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POTENTIAL ANTAGONISTIC FUNGAL SPECIES FROM ETHIOPIA FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CHOCOLATE SPOT DISEASE OF FABA BEAN

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ABSTRACT

Chocolate spot disease (Botrytis fabae Sard) is one of most yield limiting constraints of faba bean (Vicia faba). There is promise in using biological control agents to control chocolate spot diseases, nevertheless, this strategy has not been fully exploited. The objective of this study was to assess the prevalence of different antagonistic fungi on phyloplane of faba bean in Ethiopia and to evaluate their antagonistic potential against the pathogen. A total of 110 isolates of Trichoderma species were obtained from faba bean leaves from 12 districts, which were grouped into 18 distinct groups differing in colony and other characters. Similarly, 26 distinct isolates belonging to species of Penicillium, Aspergillus, Fusarium and Phioalophora were identified from leaves of faba bean. In vitro and in vivo studies revealed strong antagonistic potential of many isolates. Thirteen isolates of Trichoderma produced 4 mm or more inhibition zone and reduced growth of pathogen colony, when grown in dual culture with it. Antagonistic isolates caused lysis of pathogen mycelium more than 6 mm on agar plates. The antagonists significantly reduced pathogen growth in a range of 24.5 to 0.8 mm. The efficacy of the Trichoderma isolates ranged from 47.6 to 98% and that of the other fungal isolates ranged from 13.1 to 34.5%. On detached leaves, isolates 6-1T, 18-3T and 87T of T. ovalisporum and 52-BT, 108-1T and 108-4T of T. longibrachiatum were found to reduce development of chocolate spot on four genotypes of faba bean. The outcome indicates that biocontrol agents, particularly of species Trichoderma are prevalent on faba bean leaves and can be further explored and developed into effective mycofungicides for management of chocolate spot disease of faba bean.

Key Words: Aspergillus Botrytis fabae, Trichoderma, Vicia fabae

RÉSUMÉ

La maladie de tâche du chocolat (*Botrytis fabae* Sard) est une des contraintes limitatives du rendement du haricot faba (*Vicia faba*). L'utilisation des agents biologiques de contrôle serait promettant, par ailleurs, cette stratégie n'a jamais été amplement exploitée. L'objectif de cette étude était d'évaluer la prévalence de différents champignons anatagonistiques sur la phylloplane du haricot faba en Ethiopie et d'évaluer leur potentiel antagonistique contre le pathogène. Un total de 110 isolats d'espèces de *Trichoderma* était obtenu des feuilles du haricot faba dans 12 districts, et groupées en 18 groupes différents en colonie et autres caractères. Similairement, 26 différents isolats appartenant aux espèces de *Penicillium, Aspergillus, Fusarium* et *Phioalophora* étaient identifiées des feuilles de haricot faba. Des études in vitro et in vivo ont révélé un fort potentiel anatagonistiques ont causé plus de colonies pathogéniques lorsque cultivés ensemble. Sur plateaux agar, des isolats anatagonistiques ont causé plus de 6 mm de *lysis* des mycelium pathogéniques. Les anatagonistes ont significativement réduit de 24.5 à 0.8 mm la croissance des pathogènes. L'efficacité des isolats de *Trichoderma* variait entre 47.6 et 98% et celle d'autres isolats fongiques variait entre 13.1 et 34.5%. Sur des feuilles détachées, les isolats 6-1T, 18-3T et 87T de *T. ovalisporum* et 52-BT,

108-1T et 108-4T de *T. longibrachiatum* étaient trouvées susceptibles de réduire le développement de la tâche du chocolat sur quatre génotypes du haricot faba. Le résultat indique que des agents biocontôles, particulièrement des espèces *Trichoderma* sont prévalants sur des feuilles de haricot faba et peuvent être examinés et développés en mycofungicides efficaces pour la gestion de la maladie de tâche du chocolat du haricot faba.

Mots Clés: Aspergillus Botrytis fabae, Trichoderma, Vicia fabae

INTRODUCTION

Faba bean (*Vicia fabae* L.) is one of the most important food legumes due to its high nutritive value both in terms of energy and protein contents (24-30 %) and is an excellent nitrogen fixer (Sahile *et al.*, 2008a). Ethiopia is the third largest producers of faba bean in the world, next to china and Egypt (Torres *et al.*, 2006). Faba bean is grown on 370,000 hectares in Ethiopia with an annual production of about 450,000 tonnes (ICARDA 2006). Despite its wide cultivation, the average yield of faba bean is quite low in Ethiopia, because of many biotic and abiotic constraints (Sahile *et al.*, 2008a).

