

CONTENTS

Chapter 1.....	1
GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
1. Bananas and Plantains	1
2. Nematode parasites on banana	2
2.1. Plant parasitic nematodes associated with bananas	2
2.2. Burrowing nematode <i>Radopholus similis</i>	2
3. Specific antagonists of plant parasitic nematodes	5
3.1. Mycorrhizal fungi	5
3.2. Facultative fungal parasites	6
3.3. Fungal endophytes	6
4. Non-pathogenic endophytic <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> as biological control agents.....	7
5. Scope of the thesis.....	9
Chapter 2.....	11
MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	11
1. Endophytic fungal isolates	11
1.1. Original isolates	11
1.2. Mass production of non-pathogenic <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes.....	11
1.3. Vegetative Compatibility Grouping Test.....	12
1.3.1. Generation of <i>nit</i> nonutilizing mutants	12
1.3.2. <i>Nit</i> mutant phenotype identification.....	13
1.3.3. Pathogenic <i>F. oxysporum</i> as a tester strains.....	14
1.3.4. Complementation tests.....	16
2. Banana plants	17
3. Nematodes.....	17
3.1. Preparation of sterile carrot discs.....	17
3.2. Extraction of <i>Radopholus similis</i> from carrot discs.....	17
3.3. Sterilization and inoculation of <i>Radopholus similis</i> onto carrot disc.....	18
3.4. Extraction of <i>Radopholus similis</i> from banana roots.....	18
3.4.1. Determination of penetration rates (Sikora and Schuster, 2000)	18
3.4.2. Determination of population dynamics (Speijer and De Waele, 1997)	18
4. Protein analyse	19

4.1.	Linear SDS-Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (Laemmli, 1970)	19
4.2.	General preparations	19
4.2.1.	Gel electrophoresis.....	19
4.2.2.	Protein extract buffer (Von Schaewen et al., 1995).....	20
4.2.3.	Bradford-reagent.....	20
4.2.4.	Sample buffer.....	21
4.2.5.	Running buffer.....	21
4.2.6.	Coomassie staining (Reissner and Nemes, 1975).....	22
5.	Statistical analysis	22
Chapter 3.....		23
INVESTIGATIONS ON THE PATHOGENICITY OF ENDOPHYTIC <i>FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM</i>		
ISOLATES TOWARDS <i>RADOPHOLUS SIMILIS</i>		23
1.	Introduction	23
2.	Materials and methods	25
2.1.	Pathogenicity of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes under sterile conditions on water agar	25
2.2.	Pathogenicity of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes in soil.....	25
2.3.	Effects of metabolites of <i>F. oxysporum</i> from fermentation on mobility and mortality of <i>R. similis in vitro</i>	26
3.	Results.....	27
3.1.	Pathogenicity of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes under sterile conditions on water agar	27
3.2.	Pathogenicity of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes in the soil.....	27
3.3.	Effects of metabolites of <i>F. oxysporum</i> from fermentation on mobility and mortality of <i>R. similis in vitro</i>	28
4.	Discussion	30
5.	Conclusion.....	33
Chapter 4.....		35
COLONIZATION, PLANT GROWTH PROMOTION AND VEGETATIVE COMPATIBILITY OF		
ENDOPHYTIC <i>FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM</i> ON BANANA		35
1.	Introduction	35
2.	Materials and methods	38
2.1.	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> endophytic colonization ability.....	38
2.2.	Effects of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> on banana growth.....	38
2.2.1.	Short term effects of inoculation of plantlets.....	38
2.2.2.	Long term effects of inoculation of plantlets	38

