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# Evaluation of different bioagents against *Ganoderma* spp. causing basal stem rot disease of Gulmohar

# TS Godhavale, CV Ambadkar, AD Lokhande and RS Chandurkar

#### Abstract

Ganoderma species are important wood decaying fungi distributed throughout the world. They are diverse in the tropics affecting plantation crops such as coconut, arecanut and oil palm and they also affect ornamental, forest and avenue trees in tropical and temperate areas causing Basal Stem Rot/Ganoderma wilt. In present study, the Ganoderma spp. was isolated from basal stem rot disease of Gulmohar and different bio control agents viz., Trichoderma asperellum, T. Harzianum, T. Virens, Paecilomyces lilacinus, Metarrhizium anisopliae, Verticillium lecanii, Aspergillus Niger were tested in vitro against Ganoderma spp. Among these bioagents, highest mycelial growth inhibition of test pathogen was obtained with Trichoderma asperellum (50.74%) over untreated control which was followed by Trichoderma harzianum (47.03%), Trichoderma virens (41.48%), Aspergillus Niger (36.99%) and Paecilomyces lilacinus (17.40%), whereas, Metarrhizium anisoplie (15.92%) and Verticilium licani (14.07%) were found less effective against Ganoderma spp.

Keywords: Ganoderma, trichoderma, bioagents, basal stem rot

#### Introduction

The disease Basal Stem Rot caused by *Ganoderma* spp. is reported from various places all over the tropical world *viz.*, India, Shrilanka, West Indies, Seycheles, Guam etc. Though the disease was first recorded by Dr. Butler in the beginging of 20<sup>th</sup> century and later by Venkatanarayan (1936) <sup>[4]</sup> from Karnataka, a severe outbreak occurred in 1652 in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu, and hence named as Thanjavur wilt. The disease also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujrat and Orrisa (Bhaskaran *et al*, 1994; Wilson *et al.*, 1987) <sup>[1, 6]</sup>. They are diverse in the tropics affecting plantation crops such as coconut, arecanut and oil palm and they also affect ornamental, forest and avenue trees in tropical and temperate areas causing Basal Stem Rot/*Ganoderma* wilt. BSR is like a cancer in several plantation crops, and it is very difficult to detect at the early stages of the disease. Presently several road side plantations including Gulmohar trees as well as ornamental crops are found to be affected by *Ganoderma* spp. which later on turned into partial or complete wilting of the plants. As biological control of plant diseases is the demand of day, the present investigation was undertaken with considering this objective of biological control and therefore efficacy of different bioagents were tested *in vitro* against *Ganoderma* spp.

#### **Material and Methods**

The dual culture technique was used to test the antifungal activity of different bioagents against *Ganoderma* spp. The pathogen and bioagents were grown on different media for a week at  $25\pm2$  °C. 5mm disc of the target fungi cut from the periphery was transferred to the Petri dish previously poured with sterilized Potato Dextrose Agar media. Bioagents were transferred aseptically in the same plate at opposite end and were incubated at room temperature with alternate light and darkness for 7 days and observed periodically. Control plate was also be maintained without bioagents.

#### Efficacy of bioagents on mycelial growth (mm) of Pathogens

Design	:	CRD
Treatment	:	Eight
Replication	:	Three

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#### **Treatment details**

Treatment	Bioagent
$T_1$	Trichoderma asperellum
T <sub>2</sub>	Trichoderma harzianum
T <sub>3</sub>	Trichoderma virens
$T_4$	Paecilomyces lilacinus
T5	Metarhizium anisopliae
T <sub>6</sub>	Verticillium lecanii
<b>T</b> <sub>7</sub>	Aspergillus niger
T <sub>8</sub>	Control

Observations on radial mycelial growth/colony diameter of *Ganoderma* spp. was recorded at 24 hours interval and continued till the untreated control plates were fully covered with mycelial growth of the test fungus. Per cent mycelial growth inhibition of the test pathogen with bioagents, over untreated control was calculated by applying following formula given by (Vincent, 1927)<sup>[5]</sup>.