Chocolate spot is the most important disease of faba bean worldwide and is capable of devastating unprotected crops up to 67% (Bouhassan et al., 2004). It appears as reddish brown spots on leaves and under favorable conditions on stems, flowers and pods. Subsequently, these spots grow larger and can even merge into black mass. The disease results in heavy premature defoliation and under warm moist conditions crop lodging may occur. Plant growth and most physiological activities are adversely affected leading to drastic reduction in yield (Khaled et al., 1995). This disease is caused by Botrytis fabae Sard. and B. cinerea Pers.Fr. (Harrison 1988). In Ethiopia chocolate spot is caused by B. fabae and occurs almost regularly in most faba bean growing areas (Dangachew, 1967). The disease can reduce faba bean yields up to 67% (Bouhassan et al., 2004).

Different management options have been developed to reduce the yield losses in faba bean due to chocolate spot worldwide. These include the use of chemical fungicides, resistant/ tolerant varieties, use of certain cultural practices such as crop residue management and altering planting date (Dereje, 1999; Bretag and Raynes, 2004; Hawthorne, 2004). There is weak genetic resistance in cultivars of faba beans to chocolate spot (Lawes *et al.*, 1983) and the most common control strategy is fungicide sprays. However, the negative effects of fungicide use are already becoming apparent. For instance, development of resistance in *B. cinerea* and in *B. fabae* against fungicides has been reported (Parry, 1990). Management options recommended in Ethiopia for this disease are application chlorothalonil or mancozeb and late planting (Dereje, 1993; Sahile *et al.*, 2008b) but have not been adopted by the farmers at large. Only one resistant variety, CS20DK was released in Ethiopia 20 years ago, but it did not become popular because of lower yield, and subsequently loss of resistance (Gemechu *et al.*, 2006).

Biological control is another option, which has not been fully exploited. It is economical, self-perpetuating and usually free from residual effects and can be an important component of integrated disease management. Faba bean phyloplane harbours many microorganisms of different groups, besides the chocolate spot pathogen because of its high proteins content. Some of them might be antagonistic to *B. fabae*. Sherga (1997) found that out of 270 isolates of *Bacillus* tested, 14% had strong antagonistic effect against chocolate spot pathogen in *vitro*. However, fungal antagonists have not been explored for biological management of this serious disease of this important food legume.

The objective of this study was to identify the potential fungal antagonists to *B. fabae* from Ethiopia, which can be developed into commercial mycofungicides for the integrated management of chocolate spot disease of faba bean.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of leaf samples. Samples of healthy looking leaves were collected from faba bean plants having disease on other leaves, for exploring the resident antagonistic mycoflora

of healthy faba bean leaves. Such samples were collected from farmers' fields of twelve districts of Amhara Regional State in north western Ethiopia. This region is located between longitude 36 - 40° W to E, and latitudes 11 - 13° 45' south-west to north. Similarly leaves aggressively affected by chocolate spot were collected from faba bean plants from a farmer's field in Kutaber district for isolation of virulent pathogen. All the leaf samples were kept in folds of newspapers in a plant press for 48 hr and, thereafter, kept securely in labelled paper bags till isolation of the microorganisms.

Isolation of faba bean resident mycoflora and pathogen. The collected leaves of faba bean were surface sterilised in 1% sodium hypochlorite and subsequently washed three times in sterilised distilled water. From decontaminated leaves 5-mm² pieces were cut with sterile scalpel and placed on potato dextrose agar (PDA) in 9 cm diameter culture dishes. These were incubated for one week at 21° C±1 and the fungi emerging from leaf tissues were transferred to PDA and purified. Fungal isolates in pure cultures were coded and transferred to screw-capped culture bottles containing faba bean extract dextrose agar and potato dextrose agar (FBEA/PDA) and stored at 4 °C. The B. fabae was isolated from diseased leaves on PDA, purified, identified and stored at 4 °C as stock culture of pathogen.

Cultural characteristics of isolates. The isolates of all fungi were grown on PDA in culture dishes at 21° C ±1 for 96 hr. Characteristics like colony colour and diameter, morphological and sporulation of all the isolates were compared and recorded (Dhingra and Sinclair, 1986). Generic level identification of isolates was done and broadly classified into Trichoderma isolates and other fungal isolates. Different isolates within both groups showing similar colony characteristics were again grouped together and one representative isolate of each subgroup was taken for antagonistic potential studies. Cultural characteristics like growth rate, colony colour and diameter and medium reverse colour of all representative isolates of Trichoderma and other fungi were

studied at 21°C on PDA. Isolates of *Trichoderma* that showed promising antagonistic activity were identified from CAB International Global Plant Clinic, London, UK.

Antagonistic activity in fungal isolates against *B. fabae*. The antagonistic activity of different fungal isolates from apparently healthy leaves was tested against *B. fabae* firstly *in vitro* and then *in vivo*.

The fungi isolated from the leaves were tested for antibiosis activity to *B. fabae* on PDA in 9 cm Petri dishes. Three petri-dishes were inoculated with 2-mm mycelial disc from the edges of an actively growing colony of *B. fabae* on one side and with a similar sized disc of fungal isolate on the other side and incubated at 21° C ±1. After 72 hr of growth the inhibition zones at the junction of colonies of fungal isolates and *B. fabae* were measured using verner calipper.

