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#### **Bacillus mycoides** as a potential biocontrol agent for Fusarium suppression

**Presenting author:** Ms. Galina Jevđenović, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, Belgrade, Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

**Co-authors:** Magdalena Knežević, Jelena Maksimović, Marina Jovković, Marina Dervišević, Aneta Buntić

**Introduction:** Suppression of fungal pathogens that are responsible for massive crop losses, with *Fusarium* species as the most prevalent ones, represents a huge challenge in sustainable agriculture. Application of bacterial inoculants is an effective alternative to chemicals as it poses no health risks and has an insignificant impact on the environment.

**Objective:** The application of new bacterial strain *Bacillus mycoides* BHC 3.2 for suppression of *Fusarium poae*, *Fusarium graminearum*, *Fusarium proliferatum* and *Fusarium oxysporum* was the objective of this research.

**Method:** Antifungal activity of isolates was tested *in vitro* on PDA medium using dual culture method and inhibition of fungal growth was calculated based on the formula: Inhibition(%)=[(Fungal control (mm) - Treatment (mm))/Fungal control (mm)] x 100. Production of siderophores and indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) was determined by growing strain on Chrome Azurol S (CAS) Blue agar and in tryptophan (2 mg/mL) enriched nutrient broth (NB) by using Salkowski reagent, respectively.

**Findings:** Among tested fungal pathogens, strain BHC 3.2 showed the strongest antagonistic effect against *F. poae* with inhibition over 45%. BHC 3.2 also showed antagonistic effect against *F. graminearum*, *F. proliferatum* and *F. oxysporum* with inhibition lower than 35%. The production of siderophores was not recorded for BHC3.2, while the production of IAA was 3.69 µg/mL.

**Conclusion:** Previous studies showed that *B. mycoides* could be used for reducing the severity of *Fusarium* infections in crops. Results of this research highlight the feasibility of utilizing *Bacillus mycoides* BHC 3.2 in formulating biofertilizers, thereby offering environmentally friendly strategy for plant pathogens control.



# Bacillus mycoides as a potential biocontrol agent for Fusarium suppression

Galina Jevđenović<sup>1</sup>, Magdalena Knežević<sup>2</sup>, Marina Dervišević<sup>3</sup>, Marina Jovković<sup>2</sup>, Jelena Maksimović<sup>2</sup>, Aneta Buntić<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Belgrade, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Soil Science, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Pesticides and Environmental Protection, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

### INTRODUCTION

Suppression of fungal pathogens that are responsible for massive crop losses, with Fusarium species at the most prevalent ones, represents a huge challenge sustainable agriculture. Application of inoculants is an effective alternative to chemicals as it poses no health risk and has an insignificant impact of the environment.

The application of new bacterial strain Bacillus mycoides BHC 3.2 for suppression of Fusarium poae, Fusarium graminearum, Fusarium proliferatum and Fusarium oxysporum was the objective of this research.







Fig. 1. Parts of cereals infected with Fusarium spp.

#### METODOLOGY

Antifungal activity of isolates was tested in vitro on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium using dual culture method. Inhibition of fungal growth was calculated based on the formula:

Fungal control (mm) – Treatment (mm) \* 100% Fungal control (mm)

Production of siderophores and indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) was determined by growing strain on Chrome Azurol S (CAS) Blue agar and in tryptophan (2 mg/mL) enriched nutrient broth (NB) by using Salkowski reagent, respectively.

