

# Proceedings of the 7th Congress on Plant Protection

## Доклады 7-ого Конгресса по защите растений



**Plant Protection Society of Serbia**  
**Общество по защите растений Сербии**



**International Organization for Biological Control**

-East Palearctic Regional Section (IOBC-EPRS)

-West Palearctic Regional Section (IOBC-WPRS)

**Международная организация по биологической борьбе**

- Восточно палеарктическая региональная секция (МОББ-ВПРС)

- Западно палеарктическая региональная секция (МОББ-ЗПРС)

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**„Integrated Plant Protection – a Knowledge-Based Step towards**  
**Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Architecture“**  
(November 24-28, 2014, Zlatibor, Serbia)

**Доклады 7-ого Конгресса по защите растений**  
**„Интегрированная защита растений - научно обоснованный**  
**шаг к устойчивому развитию сельского хозяйства, лесоводства**  
**и ландшафтной архитектуры“**  
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-East Palearctic Regional Section (IOBC-EPRS)  
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## PREFACE

The Plant Protection Society of Serbia (PPSS) and two regional sections of the International Organization for Biological and Integrated Control (IOBC-EPRS and IOBC-WPRS), on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PPSS organized VII Congress on Plant Protection with a motto: *“Integrated Plant Protection – a Knowledge-Based Step towards Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Architecture”* (November 24-28, 2014, Zlatibor, Serbia). The Congress enabled exchange of up-to-date scientific and technical information on plant protection in Agriculture, Forestry and Landscaping among researchers, teachers, experts in extension and public services and the business community, and promoted international cooperation. The Congress focused on basic knowledge and management practices established in plant protection, as well as on the development of alternative and innovative approaches. In addition, biological control as an important tool for the control of the harmful organisms with a minimal risk for ecosystems was discussed. A total of 209 contributions was presented - 8 keynote presentations, 28 oral presentations and 173 poster presentations - prepared by 467 authors from 26 countries. The Congress Proceedings comprise 65 contributions - 5 keynote presentations and 60 oral and poster presentations in six sessions, prepared by the authors from 18 countries (Algeria, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, USA). All contributions were reviewed by members of the Scientific Committee and other reviewers selected and invited by the editors of this publication.

Belgrade, November 2015

Editors

## ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Общество по защите растений Сербии (ОЗРС), Международная организация по биологической борьбе с вредными животными и растениями - Восточно палеарктическая региональная секция (МОББ-ВПРС) и Международная организация по биологической борьбе и интегрированной системе защиты растений - Западно-палеарктическая региональная секция (МОББ-ЗПРС), по поводу 60-летия ОЗРС организовали VII Конгресс по защите растений, под девизом: *“Интегрированная защита растений - научно обоснованный шаг к устойчивому развитию сельского хозяйства, лесоводства и пейзажной архитектуры”* (24-28 ноября 2014 года, Златибор, Сербия). Цель Конгресса была обеспечение континуитета взаимообмена научно-техническими информациями, отвечающими современным требованиям защиты растений в сельском хозяйстве, лесоводстве и пейзажной архитектуре, которые представляют интерес для ученых, исследователей, преподавателей, экспертов-советников в области сельского хозяйства, лесоводства и пейзажной архитектуры, специалистов государственных и коммунальных служб, деловых кругов и средств массовой информации. Целью Конгресса является и продолжение содействия развитию и популяризации международного сотрудничества. Конгресс был концентрирован на основные знания и практический менеджмент в защите растений, а также на развитие альтернативных и новых подходов. Биологическая защита которая представляет значительный способ для безопасной борьбы с вредными организмами была тоже рассмотривана. На конгрессе представлено 209 презентаций - 8 докладов по приглашению, 28 устных и 173 постер презентаций - которые подготовило 467 авторов из 26 стран. Сборник имеет 65 докладов - 5 докладов по приглашению и 60 устных и постер презентаций, распределенных в шести секциях. Авторы докладов приехали из 18 стран (Алжир, Австрия, Босния-Герцеговина, Франция, Грузия, Венгрия, Италия, Казахстан, Черногория, Польша, Россия, Руанда, Сербия, Словения, Швейцария, Турция, Уганда, США). Рецензенты всех опубликованных докладов в сборнике – члены Научного совета и другие рецензенты, выбранные редакторам этого издания.

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Редакторы

## Contents/Содержание

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS - ДОКЛАДЫ ПО ПРИГЛАШЕНИЮ

ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ ЕОКЗР ПО ПРИМЕНЕНИЮ АГЕНТОВ БИОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ БОРЬБЫ  
ПРОТИВ КАРАНТИННЫХ ВРЕДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗМОВ

Мартин Уорд и Андрей Дорианович Орлинский ..... 15

EU LEGISLATION RELATED TO IPM AND HOW TO AVOID MISTAKES  
ON OUR WAY TO IMPLEMENT IPM

Sylvia Blümel ..... 21

RATIONAL USE OF ENTOMOPHAGOUS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF MODERN GREENHOUSE CROP PRODUCTION  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN RUSSIA

Natalia Beliakova ..... 27

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT IN FIELD CROPS: SUSTAINABILITY  
AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Goran Malidža and Sava Vrbničanin ..... 33

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF BACTERIAL DISEASES OF TOMATO AND PEPPER

