



NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF BASIDIOMYCETOUS FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH CASUARINA FROM TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT:

Present study dealt with study of nutritional status of Basidiomycetous fungi associated with Casuarina. During the investigation various carbon and nitrogen sources were used and the basidiomycetous fungi such as *Podaxis pistillaris* and *Clavaria* species were grown invitro. It was found that *Podaxis pistillaris* flourishes best with xylose and Raffinose sugars as carbon sources and sodium nitrate and sodium ammonium nitrate as nitrogen sources. *Clavaria* sp. grows best with the carbon sources like mannitol and maltose. Glutamine and sodium ammonium nitrate as nitrogen sources for the growth of *Clavaria*. The inorganic sources help in faster growth of fungus. The effect of growth is positive when the sources are used in combinations.

Key words: - *Podaxis pistillaris*, *Clavaria*

INTRODUCTION:

Casuarina, a member of the family Casuarinaceae, is a native of Australia. They are successfully introduced in the east coast of Indian Peninsula in 1960s and then cultivated in all parts of the country. Species of *Casuarina* is planted on a large scale in different parts of our country where there is longer dry season and less water contents. Casuarinas are salt tolerant and adaptable to poor soils with least requirements for their growth. In South India they are grown on coastal areas with sandy soils as well as in interiors with loam soils. The *Casuarina* plantations are abundant along the seashores of Tamilnadu. The plant is a multipurpose tree in Agro-forestry. The tree gives diffused shade, improves physical and chemical properties of soil, suppresses the weeds, helps in maintaining the fertility of soil, used as food, fuel and fodder and acts as good wind breaker.

Fungi utilize dead plant tissues and the soluble substrates including root

exudates and develop themselves in rhizoplane and rhizosphere. Members of Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes are reported to be present in rhizosphere. *Casuarina* plants from different localities were surveyed for Basidiomycetous fungi and their ectomycorrhizal association. During the study, *Podaxix pistilaris*, *Clavaria* sp., *Lycoperdon* sp., *Calvatia* sp. and some mushrooms were found associated with *Casuarina* plantations. These forms did not have any Ectomycorrhizal association with the plants.

Present investigation dealt with studies on Basidiomycetous fungi occurring in the rhizosphere of *Casuarina* from Tamilnadu and their nutritional requirements.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

In the present study the material of basidiomycetous fungi *Podaxix pistilaris*, *Clavaria* species associated with *Casuarina* was collected from sites of Chennai, Mahabalipuram and Trichur (Tamilnadu)

state). The species of *podaxis* and *Clavaria* were selected for nutritional studies. The work was undertaken in following steps:

1. Two fungi *Podaxis* and *Clavaria* were selected for study. The fungal spores were collected and grown in axenic cultures on Malt agar plates incubated at 27° C for 48 hours.
2. After the growth of hyphae, the hyphal mat was punched with the help of corn borer and used as a source of inoculum.
3. The inoculums was added to the agar plates with different nitrogen and carbon sources were inoculated at 27°C for 48 hours till 144 hours in diffused light conditions and recorded in tables (Table – I & II).
4. The different nitrogen sources included Cysteine, Alanine, Glutamine, Sodium nitrate, Threonine, Ammonium oxalate, Sodium nitrate and Sodium ammonium nitrate which were added in the concentrations of 0.05% in the basal medium (Modified Pridham & Gottlieb medium ;1948).
5. Different carbon sources included were Sorbitol, Lactose, Xylose, Mannitol, Galactose, Maltose and Raffinose which were added in the concentrations of 3.5% in the basal medium.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS:

Based on the nutritional requirements it is concluded that

1. *Podaxis pistillaris* flourishes best with xylose and Raffinose sugars as carbon sources and sodium nitrate and sodium ammonium nitrate as nitrogen sources.
2. *Clavaria* sp. grows best with the carbon sources like mannitol and

maltose as well as Glutamine and sodium ammonium nitrate as nitrogen sources.

