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Developing a culturomic approach to build a collection of grapevine foliar microorganisms with potential biocontrol activity against downy mildew



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Context

A culturomic approach involves the use of a range of culture conditions coupled with a high-throughput method of identification to isolate and identify microorganisms in a sample¹. A number of studies have shown that using plant-based culture media rather than conventional media that contain chemically synthesized or animal-based extracts can successfully increase the cultivability of plant-associated microbiota^{2,3}.

This study aimed to use a culturomic approach to build a collection of grapevine foliar microorganisms, which will subsequently be used to build Synthetic microbial Communities (SynComs) for biocontrol of downy mildew (caused by *Plasmopara viticola*).

Methods



Results

[1] We isolated 1091 microorganisms:

- 544 bacteria
- 243 yeasts
- ³⁰⁴ filamentous fungi

[2] We were able to identify 86% of the isolates. A total of 90 genera were identified across the five culture media.

[3] Some genera were isolated exclusively on Grapevine Leaf-based Agar (GLA) (Fig 2 and 3):

- 4 bacteria
- 1 yeast
- 13 filamentous fungi

Fewer colonies were isolated on GLA compared to conventional culture media, but the GLA allowed cultivation of specific microorganisms that didn't grow on the other media

Fig.1: Workflow to isolate and identify epiphytic and endophytic bacteria, yeast and filamentous fungi from grapevine leaves in plots with contrasted levels of downy mildew infection. Media used for bacteria: Tryptic Soy Agar (TSA), Luria Bertani Broth Agar (LBA) and a Grapevine Leaf-based Agar medium (GLA). Media used for Yeast/Fungi: GLA and Malt Extract Agar (MEA)



Fig.2: Filamentous fungi and yeast genera (n = 48) identified by Sanger sequencing on 2 media (GLA and MEA)

References

[1] Lagier *et al.*, 2016. *Nat. Microbiol.*[3] Youssef *et al.*, 2016. *J. Adv. Res.*

[2] Sarhan et al., 2019. J. Adv. Res.

Fig.3: Bacterial genera (n = 42) identified by MALDI-TOF MS and Sanger Sequencing on 3 culture media (GLA, LBA and TSA)

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