Aleksa Obradović ..... 43

### INTEGRATED PROTECTION OF FIELD CROPS, VEGETABLES AND STORED PRODUCTS

#### ИНТЕГРИРОВАННАЯ ЗАЩИТА ПОЛЕВЫХ И ОВОЩНЫХ РАСТЕНИЙ И ПРОДУКТОВ В СКЛАДСКИХ ПОМЕЩЕНИЯХ

INTEGRATION OF BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL METHODS  
IN CONTROL OF PEPPER BACTERIAL SPOT

Milan Šević, Katarina Gašić, Mladen Đorđević, Maja Ignjatov, Mirjana Mijatović,  
Bogoljub Zečević and Aleksa Obradović ..... 49

EFFECT OF THE COMBINED APPLICATION OF A LOW-FREQUENCY PULSE  
ELECTRIC FIELD AND QUADRIS AND IZABION PREPARATIONS ON THE DISEASE  
PROTECTION AND YIELD INCREASE OF POTATO

Maria Kuznetsova, Natalia Statsyuk, Alexander Rogozhin, Tatiana Smetanina and Alexey Filippov ..... 53

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CULTIVATED MUSHROOM DISEASES

Ivana Potočnik, Emil Rekanović, Miloš Stepanović, Svetlana Milijašević-Marčić and Biljana Todorović ..... 59

SEED TRANSMISSION OF *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* AND *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis*  
IN TOMATO AND *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* IN PEPPER AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SEED  
DISINFECTION METHODS

Davide Giovanardi, Enrico Biondi, Maja Ignjatov, Katarina Gašić, Michele Ferrari,  
Radivoje Jevtić and Emilio Stefani ..... 65

SEED TRANSMISSION OF *Acidovorax citrulli*: IMPLEMENTATION OF DETECTION  
IN WATERMELON SEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT OF DISINFECTION METHODS

Davide Giovanardi, Michele Ferrari and Emilio Stefani ..... 71



THE RESISTANCE OF DIFFERENT POTATO CULTIVARS ON YELLOW CYST NEMATODE ( <i>Globodera rostochiensis</i> pathotype Ro1) Dobrivoj Poštić, Đorđe Krnjaić, Zoran Bročić, Nebojša Momirović, Rade Stanisavljević and Lana Đukanović .....	77
INFLUENCE OF SUSCEPTIBLE AND TOLERANT VARIETIES ON POPULATION DENSITY OF SUGAR BEET CYST NEMATODE ( <i>Heterodera schachtii</i> ) Jasmina Bačić .....	83
HERBICIDES IN SPRING OILSEED RAPE: SOIL AND FOLIAR APPLICATION Petar Mitrović, Dragana Marisavljević, Danijela Pavlović, Ana Marjanović-Jeromela, Željko Milovac and Milan Jocković .....	87
НОВАЯ ПРЕПАРАТИВНАЯ ФОРМА ГЕРБИЦИДОВ ДЛЯ ЗАЩИТЫ САХАРНОЙ СВЕКЛЫ Салис Добаевич Каракотов, Елена Владимировна Желтова, Артем Сергеевич Голубев, Татьяна Андреевна Маханькова .....	95
WILL CLIMATE CHANGE ALTER THE HERBICIDE USE Katarina Jovanović-Radovanov, Gorica Vuković, Bojana Špirović and Vojislava Bursić .....	101
THE INFLUENCE OF TRIBENURON-METHYL, IMAZAMOX AND GLYPHOSATE ON BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION OF <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> L. Sava Vrbničanin, Dragana Božić, Danijela Pavlović, Darko Stojićević, Katarina Jovanović-Radovanov and Katarina Stokić .....	107
EFFECTS OF MIXTURES OF FUNGICIDE, INSECTICIDES, COMPLEX FERTILIZER AND ADJUVANT DEPENDING ON WATER HARDNESS Slavica Vuković, Dušanka Inđić and Sonja Gvozdenac .....	111
THE EFFECTS OF THUJA AND FIR ESSENTIAL OILS ON HOUSE MOUSE FOOD INTAKE Goran Jokić, Rada Đurović-Pejčev, Tanja Šćepović, Marina Vukša, Suzana Đedović and Bojan Stojnić .....	117

## INTEGRATED PROTECTION OF FRUIT CROPS

### ИНТЕГРИРОВАННАЯ ЗАЩИТА ФРУКТОВЫХ НАСАЖДЕНИЙ

OPTIPAON, A DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM TO PREDICT THE RISK OF PEACOCK EYE OF OLIVE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE C. Roubal, S. Regis and P.C. Nicot .....	123
EVALUATION OF TRUNK-INJECTED BACTERICIDES AND PROHEXADIONE-CALCIUM FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CONTROL OF FIRE BLIGHT ( <i>Erwinia amylovora</i> ) IN APPLES Srđan G. Aćimović, Gayle C. McGhee, George W. Sundin and John C. Wise .....	129
INFLUENCE OF METEOROLOGICAL FACTORS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF FIRE BLIGHT SYMPTOMS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF MONTENEGRO Dragana Radunović, Veljko Gavrilović and Marija Krstić .....	135
SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF INSECT VECTORS OF <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>musacearum</i> AND THEIR ACTIVITY ACROSS BANANA CULTIVARS GROWN IN RWANDA Alexandre Rutikanga, Gertrude Night, Geoffrey Tusiime, Walter Ocimati and Guy Blomme .....	139

