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ONA SEQUENCE ANALYSI

Genetic diversity of Rhizoctonia solani associated with potato tubers in France

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The hidden polymorphism of a fungal group can be revealed thanks to the use of different molecular approaches. In the case of Rhizoctonia solani (teleomoph Thanatephorus cucumeris, Kühn, 1858), the diversity of 73 French strains isolated from potato tubers grown in the mains potato seed production areas in France and 31 strains isolated in 9 other countries was assessed. Three molecular tools are proposed to investigate different levels of diversity within this fungal collection: sequencing of the

ITS region, sequencing of a part of the gene $tef-1\alpha$, and AFLP analysis of the total DNA.

The isolates are stored in the collection "Microorganisms of Interest for Agriculture and Environment" (MIAE, INRA Dijon, France, see Heraud et al., Poster 24 Area 4 for more details).

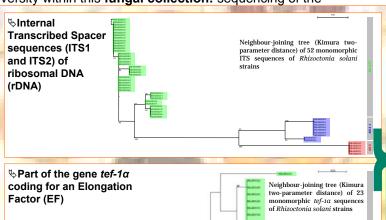






A sclerotia (black scurf) **B** skinning C enlarged lenticels Alterations where R.

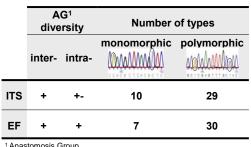
solani was isolated



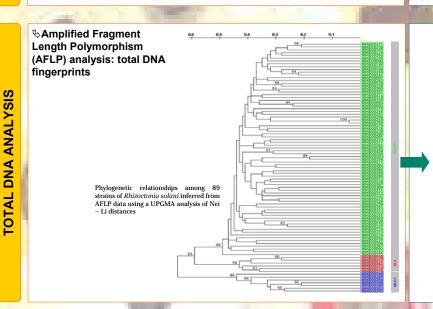
Classical (= microscopic) method used to determine AG is laborious, time-consuming and requires technical training.



C2 type (= killing reaction) anastomosis based on the fusion the hyphal tips of two compatible individuals belonging to the same AG (McNish et al., 1993)



¹ Anastomosis Group



- Significant diversity
- No particular structure of the studied populations
- ► No relation between the genetic profiles of the strains and their geographical origin

SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS

✓ Validation of the molecular method to determine AG.

METHODOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

- Target sequences DNA vs. Total DNA analysis highlight different but complementary informations:
- sequencing: rapid access to AG (sub-)group
- AFLP: high discrimination between strains.
- ✓ High intra-species and intra-AG diversity of the French strains of R. solani.
- Constant evolution of the genomes according to the genetic events in the environment.
- ✓ Polymorphic sites within strains probably due to several copies of ITS and gene tef-1α within the same nucleus or between different nuclei of R. solani strains.

Keywords: amplified fragment length polymorphism, anastomosis group, elongation factor, internal transcribed spacer, polymorphic group

Level of polymorphism