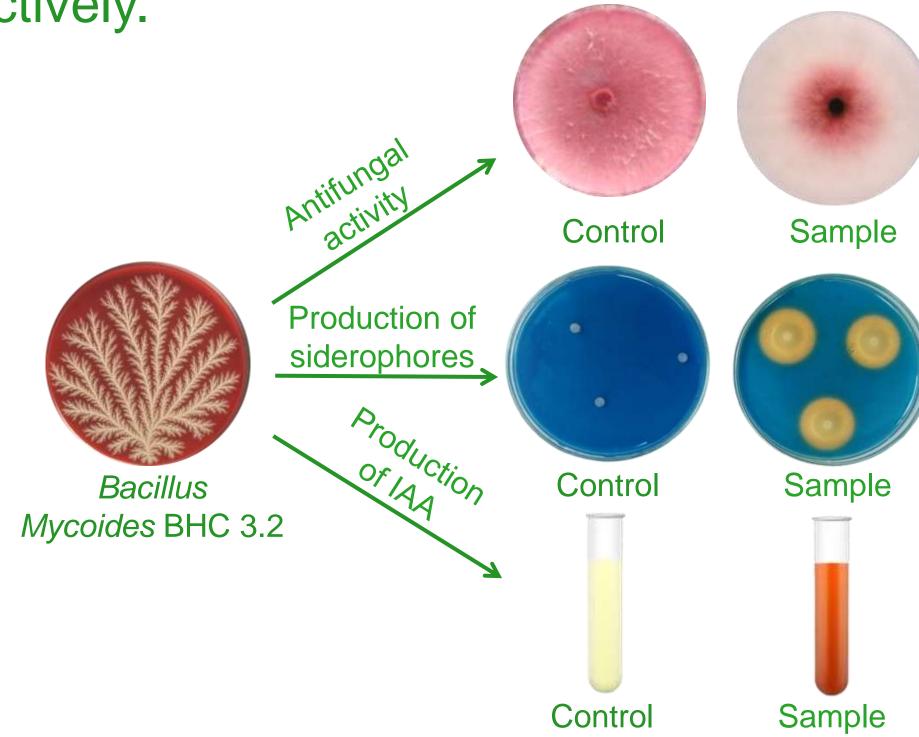


Fig. 2. Overview of applied analytical methods

#### RESULTS

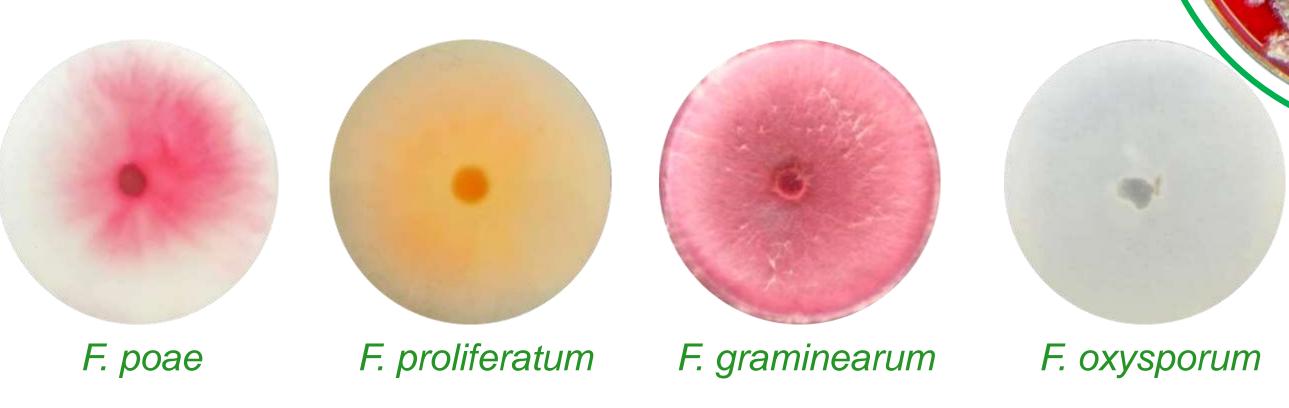
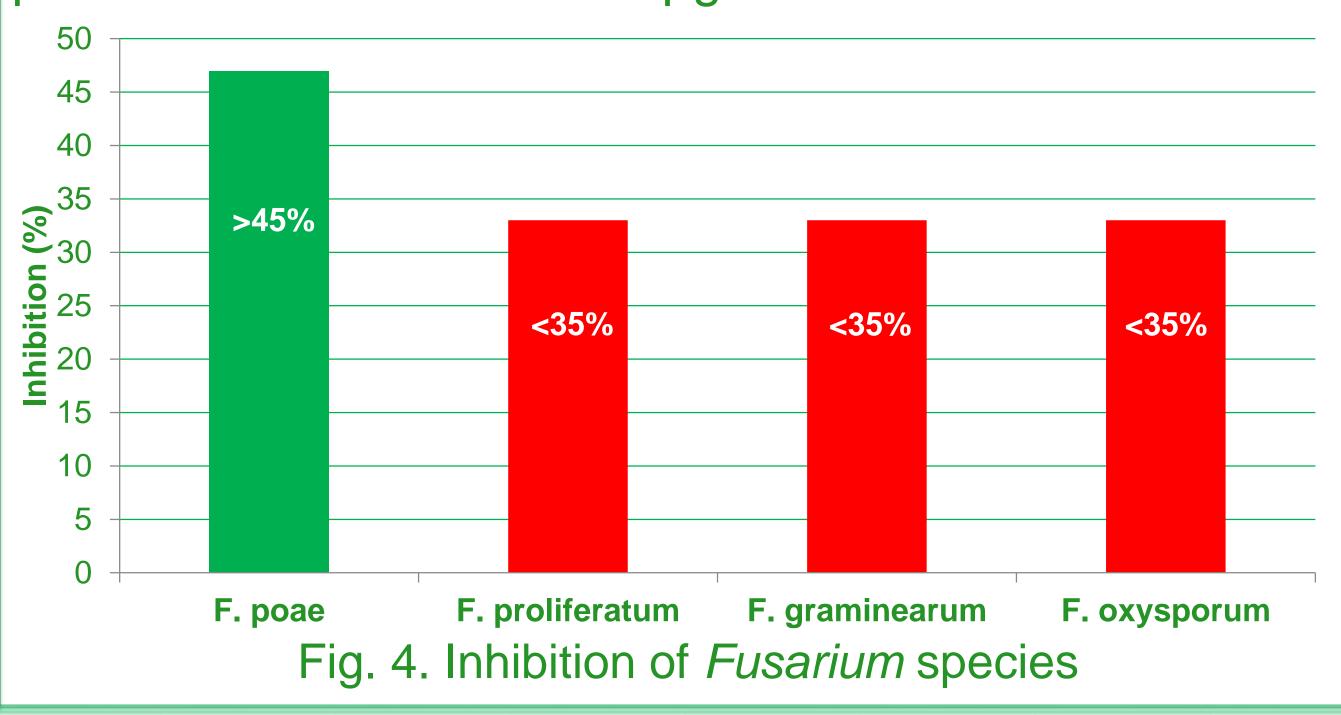