## BIOPESTICIDES AND BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS IN AGRICULTURAE

### БИОПЕСТИЦИДЫ И ПОЛЕЗНЫЕ ОРГАНИЗМЫ В СЕЛЬСКОМ ХОЗЯЙСТВЕ

ПРОИЗВОДСТВО И ПРИМЕНЕНИЕ БИОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ПРЕПАРАТОВ ДЛЯ ЗАЩИТЫ РАСТЕНИЙ В РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ Андрей Владимирович Живых .....	157
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PERSPECTIVES OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL TO THE SOUTH AMERICAN TOMATO MOTH, <i>Tuta absoluta</i> IN GEORGIA Manana Kakhadze, Tsisia Chkhubianishvili, Iatamze Malania, Mariam Chubinishvili, Rusudan Skhirtladze, Irine Rijamadze and Nino Nazarashvili .....	161
PLANT GROWTH PROMOTING RHIZOBACTERIA AS POSSIBLE PART OF IWM Dragana Božić, Danijela Pavlović, Marija Sarić-Krsmanović and Sava Vrbničanin .....	165
EFFECT OF COMPOSTING ON WEED SEEDS SURVIVAL Dragana Božić, Vladimir Filipović, Ana Matković, Tatjana Marković and Sava Vrbničanin .....	171
THE POTENTIAL OF LOCAL POPULATIONS OF <i>Encarsia formosa</i> Gahan IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF GREENHOUSE WHITEFLY ( <i>Trialeurodes vaporariorum</i> Westwood) IN SERBIA Tanja Drobñjaković, Mirjana Prijović, Pantelija Perić, Slobodan Milenković and Svetomir Stamenković .....	175
ACARICIDAL AND BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF AZADIRACHTIN ON TWO-SPOTTED SPIDER MITES (Acari: Tetranychidae) Irena Medo, Dejan Marčić and Slobodan Milenković .....	181
EVALUATION OF AQUEOUS EXTRACTS FROM NATIVE PLANT SPECIES FOR THEIR NEMATOCIDAL PROPERTIES ON <i>Meloidogyne</i> spp. Lamia Tafifet, Zoulikha Krimi and Dhaouya Nebih Hadj-Sadok .....	187
THE EFFECT OF <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> L. AQUEOUS EXTRACT ON A BROMUS SEEDLINGS Jovana Sućur, Dejan Prvulović, Đorđe Malenčić, Goran Anačkov and Milan Popović .....	191
EFFECTS OF BIO-FERTILIZER ( <i>Azotobacter</i> spp., <i>Mycorrhiza</i> spp., <i>Bacillus</i> spp.) AND DIFFERENT NITROGEN LEVELS ON FRESH EAR YIELD AND YIELD COMPONENTS OF SWEET CORN ( <i>Zea mays saccharata</i> Sturt.) İlknur Akgün and Cemil Siyah .....	195

## INTEGRATED PROTECTION IN FORESTRY AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

### ИНТЕГРИРОВАННАЯ ЗАЩИТА В ЛЕСНОМ ХОЗЯЙСТВЕ И ПЕЙЗАЖНОЙ АРХИТЕКТУРЕ

ИНТЕГРИРОВАННАЯ ЗАЩИТА ДУБРАВ ОТ ВРЕДНЫХ НАСЕКОМЫХ В РОССИИ Николай Иванович Лямцев .....	203
ЛЕСОПАТОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ СОСТОЯНИЕ ГОРНЫХ ЛЕСОВ КАЗАХСТАНА Абай Сагитов, Нуржан Мухамадиев и Нурсагим Ашикбаев .....	207
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PHYTOPHAGOUS JEWEL BEETLES ( <i>Coleoptera: Buprestidae</i> ) OF THE FRUŠKA GORA NATIONAL PARK Dejan V. Stojanović, Srećko B. Ćurčić and Tatjana Kereši .....	211
CONTROL OF BARK BEETLE POPULATION AT THE TARA NATIONAL PARK BY PHEROMONE TRAPS Marko Tomić and Branko Bezarević .....	217
COMPARATIVE TRIALS OF FOUR POTASSIUM PHOSPHITE FORMULATIONS AGAINST CHESTNUT INK DISEASE BY TRUNK INJECTION Elisa Dal Maso and Lucio Montecchio .....	225
REPRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF THE POPLAR LEAF BEETLE ( <i>Chrysomela populi</i> L. 1758) UNDER DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES Melinda Váradi and Katalin Tuba .....	231