 $\begin{array}{c} C-T\\ Per \ cent \ inhibition = ----- X \ 100\\ C \end{array}$ 

Where,

C= Mycelial growth in control plate T= Mycelial growth in treated plate

## **Results and Discussion**

# In vitro evaluation of bioagents against Ganoderma spp.

The results obtained on mycelial growth and inhibition of *Ganoderma* spp. with seven fungal antagonists are presented in Table 1, Fig.1 and Plate 1. Results revealed that all the bioagents evaluated exhibited fungistatic / antifungal activity against *Ganoderma* spp. and significantly inhibited its growth over untreated control.

Among all the treatments of bioagents, the treatment  $(T_1)$ *Trichoderma asperellum* was found most effective and showed 50.74 per cent mycelial inhibition which was followed by Treatment  $(T_2)$  *Trichoderma harzianum* with 47.03 per cent inhibition. Both the treatments were statistically significant over control. The next best treatment was found *Trichoderma virens*  $(T_3)$  and showed 41.48 per cent inhibition which was followed by *Aspergillus Niger*  $(T_7)$ (36.99%) and *Paecilomyces lilacinus*  $(T_4)$  (17.40%). The treatment *Metarhizium anisopliae*  $(T_5)$  showed 15.92 per cent mycelial inhibition of *Ganoderma* spp. which was followed by treatment *Verticilium lecanii*  $(T_6)$  (14.07%). Both treatments were at par with each other and significant with control.

These results are in conformity with the earlier findings of earlier workers. Musa *et al.* (2017) <sup>[2]</sup> studied percentage inhibition growth rate (PIGR) of four *Trichoderma* spp. against *G. Boninense*. The PIGR values ranged from 76.0 to

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84.6 per cent, with the maximum percentage inhibition by *T. asperellum* (84.6%) and the least 76.0 per cent inhibition was observed with *T. Brevicompactum*. Sudarshan *et al.* (2017)<sup>[3]</sup> tested seven isolates namely *Trichoderma viridae* (GKVK), *Trichoderma harzianum* (GKVK), *Trichoderma harzianum* (GKVK), *Trichoderma harzianum* (MRS), *Trichoderma harzianum* (MRS), *Trichoderma harzianum* (MRS), *and Trichoderma harzianum* (MYS) against *Ganoderma lucidum*. Among these antagonists tested *Trichoderma asperellum* (GKVK) was found superior over all other bio agents by recording maximum inhibition of 76.00 per cent followed by *Trichoderma viride* (GKVK) which recorded 74.89 per cent inhibition. Least inhibition of 61.78 per cent was recorded in treatment of *Trichoderma harzianum* (KRN).

Table 1: In vitro efficacy of bioagents against Ganoderma spp.

Tr. No.	Treatments	Colony Dia. (mm)	% Inhibition
T1	Trichoderma asperellum	44.33	50.74 (45.40)*
T2	Trichoderma harzianum	47.66	47.03 (43.28)
T3	Trichoderma virens	52.66	41.48 (40.07)
T <sub>4</sub>	Paecilomyces lilacinus	73.00	17.40 (24.56)
T5	Metarhizium anisopliae	75.66	15.92 (23.50)
T <sub>6</sub>	Verticillium lecanii	76.66	14.07 (22.01)
<b>T</b> <sub>7</sub>	Aspergillus niger	56.70	36.99 (37.44)
T8	Control	90.00	_
	S.E. (m) <u>+</u>	0.38	0.61
	C.D. at 1%	1.17	1.85

<sup>\*</sup>Figures in parenthesis are angular transformed value



Plate 1: In vitro efficacy of various bio-agents against Ganoderma spp.



Fig 1: In vitro evaluation of different bioagents against Ganoderma spp.

# Conclusion

From the present study, it can be concluded that *T. asperellum, T. harzianum, T. virens* can be used for control of *Ganoderma* spp.

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