangoes and occurs in most countries where the crop is grown. The objective of this five month study was to evaluate the effects of P.fluorescens and P.putida on appressoria number and leaf area lesioned on 3 varieties of mango, Julie, Long and Teen. Appressorial counts and the disruption of latency by the use of paraquat were the techniques involved. It was shown that both bacteria caused a significant increase in appressoria number and leaf area lesioned than varietal controls. P.fluorescens and P.putida applied at 8 h after inoculation with C.gloeosporioides resulted in a greater appressoria and leaf area lesioned than at 16 h. Appressoria number and leaf area lesioned were found to be highly correlated. Julie mango appeared to be the most susceptible Teen being the least. The success of biocontrol agents to control this disease is highly unlikely. Recommendations for further research are given.