<i>Lymantria dispar</i> MULTICAPSID NUCLEAR POLYHEDROSIS VIRUS AND <i>Entomophaga maimaga</i> – SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL AGENTS OF THE GYPSY MOTH CONTROL IN THE FORESTS OF CENTRAL SERBIA IN THE PERIOD 2010-2014 Mara Tabaković-Tošić .....	237
THE DEVELOPMENT OF GYPSY MOTH ( <i>Lymantria dispar</i> L.) UNDER DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES Rudolf Hillebrand, Katalin Tuba and Ferenc Lakatos .....	243
COLOUR AND SEX RATIO IN DIFFERENT BOX TREE MOTH ( <i>Cydalima perspectalis</i> ) POPULATIONS Katalin Tuba, Géza Kelemen and Miklós Molnár .....	247
PINE WOOD NEMATODE <i>Bursaphelenchus xylophilus</i> SURVEY IN CONIFEROUS FORESTS IN SERBIA Jasmina Bačić, Barbara Gerič Stare, Gregor Urek and Saša Širca .....	255
ANALYSIS OF MECHANICAL STABILITY OF SOLITARY TREES Géza Kelemen and Katalin Tuba .....	259

## HARMFUL ORGANISMS IN AGRICULTURE

### ОРГАНИЗМЫ-ВРЕДИТЕЛИ В СЕЛЬСКОМ ХОЗЯЙСТВЕ

SSR MARKER ANALYSIS INDICATES THE ORIGIN OF <i>Monilinia fructicola</i> ISOLATES IN SERBIA? Jovana Hrustić, Milica Mihajlović, Aleksandra Bulajić, Branka Krstić, Goran Delibašić, Andrea Patocchi, Maya Jansch and Brankica Tanović .....	267
THE INCIDENCE OF VIRUSES IN SERBIAN POTATO SEED PRODUCTION Mira Starović, Anja Milosavljević, Erika Pfaf-Dolovac, Goran Aleksić, Nenad Dolovac and Slobodan Kuzmanović .....	273
PRECISION AGRICULTURE IN POLISH INTEGRATED PLANT PROTECTION Danuta Sosnowska and Zaneta Fiedler .....	277
GRAPEVINE FLAVESCENCE DORÉE PHYTOPLASMA IN SOUTH-EASTERN SLOVENIA AND ITS VEKTOR AMERICAN GRAPEVINE LEAFHOPPER ( <i>Scaphoideus titanus</i> Ball) Karmen Rodič, Magda Rak Cizej, Erika Orešek, Domen Bajec and Andreja Peterlin .....	283
MORPHOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION OF <i>Colletotrichum destructivum</i> FROM ALFALFA Tanja Vasić, Vesna Krnjaja, Darko Jevremović, Snežana Anđelković, Dragan Terzić, Ljubiša Milenković and Dejan Šošić .....	291
RACE DIFFERENTIATION WITHIN STRAINS OF <i>Xanthomonas euvesicatoria</i> CAUSAL AGENT OF BACTERIAL SPOT OF PEPPER IN SERBIA Maja Ignjatov, Milan Šević, Jelica Gvozdanović-Varga, Katarina Gašić, Dragana Milošević and Aleksa Obradović .....	297
OCCURRENCE OF GRASS BUNT IN VOJVODINA AND ITS INFLUENCE ON WHEAT SEED QUALITY CONTROL Vesna Župunski and Radivoje Jevtić .....	301
WEED FLORA OF VINEYARD IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Zlatan Kovačević, Biljana Kelečević and Siniša Mitrić .....	307
THE INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE AND LIGHT ON GERMINATION OF RAGWEED ( <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> L.), WILD OAT ( <i>Avena fatua</i> L.), COMMON COCKLEBUR ( <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L.) AND WEEDY SUNFLOWER ( <i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.) Markola Saulić, Darko Stojićević, Dragana Božić and Sava Vrbničanić .....	311

CARDINAL TEMPERATURES AND DYNAMIC OF GERMINATION OF COMMON RAGWEED ( <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> L.) SEEDS COLLECTED IN ZEMUN Vladan Jovanović, Jelena Juzbašić, Ivana Dragičević, Vaskrsija Janjić, Bogdan Nikolić and Danijela Mišić	317
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## TOXICOLOGY AND ECOTOXICOLOGY ТОКСИКОЛОГИЈА И ЭКОТОКСИКОЛОГИЈА

