

Studies of Verticillium Wilt in Hops



Seefelder, S.¹, Drofenigg, K.¹, Seigner, E.¹, Niedermeier, E.¹, Berg, G.², Javornik, B.³, Radišek, S.⁴

¹Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture, Institute for Crop Science and Plant Breeding, Hop Research, Am Gereuth 2, 85354 Freising, Germany ²Environmental Biotechnology, Graz University of Technology, Petersgasse 14, A-8010 Graz, Austria ³Center for Biotechnology and Plant Breeding, University of Ljubliana, Biotechnical Faculty, Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana, Slovenia ⁴Slovenian Institute of Hop Research and Brewing, Cesta Zalskega tabora 2, Zalec, Slovenia

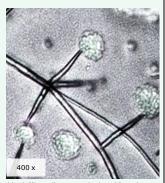


In Germany hop growing is an export oriented agricultural business producing 30 % of the world hop crop including aroma and high alpha cultivars. Since 2005 an outbreak of more severe hop wilt has resulted in massive yield losses in some regions of the Hallertau. For the first time, all varieties, even the tolerant ones have been affected. The occurrence of lethal Verticillium strains in England (Keyworth 1942) and Slovenia (Radišek et al. 2003) showed how dangerous this soil-borne fungus is. Once the Verticillium fungus has infected the root system of the plant, there are up to now no effective chemical treatments for this disease. Two types of



Regions in Hallertau with severe wilt

Verticillium albo-atrum - mild and lethal - have been described (OEPP/EPPO Bulletin, 2007). A risk management tool combining several strategies should be established. First a rapid molecular system to detect Verticillium in bine and soil without cultivating the fungus should be developed. Several organisms should be tested as possible biological control agents (BCA) (Berg et al. 2009) to protect the hop plants. Furthermore, agronomical approaches e.g. reduced fertilization, testing biofumigation will be performed.

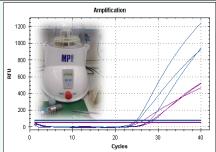


Verticillium albo-atrum isolated from hop

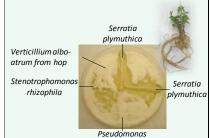
Material and Methods



Classical, but time-consuming method to determinate the Verticillium species. The DNA from 150 single-spore isolates was used for a further genetic differentiation by AFLPs applying various enzyme systems: EcoRI/Msel; EcoRI/Mspl; Pstl/Mspl.



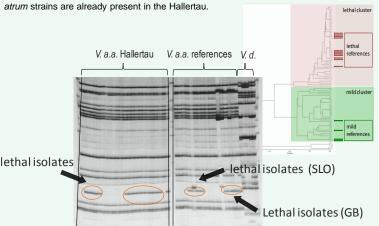
Rapid in planta Verticillium detection by multiplex qPCR after homogenizing the hop bine and isolating fungi DNA by commercial extraction kits



Dual cultures of Verticillium and bacteria were performed as first step to test microorganisms as possible bio-antagonists against hop wilt. Colonization of bacteria on hop roots.

trivialis

Cultivation of 150 single-spore isolates was successful. Verticillium albo-atrum infection was confirmed microscopically and molecularly. Molecular analysis using AFLP-markers showed differences between lethal and mild Verticillium types, collected in different European regions. A 134bp AFLP-fragment can be associated with the lethal Verticillium type. Parallel to the molecular approaches artificial infection tests with selected Verticillium isolates and hop varieties were performed in a growing chamber. Mild and lethal Hallertau isolates were chosen based on their genetic fingerprint. With both methods it could be confirmed that lethal V. albo-



Isolate	Days after infection	Cultivar						Mean
		Celeja	Perle	H. Tradition	N. Brewer	H. Magnum	Wye Target	mean
P55 (Hallertau mild)	38	1	C	0	0	1	o	0.
	52	2	C	1	0	1	0	0,
	66		1	2		1	0	1,
P83 (Hallertau mild)	38	2	1	1	0	0	0	0,
	52	3		2		0	0	1,
	66		1	3		1	0	1,
Zup (SLO mild)	38	C	0	1	0	-	0	0,
	52	2	0	1	0	0	q	0,
	66	2	1	2	1	0	O O	1,
P10 (Hallertau lethal)	38	3	2	2	1	0	q	1,
	52	4	3	2	1	1	0	2.
	66		3	4	3	1	1	(3,
P15 (Hallertau lethal)	38		1 2	1	1	1	0	1,
	52 66	5				2	0	2.
T6 (SLO lethal)	38		3	3			1	3,
	38 52	1	2	3	0	1	- 0	1.· 2.
	66			5	2	2		(3,
11055 (GB lethal)	38	3		1	1	2	0	1.:
	52	3	3	3		- 0	9	2.

Conclusion and outlook

It can be concluded that inside the Hallertau new lethal strains have developed. Furthermore a monitoring of hop wilt infections of the Hallertau hop growing region has to be continued with an improved rapid molecular test directly from the bines. Several microorganisms will be tested as possible bio-antagonists against the Verticillium fungus. Currently, breeding lines and wild hops are being tested for wilt-resistance in highly infected hop fields. In addition, tests with agronomical measurements and biofumigation are being performed

Berg G. 2009: Plant-microbe interactions promoting plant growth and health: perspectives for controlled use of microorganisms in agriculture. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 2009, 84:11-18; European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (OEPP/EPPO) Bulletin, 2007. Verticillium albo-atrum and V. dahliae on hop, 528-535. -; Keyworth, W.G. 1942: Verticillium wilt of the hop (Humulus lupulus) Ann. Appl. Biol. 29: 346-357. -; Radišek, S., Jakše, J., Simoncic, A., Javornik, B. 2003. Characterization of Verticillium. albo-atrum field isolates using pathogenicity data and AFLP analysis. Plant Disease 87(6); 633-638.

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