

Diversity of Mycoflora in Root and Rhizosphere Regions of *Alloteropsis Cimicina* (L.) Stapf

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Abstract

Endophytic fungi described as the internal mycota of living plants. The present study is an attempt to document mycoflora diversity of root, rhizosphere, bulk soil of grass *Alloteropsis cimicina* (L.) Stapf a less known species from North East India in Bhadra reserve forest region in two different seasons. Isolation, fungal community from collected samples by Moist blotter method, Potato dextrose agar (PDA) method, Malt extract agar (MEA) method. Statistical analysis were done and the mean data by Simpson Diversity Index Shannon Evenness Shannon Diversity Index (HI) Simpson Evenness, Colonization frequency and Jaccard's Similarity Coefficient is measured. There were 700 fungal colonies belonging to 18 species of 11 genera and four NSF isolated.

Introduction

Endophytic fungi described as the internal mycota of living plants (Stone et al., 2012). Enhanced growth of infected plants also occurred in perennial ryegrass. Endophyte infected seeds also contain high concentrations of alkaloids and are less likely to be eaten by vertebrate and invertebrate seed feeders (Clay, 1990). Endophyte infection protect host from pests. The production of plant hormones and growth regulators appears to be an important mechanism by which fungal endophytes improve plant growth and yield under stressful conditions (Ellouze et al., 2014). *Beauveria bassiana* protected cotton and tomato plant against pathogens *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Pythium myriotylum* (Ownley et al., 2008).

Most hosts of clavicipitaceous endophytes are grasses (Clay, 1990). Rhizoplane and rhizosphere endophytic study on grasses of Panicoideae and Chloridoideae were carried out in Lakkavalli region of Karnataka (Vasanthakumari and Shivanna, 2011). The present study is an attempt to document mycoflora diversity of root,

rhizosphere, bulk soil of grass *Alloteropsis cimicina* (L.) Stapf a less known species from North East India in Bhadra reserve forest region in two different seasons (October-February 2019).

Material and Methods

In and around of Bhadra Reservoir Project was taken as study area, which is located at a distance of 29 km from Shivamogga (latitude $13^{\circ} 72' 978''$ and longitude $75^{\circ} 62' 862''$). Two study sites were taken, in each three quadrates (2x2m) representing three replicates were established. Specimens were uprooted carefully from the soil. The root system without soil particles was considered as the root sample and the soil samples around the root was considered as rhizosphere and soil sample with no plants growing was the bulk soil.

Roots were surface disinfected. Rhizosphere and bulk soil samples were subjected to serial dilution at dilution 10^4 with sterile water (Vasanthakumari and Shivanna, 2011). Isolation, fungal community from collected samples by Moist blotter method, Potato dextrose agar (PDA) method, Malt extract agar (MEA) method. Fungal species are identified using standard manuals. (Barnets, 1960; Funder, 1961; Booth, 1971; Barnett and Hunter, 1972)

Statistical analysis were done and the mean data by Simpson Diversity Index, Shannon Evenness, Shannon Diversity Index (H1), Simpson Evenness, Colonization frequency. To evaluate the degree of community similarity of fungi associated between two regions and sampling seasons Jaccard's Similarity Coefficient is measured.

Result

There were 18 species of fungi belonging to 11 genera and four NSF isolated by three methods. Among the emerged mycoflora some ascomycetes fungal species are specific to rhizosphere soil they are *Colletotrichum dematium*, *Myrothecium roridum*, *Pseudonectria foliicola* and a zygomycetes fungi *Mucor heimalis* is observed exclusively in rhizosphere. *Colletotrichum dematium* and *Myrothecium roridum* are observed only in first location and *Mucor heimalis* and *Pseudonectria foliicola* observed in second location.

Root contributes only a few fungal isolates of six species of four genera belonging to anamorphic ascomycetes and three non sporulating fungi. The rhizosphere fungal communities were determined at the dilution of 10^{-4} since more number of fungal species occurred in this dilution. There were 17 anamorphic ascomycetes fungal species of 10 genera and one zygomycota with four NSF isolated. The bulk soil fungal communities were determined at the dilution of 10^{-4} since more number of fungal species occurred in this dilution. There occurred 11 fungal species of eight genera of anamorphic ascomycetes one zygomycota was isolated.

Anamorphs of ascomycetes, zygomycetes and morphotypes frequency is more in PDA media than MEA. (62.79, 0.95 and 35.16 cfu g⁻¹ respectively). Anamorphs of ascomycetes the frequency of occurrence is more in location 2 (78.39 cfu g⁻¹) than location 1. But in morphotype and zygomycetes it is more in location 1 (41 and 1.9 cfu g⁻¹ respectively). The species *Cladosporium herbarum* is having more colonization frequency value among all species in both PDA and MEA medias and also in location 1 (21.5, 22.4 cfu g⁻¹ and 21.4 cfu g⁻¹ media respectively).

Diversity of mycoflora in second location more than first location. MEA media possess much diversity than PDA but some data showing more results in PDA and MB and evenness is more in MB. The rhizosphere soil has more fungal diversity than that of bulk soil and root. Jaccard's similarity index of media PDA and MEA is 0.78 and Jaccard's similarity index of location 1 and location 2 is 0.63. The fungal colonies observed in root and bulk soil is more similar. But in between bulk soil and rhizosphere it is less.

Table: Species Richness, Diversity and Evenness Indices of Fungal Communities Occurring in Different Locations, Plant Parts and Incubation Methods of *Alloteropsis Cimicina*

Sample unites	Species richness	Diversity indices		Evenness indices		Total No. of isolates
		Shannon diversity (H')	Simpson's diversity (D')	Shannon evenness (J')	Simpson's evenness (E')	
Loc 1 ²	16	2.18	5.25	0.80	0.35	218
Loc 2 ³	15	2.07	6.03	0.74	0.37	548
PDA ⁴	19	2.17	6.03	0.73	0.31	310
MEA ⁵	16	2.24	7.17	0.80	0.44	348
MB ⁶	3	0.96	2.32	0.87	0.77	12
Root ⁷	9	1.82	4.92	0.83	0.54	235
Rhizosphere ⁸	23	2.38	8.11	0.60	0.35	514
Bulk soil ⁹	15	2.22	7.41	0.82	0.49	143

Data based on the values for two study sites and two seasons in two trials; 2 & 3 Data are the average of three replicates; 4, 5 & 6 Data are the average of three replicates of two seasons in Potato Dextrose Agar, Malt Extract Agar and Moist Blotter methods; 7 Data are the average of of 210 root segments of the grass; 8 & 9 Data are the average of three replicates two seasons.

Discussion

The present study on diversity of mycoflora contributed around 700 fungal colonies belonging to 18 species of 11 genera. One zygomycetes species and four non-sporulating fungi were also observed. Rhizosphere shows maximum fungal diversity at the dilution of 10⁻⁴. The study shows that five species occurred in both soil and root, so that they are moving from soil to root. Considerable diversity of mycoflora was observed in the present study

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