In order to test for *lysis of B. fabae colony* 4 ml of *B. fabae* mycelial disc was placed on PDA (15 ml) in 9 cm petri-dish and incubated at 21 °C \pm 1. After three days of mycelial growth 2-mm agar disc of the potential fungal isolates of *Trichoderma*, and other fungal isolates from actively growing colonies were placed on the colony of *B. fabae* and incubated at 21°C \pm 1. Lysis of *B. fabae* colony was examined periodically under stereomicroscope (50x) and the width of lysed mycelia around the colony of the lytic fungal isolate was measured. The experiments were replicated three times in completely randomized design. Culture plates with *B. fabae* alone were used as the control.

Six *Trichoderma* isolates showing fast growth, significant inhibition zone and lytic activity were identified at CAB International Global Plant Clinic and used in the *in vivo* test of the antagonistic potential. Detached-leaves of four faba bean varieties namely CS20DK (tolerant), EH91011-6-2 (moderately resistant) and EH0013-18 (susceptible check) and one local check were used *in vivo* testing using the aggressive *B. fabae* culture according to the Paul *et al.* (1995) procedure. Leaves without antagonist evidence were used as the control.

Leaves of faba bean of the same age group were sterilised with 70% ethanol and placed in

sterile 15 mm petri-dishes having sterilised filter paper moistened with sterile water. A spore suspension of B. fabae (2.5 x 105 spores ml-1) was prepared according to Mohammed et al. (1994). One drop (1 ml) of the spore suspension was placed near the midrib. The covered petri-dishes serving as moist chamber were incubated at 20°C. After 24 hours, a drop of potential antagonist having 2.0 x 10⁵ cfu ml⁻¹ was added to the pathogen at the midrib and incubated at 20 °C again. The experiment was arranged in a complete randomised design.Disease reaction was recorded at 48, 72, 96 and 120 hr of inoculation of antagonist using a 1-5 scale for detached leaf test (ICARDA, 1986).

Statistical analysis. Analysis of variance was carried out using SPSS V.12. Measurement data from in vivo test using detached leaves severity scales were subjected to SAS (Ver. 8). Mean comparisons were made using the Least Significant Difference test at P<0.05 test.

RESULTS

Isolation of resident mycoflora. From 1044 leaves collected from 12 districts, Trichoderma was isolated from 110 samples, showing 10.5% frequency of occurrence (Table 1). Trichoderma species was found to occur on faba bean leaves in all the districts; however, distribution of these isolates was found to vary among the districts. Highest number (13) of isolates was obtained from Kutaber district, followed by Hulet Eju Ensae. The elevation of the sampled areas varied between 1900 and 3319 meters above sea level.

TABLE 1. Natural occurrence of Trichoderma species on faba bean leaves in the districts of northwestern Ethiopia

Fungi other than Trichoderma species also appeared in isolations made from the 1044 leaves. Predominant fungi species observed on faba bean leaves were Penicillium, Aspergillus and Fusarium. Species of Penicillium were highly frequent and occurred on leaf samples from several areas. Aspergillus niger was isolated from 7 districts namely Debark, Desei Zuria, Kutaber, Farta, Wogera, Yilmana Densa and

District	Altitude range (m.a.s.l)	No. of Trichoderma isolates obtained	Potential antagonistic Trichoderma isolates	Potential antagonistic other fungal isolates	% potential Trichoderma isolates within each districts
Yilmana Densa	1980-2405	6	6-1T	10-p2(P. sp), 2(A. n)	5.6
Hulet Eju Ensae	2275-2670	Ш	14bT, 18-2T, 18-3T,	14(P sp), 18-1(A. n)	16.7
Gonder Zuria	1969-2463	œ		29(P sp), 25(A.f), 24(F sp)	0
Wogera	2650-2943	6	,	30-1(A. n)	0
Debark	2740-3053	7	,	49(A. n)	0
Farta	1975-3000	Ш	51-bT, 52B-2T	56(A. n)	11.2
Lay Gaint	2794-3184	10	63T,	62(P. sp), 68(A. fl)	5.6
Meket	2779-3319	6			0
Gubalafto Woldia	1900-3033	ω	87	81(P. sp)	5.6
Ambasel Tehuledrae	1908-2196	ω	108-1T, 108-3T, 108-4T,	108-2(P.sp), 104(F.sp)	16.7
Kutaber	2144-3250	13	114-3T, 117-2, 118T, 120-2T, 122-1T	119-2(P. sp), 117B(P. sp), 119-B(P. sp), 122-2(A. n),	n), 33.3
				112(A. n), 126(A. fl), 130-2(F. sp), 130-1(F. Sp), 120-2/1(Ph. sp)	
Desei Zuria	2055-3138	L	140-2	134-2(P.sp), 140-3(A. n)	5.6
¹ No isolate obtained	l. ² . A. fl = Asperdill	us flavus ; A. n = Asperail	lus niger ; F. sp = Fusarium sp. ; P. sr	No isolate obtained. ² . A. fl = Asperaillus flavus : A. n = Asperaillus niger : F. sp = Fusarium sp. ; P. sp = Penicillium sp. ; Ph. sp = Phailophora sp.	

