

Microbial formula used in reclamation of agricultural and desert soil

A Thesis for master In Microbiology
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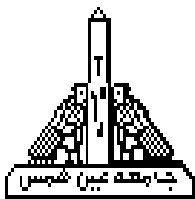
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***This Thesis has not been previously submitted
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LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Review of Literature	4
• Asymbiotic Nitrogen Fixation	4
• Microbial Activities	7
• Plant Growth Regulators	17
Methods & Materials	
• Methods :	19
1- Isolation and Purification of Yeast Isolates	19
2- Isolation and Purification of <i>Azotobacter</i> Isolates	19
3- Isolation and Purification of <i>Azospirillum</i> Isolates	20
4- Isolation and Purification of Lactic Acid Bacteria	21
5- Isolation and Purification of Actinomycete Isolates	21
6- Isolation and Purification of Fungal Isolates	22
7- Isolation and Purification of Bacterial Isolates	23
8- Selection of Isolated Microorganisms	24
9- Preparation of Inocula	31
10- Pot Experiment	31
11- Microbiological Determination	33
• Media Used :	34
1- Growth medium	34
2- Starch Nitrate Agar Medium	34
3- Czapek's –Dox Medium	35
4- Nutrient agar	35
5- Modified Ashby's Medium	35
6- Semi-solid Malate medium	36
7- Modified Bunt and Rovira Medium	37
8- Yeast extract malt extract agar medium	37
9- Inorganic salt-starch agar medium	38
• Media used for Enzyme Activity:	39
10- Protease Enzyme Medium	39
11- Lipase Enzyme Medium	39
12- Pectinase Enzyme Medium	39

	Page
13- Amylase Enzyme Medium	40
14- Cellulase Enzyme Medium	40
• Reagents :	
1- Acid Mercuric Chloride	40
2- Kovacs' Reagent for Iodine	41
2- Lugol's Iodine	41
Results :	42
Part I : Isolation of different types of microorganisms	42
• Activities of Isolated Microbes :	
- Enzyme Assay	46
- Antagonistic Effect	49
- Nitrogen Fixation	55
- Bioassay	56
- Synergistic Effect	60
• Identification of Microorganisms :	
- Identification of Actinomycetes	61
- Identification of Fungi	74
- Identification of Lactic acid bacteria	78
- Identification of Azotobacter	78
- Identification of Azospirillum	78
- Identification of Yeast	78
- Identification of Bacteria	81
Part II : Pot Experiment	
• A- Microbial determination :	
1- Total microbial count	85
2- Azotobacter densities	88
3- Fungal count	91
4- Actinomycetes count	94
• Growth parameters of Coriandrum Plant:	
1- Fresh and dry weight	97
2- Plant height	102
3- Number of tillers/plant	105
• Determination of antibacterial & antifungal activity of Coriandrum plant	108

	Page
Discussion	110
Summary	115
References	119
Arabic Summary	----

LIST OF TABLES

Table Title	Page
1. List of isolated microorganisms.	43
2. Enzymatic assay of isolated microorganisms.	47
3. Antibacterial assay of isolated microorganisms.	50
4. Antifungal assay of isolated microorganisms.	53
5. Nitrogen fixation.	55
6. Bioassay.	58
7. Synergistic effect between AMF.	60
8. <i>Thermomonospora fusca</i> characteristics.	62
9. <i>Thermomonospora fusca</i> cultural characteristics.	66
10. <i>Streptomyces californicus</i> characteristics.	68
11. <i>Streptomyces californicus</i> cultural characteristics.	72
12. Summary of morphological, physiological and biochemical properties of two bacterial isolates.	81
13. Total microbial count in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	86
14. Azotobacter densities in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	89
15. Count of fungi in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	92

Table Title	Page
16. Count of Actinomycetes in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant Affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	95
17. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on fresh weight of Coriandrum.	98
18. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on dry weight of Coriandrum.	99
19. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on Coriandrum height.	103
20. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on number of tillers/plant of Coriandrum.	106
21. Effect of AMF inoculation combined with nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on antibacterial activity of Coriandrum oil against some plant pathogenic Microorganisms.	108
22. Effect of AMF inoculation combined with nitrogen and Phosphorus fertilization on antifungal activity of Coriandrum oil against some plant pathogenic Microorganisms.	109