2.2.3.	Pre-planting soil treatment.....	39
2.3.	Vegetative Compatibility Grouping Test.....	39
2.3.1.	Recovering mutants of pathogenic <i>F. oxysporum</i> as a tester.....	39
2.3.2.	Generation of mutants and phenotypic characterization of non-pathogenic endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i>	39
2.3.2.1.	Generation of mutants of non-pathogenic endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i> isolates.....	39
2.3.2.2.	Phenotypic characterization of mutants.....	39
2.3.3.	Complementation tests of mutants between non-pathogenic <i>F. oxysporum</i> isolates and pathogenic testers.....	40
3.	Results.....	41
3.1.	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> endophytic colonization ability.....	41
3.2.	Effects of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> on banana growth.....	41
3.2.1.	Short term effects of inoculation of plantlets.....	41
3.2.2.	Long term effects of inoculation of plantlets.....	42
3.2.3.	Pre-planting soil treatment.....	43
3.3.	Vegetative Compatibility.....	44
3.3.1.	Generation of mutants and phenotypic characterization of non-pathogenic endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i>	44
3.3.2.	Complementation tests of mutants between non-pathogenic <i>F. oxysporum</i> isolates and pathogenic testers.....	45
3.3.3.	Complementation tests between nitrate nonutilizing (<i>nit</i>) mutants of <i>F. oxysporum</i> targeted for biological control of burrowing nematode <i>R. similis</i>	48
4.	Discussion.....	50
5.	Conclusion.....	53
	Chapter 5.....	55
	MODES OF ACTION OF NON-PATHOGENIC ENDOPHYTIC <i>FUSARIUM OXYSPORUM</i> TOWARDS BURROWING NEMATODE <i>RADOPHOLUS SIMILIS</i> ON BANANA.....	55
1.	Introduction.....	55
2.	Materials and methods.....	57
2.1.	Effects of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes on <i>R. similis</i> penetration.....	57
2.2.	Influence of timing of endophytic <i>Fusarium</i> application on <i>R. similis</i> reproductive capacity.....	57
2.2.1.	<i>Fusarium</i> inoculation prior to <i>R. similis</i> infestation.....	57

Contents

2.2.2.	<i>F. oxysporum</i> inoculation after <i>R. similis</i> infestation.....	57
2.3.	Effects of metabolites of <i>F. oxysporum</i> on <i>R. similis</i> penetration	58
2.4.	Effects of <i>Fusarium</i> on <i>R. similis</i> attraction and penetration.....	59
2.5.	Influence of <i>Fusarium</i> induced systemic resistance toward <i>R. similis</i>	60
2.6.	Influence of induced systemic resistance on <i>R. similis</i> attraction and penetration	60
2.7.	Change in plant protein composition in banana treated with <i>F. oxysporum</i>	61
2.7.1.	Preparation of root tissue	61
2.7.2.	Protein extraction	62
2.7.3.	Determination of the protein content of the crude extract (Bradford, 1976)	62
2.7.4.	Protein analysis	62
2.7.5.	Coomassie staining (Reissner and Nemes, 1975)	63
2.7.6.	Storage of the gels.....	63
3.	Results.....	64
3.1.	Effects of <i>Fusarium</i> endophytes on <i>R. similis</i> penetration	64
3.2.	Influence of timing of endophytic <i>Fusarium</i> application on <i>R. similis</i> reproductive capacity	64
3.2.1.	<i>Fusarium</i> inoculation prior to <i>R. similis</i> infestation.....	64
3.2.2.	<i>F. oxysporum</i> application after <i>R. similis</i> infestation.....	67
3.3.	Effects of metabolites of <i>F. oxysporum</i> on <i>R. similis</i> penetration	69
3.4.	Effects of <i>Fusarium</i> on <i>R. similis</i> attraction and penetration.....	71
3.5.	Influence of <i>Fusarium</i> induced systemic resistance toward <i>R. similis</i>	73
3.6.	Influence of induced systemic resistance on <i>R. similis</i> attraction and penetration	74
3.7.	Change in plant protein composition in banana treated with <i>F. oxysporum</i>	75
4.	Discussion	77
5.	Conclusion.....	86
SUMMARY.....		87
1.	Pathogenicity of endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i> isolates toward <i>R. similis</i>	87
2.	Colonization, plant growth promotion and vegetative compatibility of endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i>	87
3.	Modes of action of non-pathogenic endophytic <i>F. oxysporum</i> isolates toward burrowing nematode <i>R. similis</i> on banana	87
REFERENCES		89
Acknowledgements.....		102