CYTOGENETIC MONITORING IN A SERBIAN POPULATION EXPOSED TO PESTICIDES: USE OF MICRONUCLEI Dubravka Jovičić, Ljiljana Radivojević and Janjić Vaskrsija	323
NICOSULFURON RESIDUES IN AGRICULTURAL SOIL Sanja Lazić, Dragana Šunjka and Nada Grahovac	329
PEPPER ( <i>Capsicum annuum</i> ) RESPONSE TO SIMULATED SOIL RESIDUES OF IMAZAMOX Jelena Gajić Umiljendić, Ljiljana Radivojević, Ljiljana Šantrić, Marija Sarić-Krsmanović, Tijana Đorđević and Rada Đurović-Peješev	333
TESTING OF MICROBIAL ISOLATE SENSITIVITY IN STERILE SOIL AFTER HERBICIDE TREATMENT Ljiljana Šantrić, Ljiljana Radivojević, Jelena Gajić Umiljendić, Marija Sarić-Krsmanović and Rada Đurović-Peješev	339
DETERMINATION OF ACETAMIPRID RESIDUES IN SELECTED VEGETABLE AND FRUIT Sanja Lazić, Dragana Šunjka, Pavle Jovanov, Nada Grahovac, Milica Mojašević and Irena Stojanović	343
DETERMINATION OF METRIBUZINE IN PLANT MATERIAL BY LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY TANDEM MASS SPECTROMETRY Gorica Vuković, Bojana Špirović, Jelena Vlajković, Vojislava Bursić and Katarina Jovanović-Radovanov	349
DETERMINATION OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN WATERMELONS BY LC-MS/MS Vojislava Bursić, Gorica Vuković, Tijana Zeremski, Ranko Čabilovski and Renata Baličević	353
DETERMINATION OF PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS IN PLANT EXTRACTS BY HPLC-DAD Vojislava Bursić, Sonja Gvozdenac, Snežana Tanasković, Maja Meseldžija, Gorica Vuković, Tijana Zeremski and Dejan Prvulović	359
PHOTOCHEMICAL PROCESSES AND THEIR USE IN REMEDIATION OF WATER CONTAINING PESTICIDES Anđelka Tomašević and Slavica Gašić	365
REMOVAL OF CARBAMATE RESIDUES FROM WATER BY DIFFERENT PHOTOCHEMICAL PROCESSES Anđelka Tomašević, Slavica Gašić, Dušan Mijin, Slobodan Petrović, Ana Dugandžić and Olivera Glavaški	371
APPLICATION OF PHOTOCHEMICAL PROCESSES FOR REMOVAL OF SULFONYLUREA AND CHLOROACETAMIDE RESIDUES FROM WATER Anđelka Tomašević, Slavica Gašić, Dušan Mijin, Slobodan Petrović, Ana Dugandžić and Olivera Glavaški	377
DEVELOPMENT OF HERBICIDE FORMULATIONS BASED ON QUICALOFOP-P-ETHYL Slavica Gašić, Ljiljana Radivojević, Dragica Brkić, Marija Stevanović and Anđelka Tomašević	383

## SEED TRANSMISSION OF *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* AND *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* IN TOMATO AND *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* IN PEPPER AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SEED DISINFECTION METHODS

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### ABSTRACT

Seed-borne bacterial pathogens of tomato and pepper are of major concern worldwide. *Xanthomonas vesicatoria* (Xv) and *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* (Xe), the causal agents of bacterial leaf spot, and *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* (Cmm), the causal agent of tomato bacterial canker, are worldwide distributed, but the occurrence of the latter is usually erratic. In order to evaluate the risk of seed transmission and the relationship between seed contamination and disease outbreak, an extensive field trial has been put in place in 2013 for each pathosystem. Three artificial contamination levels were considered (1%, 5% and 15% or 20%, respectively in Italy and in Serbia), composed of 100 seedlings each. Disease outbreaks were monitored weekly during the growing season until harvesting and disease was quantified by means of AUDPC. Seeds were produced from each plot and analysed in order to assess their contamination level. Preliminary results of our studies showed that disease quantity caused by Xv, Cmm or Xe was directly correlated to the percentage of initial infection, according to AUDPC values obtained. Contamination rate of seed produced in diseased fields was not always correlated with disease quantity observed. A microbial consortium, a bacterial antagonist and plant polyphenols were assayed to assess their potential efficacy in seed disinfection: naturally contaminated tomato and pepper seeds were treated and sown. Pepper and tomato seedlings were inspected and analysed for the presence of bacterial spot. Preliminary results obtained show that none of the above mentioned treatments was able to eradicate the pathogen from seeds.

**Key words:** seed-borne bacteria, tomato, pepper, seed transmission, seed disinfection.

### INTRODUCTION

*Xanthomonas vesicatoria* (Xv) and *X. euvesicatoria* (Xe) (Jones *et al.*, 2004) are the causal agents of bacterial spot of both tomato and pepper. Long-distance dissemination of those xanthomonads is ensured by

means of contaminated seeds in trade (Carmo *et al.*, 2001). Bacterial spot is a widespread and economically very important disease of tomato and pepper. *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* (Cmm) is the causal agent of tomato wilt and canker. The primary inoculum source for Cmm is contaminated seed (De

Leon *et al.*, 2011; Chang *et al.* 1991) reported that one infected seed in 10.000 is able of initiating an epidemic. Cmm infections often result in high yield losses; in several cases, losses of between 50 and 100% have been reported. Xv, Xe and Cmm have been listed as A2 quarantine pests by EPPO.

This preliminary study was aimed to assess the impact of the diseases in the field, after an experimental inoculation with Xv, Cmm and Xe on tomato and bell pepper plants in different plots, and to evaluate the transmission rate from the infected plants to the seeds. In this study we also investigated the efficacy of different treatments, to reduce pathogen contamination in tomato and pepper seed, by treatments with a natural plant polyphenols, a microbial consortium and an antagonistic bacterium, specific for Xv.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

For each pathosystem, three fields of 96 plants each were set, and the plants of any field were randomly marked and inoculated in order to obtain 3 different percentages of initially inoculated plants: 1, 5 and 15% in Italy (industrial tomato), and 1, 5 and 20% in Serbia (table tomato and bell pepper). High susceptible cultivars to bacterial diseases were used: industrial tomato, cv. VF10; table tomato, cv. Jabučar and bell pepper, cv. Amphora. Experiments with Xv, Xe and Cmm were conducted in confined experimental field.