Fig. 3. Tested *Fusarium* strains

Among all tested pathogens, strain BHC 3.2 showed the strongest antagonistic effect against F. poae with inhibition over 45%, while inhibition of other tree tested pathogen strains was lower than 35%. The production of siderophores was not recorded for BHC 3.2, while the production of IAA was 3.69 µg/mL.



## CONCLUSION

Previous studies have demonstrated that *Bacillus* mycoides possesses the potential to reduce the severity of Fusarium infections in various crops. Building on this foundation, the results of the present research emphasize the practical applicability of the Bacillus mycoides BHC 3.2 strain in the formulation of biofertilizers. This approach presents a promising and environmentally sustainable strategy for the biological control of plant pathogens, potentially reducing reliance on chemical pesticides and contributing to more resilient agricultural systems.

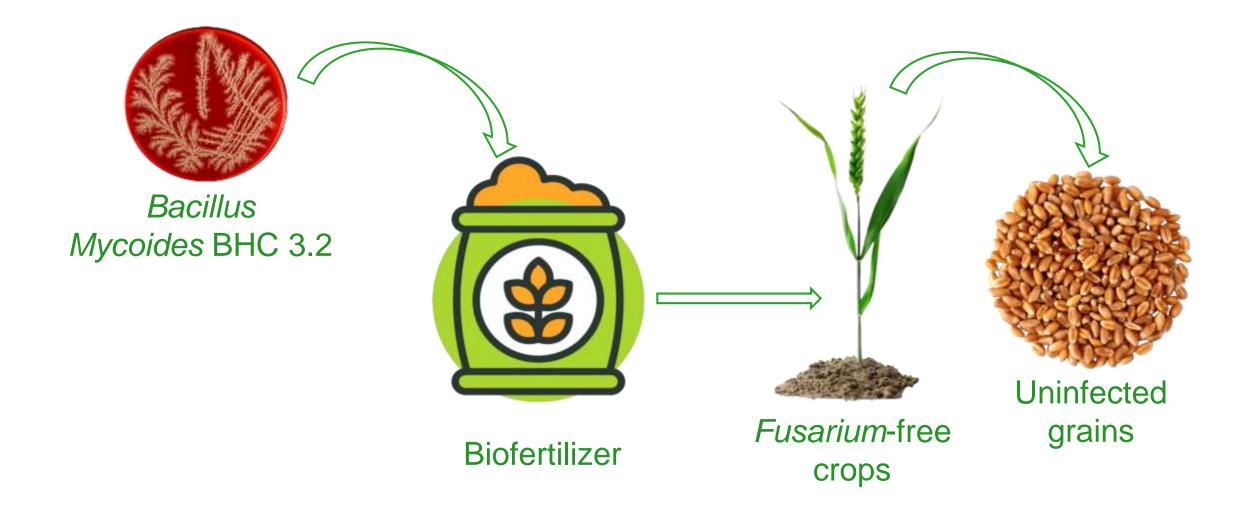


Fig. 5. Fusarium suppression in crops via Bacillus mycoidesbased biofertilizer

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