Hulet Eju Ensae while; *A. flavus* occurred in Kutaber, Lay Gaynt and Gonder Zuria districts. Similarly, *Fusarium* sp. occurred in Ambasel Tehuledrae, Gonder Zuria and Kutaber districts. *Phailophora* sp. was found to occur on faba bean leaves in Kutaber districts only (Table 1).

Cultural characteristics of isolates of Trichoderma species and other fungi. Cultivation of fungal isolates on PDA under similar conditions showed that some isolates of the same genus resembled each other in colony characteristics, mycelium and sporulation characters while differed from other such groups of the same genus (Table 2). Eighteen distinct groups of Trichoderma were found to occur within its total 110 isolates from faba bean leaves. Further studies on PDA with one representative isolate of each group showed that colony diameters of 18 Trichoderma isolates varied from 39.4 to 61.55 mm after 96 hr of growth. Isolates 18-2T, 18-3T, 51b-T, 52-2T, 87T, 108-1T, 108-3T, 108-4T, 114-3T, 117-2T, 118T, 120-2T and 140-2T had fairly high growth rates. Isolates 51-bT, 108-3T, 108-4T, 117-3T and 118T grew as suppressed colonies; while all others had raised aerial growth. Isolates 6-1T, 14-bT, 63T, 87T and 118T had white to green colour; while 51bT and 52-2T had grey to yellow colour (Table 2). All other isolates of *Trichoderma* were green in colour. There were distinct differences in media reverse colour of isolates, which varied from white, yellow, yellowish green to green. Species of *Penicillium* exhibited relatively slow growth rates with colony diameter ranging from 27.1- 31.2 mm in 96 hr of growth on PDA in comparison to *A. niger* and *A. flavus* with colony diameter of 32.2 - 48.4 and 33.2 – 37.2 mm, respectively. *Phailophora* sp. attained 41.3 mm colony diameter in the same period (Table 3).

Antibiosis activity in fungal isolates. Dual culture studies on PDA for evaluation of antibiosis activity of *Trichoderma* species and other fungi revealed that all inhibited growth of *B. fabae* by degrees and exhibited inhibition zone at the junction with the pathogen. Out of 18 *Trichoderma* isolates tested, 13 isolates viz., 6-1T, 14bT, 18-3T, 52-2T, 87T, 108-1T, 108-3T, 108-4T, 117-2T, 118T, 120-2T, 122-1T and 140-2T

District	Isolate code	Altitude	Со	lony diamete	r (mm)	Со	lony	Media reverse colour
	LOUE	(m.a.s.l)	48 hr	72 hr	96 hr	Туре	Colour	
Yilmana Densa	6-1T	2702	15.33	23.00	39.45	А	W/g	W
Hulet Ejue Ensae	14bT	2424	17.78	28.33	44.60	А	W/g	G
Hulet Ejue Ensae	18-2T	2544	21.11	31.67	47.30	А	G	G
Hulet Ejue Ensae	18-3T	2544	20.00	30.00	46.20	А	G	Y
Farta	51-bT	2727	25.56	38.33	58.40	S	G/y	W
Farta	52-2T	2702	23.78	35.67	51.67	А	G/y	W
Lay Gaynt	63T	2145	18.89	28.33	44.33	А	W/g	W
Gubalafto Woldia	87T	2810	22.22	33.33	49.45	А	W/g	W
Ambasel Tehlederae	108-1T	2003	16.00	24.00	50.00	А	G	G
Ambasel Tehlederae	108-3T	2003	23.33	35.00	51.23	S	G	W
Ambasel Tehlederae	108-4T	2003	30.00	45.00	61.55	S	G/y	Y
Kutaber	114-3T	2264	25.56	38.33	58.30	А	G	G
Kutaber	117-2T	2407	23.33	35.00	51.33	А	G	G/y
Kutaber	117-3T	2407	18.89	28.33	44.00	S	G	G
Kutaber	118T	2216	25.56	38.33	58.00	S	W/g	W
Kutaber	120-2T	2505	25.56	38.33	58.33	А	G	G
Kutaber	122-1T	2567	16.67	25.00	41.45	А	G	W
Dessei Zuria	140-2T	2784	25.56	38.33	58.25	А	G	W

TABLE 2. Colony and growth characteristics of different Trichoderma species isolates from north western Ethiopia