### Experimental inoculation and phytopathometric evaluation

Tomato and pepper seedlings were transplanted in the fields, following the best agricultural practices in place for Italy and Serbia. For tomato inoculation, strains IPV-BO 2684 of Xv (Italy), KFB29 of Xv (Serbia), DLS 598 of Cmm (Italy) and for pepper inoculation the strain MI-A-6 of Xe, were routinely grown on GYCA (Dye, 1962) for 48 hours at 27°C. Five weeks after transplanting, each plant was experimentally inoculated by spraying a water suspension containing the pathogen (ca. 10<sup>8</sup> CFU/mL). Each inoculated plant was sealed in a polythene bag (PE) overnight, which was removed the early next morning. The first phytopathometric readings were done at symptoms appearing and were carried out weekly. The disease severity of tomato and pepper plant affected by xanthomonads was evaluated using a descriptive scale ranging from 0 to 4: 0= no

symptom; 1= 1-10 spots on 1-3 leaves; 2= 11-30 spots on 4-10 leaves; 3= more than 30 spots and some confluent necrosis on 5-20 leaves; 4= confluent necrosis on more than 20 leaves or branch desiccation. In case of Cmm infections, the disease severity on leaves (percentage of symptomatic leaves) was evaluated on each tomato plant on the basis of 5 disease severity classes (0, 5, 10, 25 and 50%). Disease score was calculated as  $\Sigma$  of Q = Severity x Incidence. Area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC; Van der Plank, 1963) was then calculated according to Madden *et al.* (2007). Data were collected and statistically evaluated from the first observed symptoms to the last assessment before harvesting. In case of pepper and table tomato, readings were done during a longer time span, since harvesting was done gradually.

### Crop harvest and seed extraction

Tomato and pepper seeds were produced according to common commercial procedures. For both tomato cultivars, the seed was extracted following the fermentation technique.

### Seed analyses for the estimation of seed infection rate

For each pathosystem, ten samples of 100 seeds each, belonging to each infected field, were soaked in 3 mL of sterile PBS-Tween 20 (0,05%) for 14 hours at 4°C (see ISTA rules). The samples were then crushed for 2 minutes, the extraction liquid was centrifuged at 10.000 g for 20 min at 4°C and the pellet was resuspended in 2 mL of sterile PBS-Tween 20. DNA was extracted from seed macerates using the DNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen) and assayed using the protocol of Koenraadt *et al.* (2009): Bs-XeF and Bs-XeR primer pair for Xe and Bs-XvF and Bs-XvR primer pair were used to detect Xv. DNA isolated from Cmm infected seed was assayed according to Dreier *et al.* (1995). The analyses were repeated 5 times in different days (5 replicates), for a total of 5000 seeds, in order to statistically assess the seed contamination rate.

### Biological treatments of seed

Tomato seed, cv. Jabučar and pepper seed, cv. Amphora, naturally contaminated by Xv and Xe, respectively, were used. The following compounds were tested: a commercial microbial consortium and a commercial plant polyphenols on both tomato and pepper seeds, as well as a bacterial antagonist on tomato

seed. The microbial consortium (Micosat F, CCS Aosta, Italy) contained: *Glomus* spp., *Trichoderma* spp., *Agrobacterium radiobacter*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Streptomyces* spp. Treatment was done according the manufacturer's indications: seed was dipped in a water suspension of the consortium, calculating 4.5 g/kg of seed. A commercial plant polyphenols based on tannins (AGRITAN, Silvateam, San Michele di Mondovì, Italy) was used. Treatment has been done according the manufacturer's indications, by dipping seeds in a 10 g/L polyphenol solution in deionized water. A strain of *Pseudomonas synxantha* (DLS A65) active *in vitro* against Xv was preliminary assayed to control Xv on tomato seeds. Treatment has been done by dipping seed in a bacterial suspension of 10<sup>8</sup> CFU/ml. For treatments, seed was kept soaking for 90 min in a rotary shaker at 90 rpm, dried in an incubator at 30°C (with fan) overnight in the dark and stored in a seed storage room 1 month before sowing. Untreated seeds were used as a positive control.

### Seed germination and disease assessment

In order to assess the effects of biological treatments on seed quality and its efficacy in seed sanitation, three replicates, consisting of 100 seeds for each treatment, were assayed in each of the three following tests. Germination *in vitro* was done according to ISTA rules. Seeds were placed on top of two layers Whatman n° 5 filter paper, moistured with 5 ml of sterile distilled water in Petri dishes. Petri dishes were placed at 25°C in the dark. Germination counts were assessed every day, up to 14 days. Germination test on blotter was carried out in a growing chamber, at 28-30°C and RH up to 75%. In pot tests, seeds were sown into pots containing a steam sterilized peat for seedling production. Growing chamber conditions were kept as above. Disease symptoms were daily monitored up to 28 days. In case of no symptoms development within 4 weeks, a stem segment (~2cm) of each seedling within the same replicate was collected and placed in a Stomacher Bag with 30 ml of sterile NaPBS buffer (137 mM NaCl, 2,7 mM KCl, 10 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1,8 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH = 7.2). All samples were crushed by hammering and stored at room temperature for 30 minutes. The washing fluids were then centrifuged and DNA was extracted by using DNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen). The DNA was extracted from seed macerates using DNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen) and assayed using the protocol of Koenraad *et al.*, (2009). Primers used were: Bs-XeF and Bs-XeR for Xe and Bs-XvF and Bs-XvR for Xv.

