

Diversity of seed-borne bacteria and consequences for detection strategies

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EMERSYS Emergence, systématique et écologie des bactéries associées aux plantes



Managment strategies for seed-borne diseases

Exclusion of the pathogens:

-Chemical treatments: hot water, chlorine treatment



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Specificity of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* detection methods and existence of lookalikes

Transmission of Cmm look-alikes to tomato seeds

Bacterial wilt and canker of tomato

Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis

- Actinobacteria
 - Microbacteriaceae
- -Enters the plant by wounds and stomata
 -Gets into the xylem: systemic infection
 -Plugs the xylem vessels causing the wilting of the leaves
 -May affect growth of leaves and petioles
 -Induces canker on the stems







Seedborne pathogen Infected seeds = major inoculum source and the cause for Cmm outbreaks Quarantine pathogen in EU (A2)





Look-alikes of Cmm isolated from tomato



atpD, dnaK, gyrB, recA, rpoB, ppk ML, 1000 bootstraps

Look-alikes

- are clearly distinct from Cmm
- form several phyla



Pathogenicity on tomato 5 PCR-based identification tests IF: 2 antisera compared





197 strains



197 strains



Jacques et al., 2012

Role of look-alikes in seed transmission of pathogens

Look-alikes were isolated from seeds. No report of crossed contaminations.

Do look-alikes have a role in seed transmission of pathogenic strains? antagonist or facilitator ?

22 "Cmm look-alikes"



- 1. In vitro tests to select look-alikes that interfere with Cmm
- 2. Transmission to seed for candidate look-alikes individually, and in mix with the pathogen, C144

Role of look-alikes in seed transmission of pathogens

In vitro antibiosis tests





In vitro competition test







Role of look-alikes in seed transmission of Cmm pathogenic strain





Spray inoculation (1 × 10⁶ ufc/mL)

— Flower

— Flower bud

Analysis 2 mo after inoculation

Fruit



Role of look-alikes in seed transmission of Cmm pathogenic strain



No transmission of any look-alikes No effect of look-alike on pathogen transmission





Summary

Look-alikes

- are responsible for false positive results in identification tests
- are phylogenetically diverse, but could be closely related to pathogens
- are not transmitted to seeds of their host of isolation
- do not interact with pathogens for transmission to seeds

Some look-alikes are commensals

Summary

Look-alikes

- are responsible for false positive results in identification tests
- are phylogenetically diverse, but could be closely related to pathogens
- are not transmitted to seeds of their host of isolation
- do not interact with pathogens for transmission to seeds
- are efficient xylem colonizers



Could other look-alikes be pathogens carried by nonhost material?

Identification of *C. michiganensis* pathogenic on bean (Gonzalez and Trapiello, 2014)

International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (2014), 64, 1752-1755

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Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. phaseoli subsp. nov., pathogenic in bean

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A yellow Gram-reaction-positive bacterium isolated from bean seeds (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) was identified as *Clavibacter michiganensis* by 16S rRNA gene sequencing. Molecular methods were employed in order to identify the subspecies. Such methods included the amplification of specific sequences by PCR, 16S amplified rDNA restriction analysis (ARDRA), RFLP and multilocus sequence analysis as well as the analysis of biochemical and phenotypic traits including API 50CH and API ZYM results. The results showed that strain LPPA 982^T did not represent any known subspecies of *C. michiganensis*. Pathogenicity tests revealed that the strain is a bean pathogen causing a newly identified bacterial disease that we name bacterial bean leaf yellowing. On the basis of these results, strain LPPA 982^T is regarded as representing a novel subspecies for which the name *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *phaseoli* subsp. nov. is proposed. The type strain is LPPA 982^T (=CECT 8144^T=LMG 27667^T).

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Identification of *C. michiganensis* pathogenic on bean

Some look-alikes are very close to this new bean pathogen

But, pathogenicity on bean is difficult to evidence

P. vulgaris, cv. Flavert, 5 plants/strain Stem injection + sponge inoculation on leaves





Cmp LPPA 982

Cm CFBP 8016

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Cm CFBP 8016



Cmp LPPA 982



Carriage of pathogen by seeds of non-host plants (Darrasse *et al.,* 2010)

Acknowledgments







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Thank you for your attention