A = aerial; S = suppressed; W/q = white to green; G/y = Green to yellow; G = green; W = white; Y = yellow; G/y = gray to yellow

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District	Fungi	Isolate code	Altitude (m. a. s. L.)	Colony grov (m	vth diameter nm)	Colony	Character at 96 hr
				72 hr	96 hr	Colour	Media reverse colour
Kutaber	Penicillium sp.	119-2	2430	15.33	31.21	B/g	Y
Lay Gaynt	Penicillium sp.	62	2100	12.00	28.17	B/g	B/g
Hulet Eju Ensae	Penicillium sp.	14	2424	14.00	30.19	B/g	G
AmbaselTehulederae	Penicillium sp.	108-2	2003	11.33	27.16	B/g	W
Gonder Zuria	Penicillium sp.	29	2075	14.67	30.20	B/g	W
Desei Zuria	Penicillium sp.	134-2	2679	12.67	28.17	Blue	Y
Gubalafto Woldia	Penicillium sp.	81	3020	11.00	27.15	Blue	В
Kutaber	Penicillium sp.	117B	2407	15.33	31.21	B/g	W
Yilmana Densa	Penicillium sp.	10p-2	2360	14.00	30.19	B/g	W
Kutaber	Penicillium sp.	119-B	2430	15.00	31.21	B/g	W
Debark	Aspergillus niger	49	3122	25.67	41.36	Br	W
Dessei Zuria	Aspergillus niger	140-3	2784	23.00	39.32	Br	W
Kutaber	Aspergillus niger	122-2	2567	24.00	40.33	Br	W
Farta	Aspergillus niger	56	2851	23.00	39.32	Br	W
Kutaber	Aspergillus niger	112	2131	25.00	41.35	Br	W
Wogera	Aspergillus niger	30-1	2241	16.08	32.22	Br	W
Yilmana Densa	Aspergillus niger	2	2443	24.00	40.33	Br	W
Hulet EjuEnsae	Aspergillus niger	18-1	2544	32.67	48.45	Br	W
Lay Gaynt	Aspergillus flavus	68	2731	21.00	37.29	Y	W
Kutaber	Aspergillus flavus	126	2336	17.67	33.25	Y	W
Gonder Zuria	Aspergillus flavus	25	2268	21.00	37.29	Y	W
Gonder Zuria	Fusarium sp.	24	2647	23.00	39.32	W/r	W/r
Ambasel Tehulderae	<i>Fusarium</i> sp.	104	2679	22.00	38.31	W/r	W/r
Kutaber	Fusarium sp.	130-2	2838	24.33	4034	W/r	W
Kutaber	<i>Fusarium</i> sp.	130-1	2838	24.00	40.33	Р	Р
Kutaber	Phailophora sp.	120-2y1	2505	25.56	41.36	0	W

TABLE 3. Colony and cultural characteristics of different fungal isolate

B/g = blue to green; G = green; B = blue; Br = brown; Y = yellow; W = white; W/r = white to red; P = pink; O = orange

produced 4 mm or higher inhibition zone (Table 4). Isolates of *Trichoderma* species reduced the growth of *B. fabae* colony by varying degrees. All *Penicillium* isolates produced 4-5 mm inhibition zones. *Aspergillus niger* isolates produced 5-6 mm inhibition zones in comparison to 4-5 mm by *A. flavus* and *Fusarium* species. Single isolate of *Phailophora* sp. produced 6 mm inhibition zone against *B. fabae* (Table 5).

Lytic potential in fungal isolates. All the *Trichoderma* isolates when placed on mycelium of *B. fabae* caused lysis to varying extent. Isolates 6-1T, 52-2T, 87T, 108-1T, 108-3T and 120-2T caused 8-10 mm of lysis around them. *Trichoderma* isolates 6-1, 18-2, 18-3, 51-b, 52-2,

63, 87, 108-1, 108-3, 108-4, 114-3, 117-2, 117-3, 118, 120-2, 122-1 and 140-2 overgrew upon the pathogen mycelium (Table 4).

Species of *Penicillium* placed on *B. fabae* also caused lysis of its mycelium, which ranged from 6.7 – 11.2 mm. Isolates 119-2, 62, 14, 29, 134-2, 81, 10-p-2 and 119-B caused higher lysis ranging from 9-11.2 mm. Species of *Aspergillus* produced lysis ranging from 6-12.5 mm and isolates 49, 140-3, 122-2, 56, 112, 30-1, 18-1 and 2 of *A. niger* and 68 of *A. flavus* showed higher lytic potential. Except for isolate 130-2, *Fusarium* species produced lesser lysis of mycelium of pathogen. *Phailophora* sp. proved effective in lysing the pathogen by 9.5 mm (Table 5).