### Statistical analysis

All measurements were performed in triplicates. Analysis of variance (ANOVA, Tukey's test, P≤0.05) was applied using GraphPad Prism 6.0 software (La Jolla, California, USA).

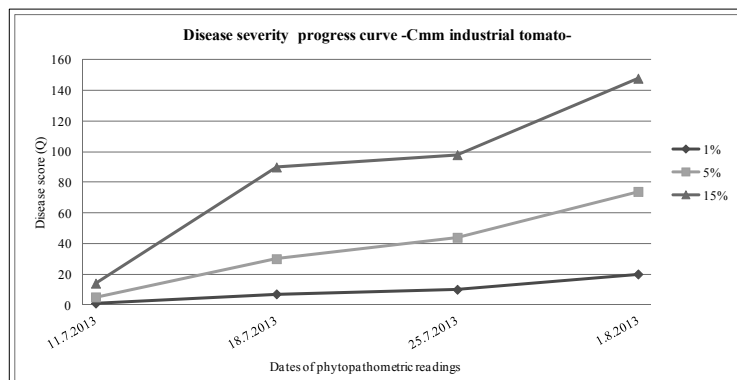
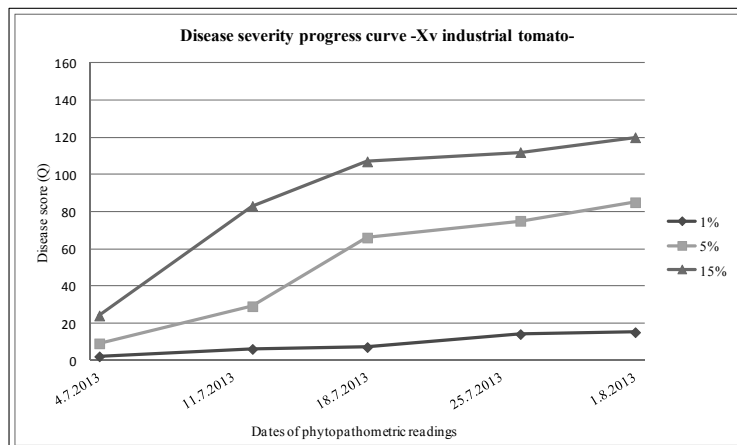
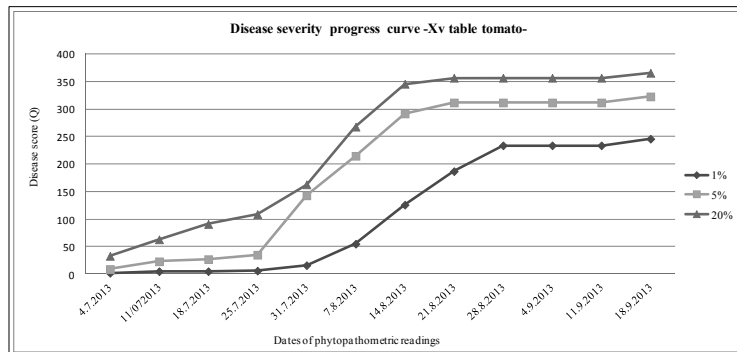
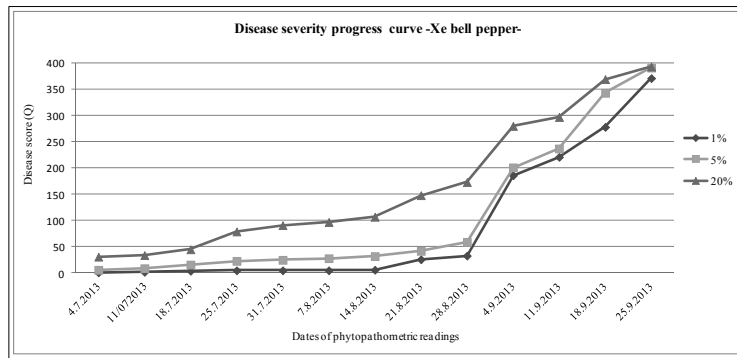
## RESULTS

### Phytopathometric evaluation of field experiments

For the experiments that were performed in Italy, the increase of the disease progression curve calculated for Xv and Cmm in industrial tomato was directly correlated to the percentage of initial infections; disease symptoms appeared 2 and 3 weeks after inoculation, respectively, and increased until the last survey (Graph 1). For industrial tomato plants inoculated with Xv, the AUDPC of the field with 1% initial infection was approximately six and ten times lower than that of the fields with 5% and 15% respectively. As regards the AUDPC obtained for Cmm from the field with 1% of initial infection, it was approximately four and ten times lower than that of the fields at 5% and 15%, respectively (Table 1). In Serbia, bacterial spot symptoms on table tomato and bell pepper appeared 2 weeks after the experimental inoculation and increased until the last survey (Graph 1). AUDPC value for Xv in the field at 1% of initial infections was approximately two times lower than that of fields at 5% and 20%. For Xe, the AUDPC referred to 1% of initial infection was approximately two and three times lower than that of the fields at 5% and 20%, respectively (Table 1).