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig Title	Page
1. <i>Thermomonospora fusca</i> .	67
2. <i>Streptomyces californicus</i> .	73
3. Total microbial count in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	87
4. Azotobacter densities in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	90
5. Count of fungi in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	93
6. Count of Actinomycetes in the rhizosphere of Coriandrum plant Affected by inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic phosphorus & nitrogen fertilization.	96
7. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on fresh weight of Coriandrum.	100
8. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic Nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on dry weight of Coriandrum.	101
9. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on Coriandrum height.	104

Fig Title	Page
10. Effect of inoculation with AMF combined with inorganic nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on number of tillers/plant of Coriandrum.	107 .

Introduction

Effective microorganisms (EM) is a mixed culture of beneficial microorganisms (primarily photosynthetic and lactic acid bacteria, yeast, actinomycetes and fermenting fungi) that can be applied as inoculants to increase the microbial diversity of soils.

EM produce plant hormones, beneficial bioactive substances and antioxidants, while solubilising nutrients **Higa and James, (1994)** . Also help in the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and also solubilization of insoluble nutrient sources (**Abdel Azeem, 1998**).

Active microbial formula (AMF) is a mixed culture of beneficial microorganisms that can coexist in mixed cultures and are physiologically compatible with one another, when these cultures are introduced into the natural environment their individual effects are greatly magnified in a synergistic fashion.

AMF is made up of mixed cultures of microbial species that are found in natural environment worldwide. AMF contain (Asymbiotic nitrogen fixing bacteria; Lactic acid bacteria;

Yeast; Actinomycetes; *Bacillus* sp and Fermenting Fungi) that can be applied as inoculants to increase the microbial diversity of soils. This in turn can improve soil quality and health, which enhances the growth, yield and quality of crops (**Abdel – Gawad ,1999**).

Coriander as medicinal plant has been used in medicine for thousands of years **Fakim, (2005)** The first medicinal uses of the plant were reported by the ancient Egyptians.

Coriander seed oil has antibacterial properties and is used for treating rheumatism; the oil also counteracts unpleasant odors in pharmaceutical preparations & tobacco. It is used in perfumes; seeds are sometimes used as a flavoring agent to improve taste in other medicinal preparations.

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.; Umbelliferae) is widely distributed and mainly cultivated for the seeds. The seeds contain an essential oil (up to 1%) and linalool is the main component **Wangensteen, (2003)** Coriander seed is a popular spice and finely ground seed is a major ingredient of curry powder. The seeds are mainly responsible for the medical use of coriander and have been used as a drug for indigestion, against worms, rheumatism and pain in the joints (**Wangensteen, 2003**).

Volatile components in essential oil, from both seeds and leaves, have been reported to inhibit growth of a range of micro-organisms .

So the main target of this study is to isolate beneficial microorganisms from different sources and purifying them to produce an active microbial formula (AMF) compatible to grow together in synergetic behavior.

The chosen microorganisms were identified and used as biofertilizer on the growth of Coriandrum plant as well as the microbial content under green house conditions. Also, determination the antagonistic effects of Coriandrum oil against different pathogenic microorganisms had been studied.

Review of literature

The term **Biofertilizer** or **Microbial Inoculants** can be generally defined as preparations containing live or latent cells of effective strains of nitrogen fixing, phosphate solubilising or cellulolytic microorganisms which accelerate certain microbial processes that can be easily assimilated by plants (**Subba-Rao, 1988**).

Asymbiotic nitrogen fixation:

It is well established that *Azotobacter* is universally distributed all over the world, in soil of all geographical regions, *Azotobacter* was isolated from the soil of East Africa and Egypt (**Dobereiner and Day , 1975**).

Dobereiner and Day (1975) reported that nitrogen fixing *Azospirillum sp* could be isolated from all active surface sterilized root species. The importance of *Azospirillum* as an active nitrogen fixer was reported by many investigators .

Shenda et al. (1979) found that the beneficial response of crop plants to inoculation with *Azotobacter* can be attributed to growth substances produced by the organism, the fixed nitrogen made available to plants and production of antifungal antibiotics.