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Isolate code	Inhibition zone(mm)	Lyses (mm)	Efficacy (%)	<i>Trichoderma</i> species colony growth at 72 hr (in mm)	Mean growth of <i>B. fabae</i> at 72 hr (in mm)
6-1T	5	10.25	50.2	23.00 b	22.8ab
14bT	4	7.00	61.8	28.33 ab	17.47b
18-2T	2	7.00	69.2	31.67 ab	14.13b
18-3T	4	7.00	65.5	30.00 ab	15.8b
51-bT	3	7.00	83.7	38.33 ab	7.47c
52-2T	5	10.25	77.9	35.67 ab	10.13bc
63T	2	7.00	61.9	28.33 ab	17.47b
87T	4	10.25	72.8	33.33 ab	12.47bc
108-1T	4	10.25	47.6	24.00 b	21.8ab
108-3T	5	8.00	76.4	35.00 ab	10.8bc
108-4T	4	7.00	98.3	45.00 a	0.8d
114-3T	3	7.00	83.7	38.33 ab	24.47a
117-2T	4	7.00	76.4	35.00 ab	10.8bc
117-3T	2	7.00	61.9	28.33 ab	17.47c
118T	5	6.25	83.7	38.33 ab	7.47c
120-2T	4	10.25	83.7	38.33 ab	7.47c
122-1T	4	7.00	54.6	25.00 b	20.8ab
140-2T	4	7.00	83.7	38.33 ab	7.47c
Mean	3.78	7.14	72.1	33.02	12.78
Control			0		45.80
LSD (5%)	NS	NS		18.59	6.59

TABLE 4. Effect of Trichoderma species on growth Botrytis faba

NS = non significant. Over growth has bean occurred during 96 hr growth

Effect of Trichoderma species on chocolate spot in vivo. Effect of 3 isolates 6-1T, 18-3T and 87T belonging to T. ovalisporum and 3 isolates 52-BT, 108-1T and 108-4T of T. longibrachiatum on development of chocolate spot on four genotypes of faba bean was studied in vivo using detached leaf technique (Table 6). All isolates were found to reduce chocolate spot severity, when inoculated with the pathogen. However, their effect varied with isolate and genotype. Isolates 108-1T, 108-4T and 52-BT, of T. longibrachiatum were the most effective in reducing the mean disease severity on all the four genotypes and provided 43-47% mean disease control. Out of three isolates of T. ovalisporum, 6-1T proved better than other isolates of this species and reduced the disease by 40%, but was less effective than those of T. longibrachiatum. Isolates 18-3T and 87T of T. ovalisporum were very effective on susceptible genotypes EH91011-6-2, EH0013-18 and local check, but failed to reduce severity on moderately resistant

genotype CS20DK. Highly significant disease control (75%) was provided by *T. ovalisporum* (isolates 108-1T and 108-4T) on genotype EH0013-18. Highest disease pressure developed on local check and all the 6 isolates could reduce disease severity. In general, all the isolates effectively reduced the disease on the two susceptible genotypes, but were less effective on moderately resistant genotypes EH91011-6-2 and CS20DK.

DISCUSSION

Trichoderma species predominantly occurred on faba bean leaves in Ethiopia. Species of *Trichoderma* were encountered from 10.5% leaf samples from 12 districts, indicating their natural adaptability to faba bean leaves. However, a variation in isolates of this genus was also found to be widespread. Within the total 110 isolates of *Trichoderma* species obtained from leaves, 18 distinct isolates showing clear differences in S. SAHILE et al.

Fungi	Isolate code	Inhibition zone (mm)	Lyses (mm)	Efficacy (%)	72 hr growth diameter (mm) of fungal	Botrytis mean radial growth (mm) at 72 hr
Penicillium sp.	119-2	4b	11.00 b	30.5	15.33 b	33.47cd
<i>Penicillium</i> sp.	62	5ab	10.75 ab	33.8	12.00 b	26.2dc
Penicillium sp.	14	5ab	9.25 ab	31.8	14.00 b	30.57cd
Penicillium sp.	108-2	4b	6.75 b	34.5	11.33 b	24.74d
Penicillium sp.	29	5ab	11.00 ab	31.1	14.67 b	32.03cd
Penicillium sp.	134-2	4b	10.75 b	33.1	12.67 b	27.66dc
Penicillium sp.	81	5ab	11.25 ab	34.8	11.00 b	24.02d
Penicillium sp.	117B	4b	6.75 b	30.5	15.33 b	33.47cd
Penicillium sp.	10p-2	5ab	10.50 ab	31.8	14.00 b	30.57cd
Penicillium sp.	119-B	4b	11.25 b	30.8	15.00 b	32.75cd
Aspergillus niger	49	4b	11.00 b	20.1	25.67 ab	56.05a
Aspergillus niger	140-3	4b	12.00 b	22.8	23.00 ab	50.22bc
Aspergillus niger	122-2	5ab	10.50 ab	21.8	24.00 ab	52.41bc
Aspergillus niger	56	5ab	11.00 ab	22.8	23.00 ab	50.22bc
Aspergillus niger	112	6a	10.00 a	20.8	25.00 ab	54.59b
Aspergillus niger	30-1	6a	11.00 a	29.7	16.08 b	35.11cd
Aspergillus niger	2	5ab	11.25 ab	21.8	24.00 ab	52.41bc
Aspergillus niger	18-1	6a	12.50 a	13.1	32.67 a	71.33a
Aspergillus flavus	68	4b	6.00 b	24.8	21.00 ab	45.85cb
Aspergillus flavus	126	4b	7.00 b	28.13	17.67 ab	38.58c
Aspergillus flavus	25	5ab	9.25 ab	24.8	21.00 ab	45.85cb
Fusarium sp.	24	5ab	5.00 ab	22.8	23.00 ab	50.22bc
Fusarium sp.	104	5ab	4.50 ab	23.8	22.00 ab	48.03bc
Fusarium sp.	130-2	4b	11.25 b	21.47	24.33 ab	53.67bc
Fusarium sp	130-1	4b	6.75 b	21.8	24.00 ab	52.41bc
Phailophora sp. Control	120-2y1	6a	9.50 ab	20.24	25.56 ab	55.81b 45.80
LSD (5%)		2.39	1.939		16.35	16.35

