

**Molecular evaluation of *Bacillus thuringiensis*
isolates from the soil and production of transgenic
tomato plants harboring *Bt* gene for controlling
lepidopterous insects in Egypt**

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**التقييم الجزيئى لعزلات بكتريا الباسيلس ثورينجيانسس من التربة
وانتاج نباتات طماطم مهندسة وراثيا حاملة لجين هذه البكتريا
لمقاومة حشرات حرشفية الاجنحة فى مصر**

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جامعة عين شمس
للحصول على درجة الدكتوراه

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Abstract

This study has two main approaches. Firstly, search for indigenous *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains from Egyptian soils was made and the activity was evaluated against *Spodoptera littoralis*, and *Helicoverpa* (= *Heliiothis*) *armigera*. Different techniques were adopted for molecular characterization of these isolates. In a second approach, transgenic tomato (cv. *Money maker*) over expressing *Bt* gene was produced using *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation method. For this, a rapid and efficient regeneration system via direct shoot organogenesis has been developed. The developed tissue culture system was used for the production of transgenic plants. Several parameters affecting *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation (bacterial densities, type of explants, co-cultivation durations and pre-culture periods) were optimized. Molecular analysis confirmed the expression and integration of the transgene into tomato genome. The potential of feeding larvae of *S. littoralis*, *H. armigera* and *Phthorimaea operculella* on *Bt* tomato transgenic plants was determined and the effect caused to the predator *Chrysoperla carnea* (Stephens) when fed on lepidopterous insects treated with transformed plants was determined. Histopathological effects caused after feeding on transformed tomato plants compared to those caused after treatment with *Bt* endotoxin were carried out using Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM).

Key words: Isolation, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, transgenic tomato harboring *Cry* 2Ab, lepidopterous insects, *Chrysoperla carnea*, Histopathology, Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM).

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List of abbreviations

g: gram.

Mg: Milligram (10⁻³ g).

µg: Microgram.

ml: Milliliter.

µl: Microliter.

mM: Milimolar.

pmol: Pico mole.

v/v: volume/volume.

w/v: weight/volume.

Da: Dalton.

Kb: kilobase.

bp: Base pair.

ha: Hectare.

min.: minute.

sec.: Second.

°C: Degree Centigrade.

rpm: Rotation per minute.

Bt: *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Cry proteins: Crystal proteins.

GMO: Genetically Modified Organisms.

GM: Genetically Modified.

EPA: Environment Protection Agency.

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

ISAAA: International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech
Applications.

LB medium: Luria-Bertani medium.

PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction.

RAPD: Random amplified polymorphic DNA.

T-DNA: Transferred DNA of *Agrobacterium*.

Ti-plasmid: Tumor-inducing plasmid of *Agrobacterium*.

DNA: Deoxyribonucleic acid.

dNTP: Deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates.

CTAB: Cetyl trimethyl ammonium-bromide.

EDTA: Ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid.

Tris: Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethan.

TE: Tris EDTA.

SDS: Sodium dodecyl-sulphate.

Acetosyringone: 3',5'-Dimethoxy-4'-Hydroxyacetophenon.

X-gluc: 5-Bromo-4-Chloro-3-Indolyl- β -D-Glucuronide.

GUS: β -glucuronidase protein from *E. coli*.

35S: 35S promoter of CaMV.

nos: Gene encoding nopaline synthase.

nptII: Gene encoding neomycin phosphotransferase type II protein from *E. coli*.

CaMV: Cauliflower mosaic virus.

uidA: Gene encoding β -glucuronidase protein from *E. coli*.

hpt: Hygromycin phosphotransferase-gene.

MS: Murashige and Skoog salt mixture.

B5 vit: Gamborg's vitamins mixture.

BAP: 6-Benzylaminopurine.

FDA: Food and Drug Administration.

Kan: Kanamycin.

APS: Ammonium Persulphate.

cfu: colony formation unit.