**Table 1.** AUDPC values obtained in the different pathosystems considered (according to Madden *et al.* 2007).

Pathosystem	AUDPC values		
	Initial contamination rate (experimental)		
	1%	5%	20%
Xv-table tomato	8589	15074	18788
Xe-bell pepper	5743	8522	13632
	Initial contamination rate (experimental)		
	1%	5%	15%
	Xv-industrial tomato	249	1512
Cmm-industrial tomato	196	812	1932



**Graphic 1.** Disease severity progression curves over the time of each pathosystem considered in this study. In the legend, percentage value indicates initial percentage of inoculated plants per field.



## Molecular analyses of seeds

The molecular analysis of seeds, by means of PCR protocol, did not result in the detection of Xv, in both industrial and table tomato (in Italy and in Serbia). On the contrary, seeds produced in Cmm contaminated plots were found to be all positive by PCR. Seed samples obtained from field plots inoculated with Xe at 1, 5 and 15% level resulted in PCR positive by 78, 96 and 96%, respectively.

## Biological treatments of seed

Germination tests on blotter, performed with tomato and pepper seeds after biological treatments, did not show significant differences to the untreated ones. In *in vitro* experiment, the germination rate of tomato seeds treated with the microbial consortium and commercial plant polyphenols showed an apparent, but not significant increase compared to that of the untreated. The treatment with the bacterial antagonist DLS A65 significantly affected the germination rate of tomato seeds (Table 2). Germination tests *in vitro*, performed with pepper seeds after a treatment with the microbial consortium, was not different to untreated control, on the contrary, a treatment with commercial plant polyphenols decreased the germination by approximately 10%, if compared to untreated seeds. Such decrease was significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ). No symptom development was ever observed in both tomato and pepper seedlings until 28 days. Interestingly, PCR tests performed on same seedlings, confirmed the presence of Xv and Xe in tomato and pepper seeds, respectively.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we demonstrated during our field experiments a positive correlation between percentages of initial infection and disease progression and quantity caused by Xv, Xe and Cmm, as shown by the AUDPC

value obtained. In addition, we highlighted differences in the AUDPC values obtained in industrial tomato fields and in table tomato plots: those differences might be explained by the length of cultivation, remarkably longer for table tomato (7-8 weeks longer) than for industrial tomatoes. The same for bell pepper, since monitoring and harvesting of peppers continued for additional 8 weeks, after industrial tomato harvesting day. Among the different pathosystems, contamination rates of tomato seed produced in affected plots were not correlated with disease quantity observed and measured in the fields. In particular, no contamination rate of Xv was found in both table and industrial tomato seeds, although the disease observed was remarkably severe and present on all aerial parts: leaves, fruits, petioles and stems. In contrast, pepper and tomato seeds, respectively produced in Xe and Cmm contaminated plots, were all found PCR positive. Further work is necessary to deeply investigate the pathogen transmission from plant to seed and from seed to plant by means the setup of extensive field trials using seed produced during this study. Further experiments are underway to assess the effect on the bacterial cells viability (Xv and Cmm) of the fermentation process during tomato seed extraction, which supposedly reduced the bacterial load.

Biological seed treatments with plant/fungal extracts apparently enhanced the germination rate *in vitro* and on blotter for tomato seed. On the contrary, no effect on the germinability was observed for pepper seeds. No bacterial spots occurred during the pot test on tomato and pepper seedlings; however, asymptomatic plantlets, collected and analyzed with PCR assays, showed that bacterial inoculum was present. Therefore, bacteria from seeds moved acropetally and colonised the seedlings: there they may survive as residents or increase the populations in seedlings until they reach the leaves without causing symptoms (Silva *et al.*, 2013). Results of the biological seed treatments showed that they were not effective

**Table 2.** Germination rate *in vitro* and on blotter of tomato seed cv. Jabučar and pepper seed cv. Amphora after treatments. Different letters within columns denote significant differences according to the Tukey's test ( $P \leq 0.05$ ).

Treatment		Germination (%)	
		<i>in vitro</i>	blotter
Tomato cv. Jabučar	Microbial consortium (Micosat F, CCS Aosta, Italy)	98.67 <sup>A</sup>	96.67 <sup>A</sup>
	Plant polyphenols (AGRITAN, Silvateam, Italy)	92.67 <sup>A</sup>	91.67 <sup>A</sup>
	Bacterial antagonist	78.33 <sup>B</sup>	80.67 <sup>A</sup>
	Untreated	86.67 <sup>AB</sup>	85.67 <sup>A</sup>
Pepper cv. Amphora	Microbial consortium (Micosat F, CCS Aosta, Italy)	97.00 <sup>A</sup>	92.00 <sup>A</sup>
	Plant polyphenols (AGRITAN, Silvateam, Italy)	84.00 <sup>B</sup>	85.67 <sup>A</sup>
	Untreated	96.33 <sup>A</sup>	85.67 <sup>A</sup>

in eradicating the pathogenic bacteria associated with seeds. Further studies are needed to check, if such plant polyphenols or beneficial microbes might have a role in inducing of resistance. They might also enhance the germinability and the performance of seeds. Additionally, they could be taken into consideration to increase plant productivity of tomato and pepper crops. Nevertheless, new approaches in sanitation methods are needed to ensure efficient seed sanitation/disinfection, together with an optimization of formulations and application procedures related to such innovative bioproducts.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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