TABLE 5. In vitro effect of fungal isolates on the growth of Botrytis fabae

colonies and morphology were established. Besides, Trichoderma, 26 distinct isolates of Penicillium, Aspergillus, Fusarium and Phailophora were also found to be prevalent on faba bean leaves. A total of 11 isolates belonging to A. niger and A. flavus, 10 isolates of Penicillium, 4 isolates of Fusarium and one isolate of Phialophora were obtained from faba bean leaves. There was no co-relation of species of fungi with altitude as all of them occurred at all altitudes from where samples were collected. This clearly indicated their wide adaptability to different environments. Goldfarb et al. (1989) reported the varying nature of the growth rate of Trichoderma with species and temprature. In their study, Goldfarb and his co-workers found the growth rate of Trichoderma spp. to vary from

12.7-23.4 mm day⁻¹ depending on the species at 20 °C of temprature. In another experiment, Saber *et al.*, (2009), found daily growth rate of different fungal antagonist in the range of 15-35 mm/day. In their experiment conducted in Egypt, the author reported that all of the fungal antagonists tested showed reasonably higher growth rate than the pathogen *B. fabae*.

The dual culturing of pathogen with 18 isolates of *Trichoderma* and 26 of other fungi revealed clearly potential of control in some of the isolates. Thirteen isolates of *Trichoderma* produced 4 mm or higher inhibition zone on agar medium. These might be producing antibiotics or extracellular enzymes, which inhibited growth of the pathogen. Similar strong antagonistic behaviour of some isolates was observed in

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erma	Isolate no.							Fat	Faba bean genotype	otype							
canade			EH91011-	1-6-2			EH0013-18	3-18			CS20DK	ХC			Local check	check	
	- 7	48 hr 72 hr 9	72 hr	96 hr	120 hr	48 hr	72 hr	96 hr	120 hr	48 hr	72 hr	96 hr	96 hr 120 hr	48 hr	72 hr	96 hr	120 hr
T. ovalisporum	6-1T	. 	. 	-	1.5b	1.5cb	2bac	2bac	2.5bac	1.5	1.5ba	1.5	1.5	1c	1cb	2.5b	2.5b
T. ovalisporum	18-3T	-	. 	. 	10	20	2.5ba	2.5ba	3ba	2	2ba	2	2	1c	1c	8	2b
T. ovalisporum		. 	. 	. 	1.5b	1c	1.5bc	1.5bc	2bc	2	2ba	2.5	2.5	1c	1c	2.5b	2.5b
T. longibranchiatum	52BT	-	2	2	2ba	1c	1c	1c	1c	1.5	1.5ba	1.5	1.5	1.5cb	1.5cb	3b	30
T. longibranchiatum		-	. 	. 	1.5b	10	1c	1c	1c	1.5	1.5ba	1.5	1.5	2b	26	3b	30 30
T. longibranchiatum	1108-4T	. 	-	. 	1.5b	1c	1.5bc	1.5bc	1.5bc	. 	1b	1.5	1.5	2b	2b	2.5b	2.5b
9	Control	2	2	2	3a	3a	3a	3a	4a	2	2ba	2	2	3a	4a	Sa	5a
	LSD (5%) NS	NS	NS	NS	1.5	1.00	1.19	1.19	1.73	NS	1.84	NS	NS	0.65	0.99	1.94	1.94
$^{-1}$ Disease rating was based on 1-5 scale for detached leaf test where, 1 = 1-25%, 2 = 26-50%, 3 = 51-70%, 4 = 71-90% and 5 = 91-100% area affected (ICARDA, 1986) ² NS = non significant	s based on 1-	5 scale	for deta	ched lea	if test wher	.e, 1 = 1-25	;%, 2 = 26-	-50%, 3 = 5	51-70%, 4 =	71-90% a	nd 5 = 91-	1 00% are	sa affected	I (ICARDA.	1986) ² NS	S = non sic	anificant

TABLE 6. Effect of Trichoderma species on development of chocolate spot on genotype of faba bean

Some isolates proved effective in antibiosis as well as in lysis, while some others were better in antibiosis and some better in lysing. This reflects the differences in the spectrum and degree of their antibiotic and enzyme production. The genus Trichoderma comprises a great number of fungal strains that act as biological control agents, the antagonistic properties of which are based on the activation of multiple mechanisms. Elad and Stewart (2004) have also reported that Trichoderma, Gliocladium and Ulocladium have greatest potential for Botrytis diseases and commercial success has been achieved in glasshouse and post-harvest environments for disease control. In the activity of biological control, micro-organisms action is not limited to direct influence on the target diseases, in addition to their direct effect they also enhance the resistance of the plants. A report by Benítez et al. (2004) indicates that Trichoderma strains are known to promote plant growth and plant defensive mechanisms and antibiosis against, the pathogen or direct mechanisms such as mycoparasitism. T. harzianum and T. viridi have been reported as biocontrol agents for chocolate spot of grape, apple and strawberry caused by *B*. cinerea (Sutton et al., 1997; Hjeljord et al., 2001).

lysing the pathogen mycelium in agar plates.

The study showed that there were promising antagonistic species of fungi prevalent on faba bean leaves, which can be exploited for the control of chocolate spot. Although, different genera of fungi were found to have antagonistic ability against the pathogen in vitro, from the point of view of wider antagonistic spectrum, Trichoderma species were considered more feasible for further exploration. Therefore, isolates 6-1T, 18-3T and 87T of T. ovalisporum and 52-BT, 108-1T and 108-4T of T. longibrachiatum were further tested in vivo by detached leaf technique. All of them were found to reduce the development of chocolate spot on two susceptible and two moderately resistant genotypes of faba bean, though degree of reduction varied and also depended on genotype of faba bean. Isolates provided a higher extent of control in susceptible genotypes. These antagonistic isolates were fast growing and

reduced the colony growth of *B. fabae*, when grown in dual culture.

This study has revealed isolates of *T. ovalisporum* and *T. longibrachiatum* as effective antagonists of *B. fabae* for the first time. *Trichoderma ovalisporum* is an endophytic type of fungus and was first identified as a new and novel biocontrol agent from Amazon basin of South America for frosty pod rot (*Moniliopthora rori*) and wittches' broom (*Crinipellis* spp.) of cocoa (Holmes *et al.*, 2004; Holmes *et al.*, 2006).

Trichoderma strains are known to control pathogens either indirectly by competing for nutrients and space, modifying the environmental conditions, or promoting plant growth and plant defensive mechanisms and antibiosis, or directly by mechanisms such as mycoparasitism (Benítez et al., 2004). Trichoderma species such as T. harzianum, T. viridi and T. polysporum are well known antagonists. Ten commercial products of these three species were developed for controlling diseases on different crops (Frevel et al., 1998). T. harzianum and T. viridi were reported as biocontrol agent for chocolate spot of grape, apple and strawberry caused by B. cinerea (Sutton et al., 1997; Hjeljord et al., 2001).

Other fungi prevalent on faba bean leaves also exhibited antagonistic activities against B. fabae in vitro. Isolates 62, 29, 10-p2 of Penicillium; 140-3, 122-2, 56, 18-1 and 112 of A. niger, 25 of A. flavus and 24 of Fusarium and 120-2yl of Phailophora caused wide inhibition zone and lysis of mycelium. The antagonists evaluated in this study showed significant differences in reducing pathogen growth and their effects ranged from 24.47 to 0.8 mm (Table 5). Earlier also Penicillium brevicompactum and Cladosporium cladosporioides isolated from faba bean leaves were found to have significant antagonistic activity against B. fabae in vitro and in vivo (Jackson et al., 1997). Commercial products like Biofox C and Fusaclean having nonpathogenic strains of Fusarium oxysporum have been developed for controlling soil borne diseases (Frevel et al., 1998). De Cal et al. (2008) reported biological control of powdery mildew on strawberry leaves by Penicillium oxalicum applications, it was achieved on

different cultivars and lines in growth chambers and in open-field nurseries. Species of *Penicillium*, *Aspargillus* and *Fusarium* have been reported by Leibinger *et al.* (1997) as an antagonists against *Botrytis cinerea*. Mass production technology by solid state fermentation for conidi of *Penicillium frequentans*, a biocontrol agent of the fungal pathogen *Monilinia laxa* has been developed by using specially designed plastic bags (VALMIC ®) containing peat and vermiculite (De Cal *et al.*, 2002).

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