3. The inorganic sources help in faster growth of fungus.
4. The effect of growth is positive when the sources are used in combinations.
5. Structurally the fungi belonged to gastromycetes group and the nutritional analysis indicated the use of inorganic nitrogen sources and disaccharides as carbon sources either single or in combination has helped in better growth of fungi.
6. The *Casuarina* plant litter and residue provides the inorganic sources of carbon and nitrogen for the growth of the fungi around them.

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TABLE: IA. Carbon nutrition studies - *Podaxis*

Diameter of colony in cms							
Hours	Sorbitol	Lactose	Xylose	Mannitol	Galactose	Maltose	Raffinose
48	1.0	1.8	2.7	1.0	2.0	2.8	2.4
72	1.9	3.0	3.5	3.0	2.1	3.2	3.4
96	1.9	3.0	4.5	4.0	2.8	3.9	4.0
120	2.0	3.9	5.8	5.5	3.0	3.9	5.0
144	2.3	4.1	6.5	5.5	3.8	4.1	5.9
Mean	1.8± 0.9	3.1±0.1	4.6±0.9	3.8±0.2	2.7±0.9	3.5±0.2	4.1±0.1
Type of growth	Scanty	Scanty	Normal	Moderate	Scanty	Scanty	Normal

B. Carbon nutrition studies - *Clavaria*

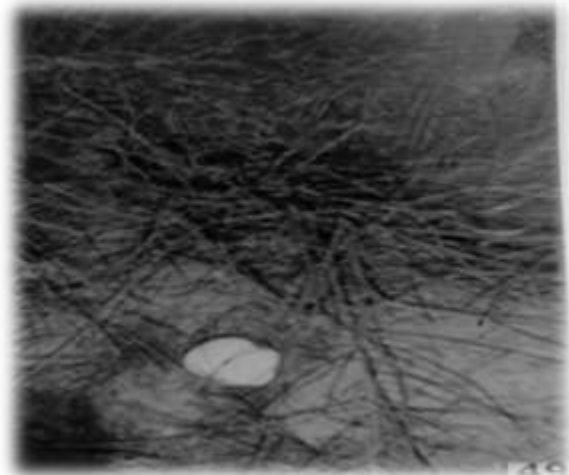
Diameter of colony in cms							
Hours	Sorbitol	Lactose	Xylose	Mannitol	Galactose	Maltose	Raffinose
48	2.0	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.0	4.4	1.9
72	2.7	4.4	4.2	4.6	3.6	5.7	3.5
96	3.0	5.6	5.3	7.5	5.2	7.5	3.5
120	3.4	6.3	5.7	8.4	7.0	8.8	3.7
144	4.0	6.8	6.0	9.3	7.2	10.0	4.0
Mean	3.0± 0.4	5.3±0.8	4.7±0.9	6.4±0.1	5.0±0.3	7.2±0.1	3.3±0.1
Type of growth	Scanty	Scanty	Scanty	Normal	Scanty	Normal	Scanty

TABLE: IIA. Nitrogen nutrition studies - *Podaxis*

Diameter of colony in cms							
Hours	Cystiene	Alanine	Glutamine	Threonine	Amm. oxalate	Na nitrate	NaNH ₄ nitrate
48	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
72	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.4
96	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.0
120	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.6
144	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.0	3.3	4.1	4.1
Mean	2.3± 0.9	2.6±0.1	2.4±0.1	2.4±0.1	2.4±0.1	2.9±0.2	2.9±0.2
Type of growth	Scanty	Scanty	Scanty	Scanty	Scanty	Normal	Normal

B. Nitrogen nutrition studies - *Clavaria*

Diameter of colony in cms							
Hours	Cystiene	Alanine	Glutamine	Threonine	Amm. Oxalate	Na nitrate	NaNH ₄ nitrate
48	0.7	3.2	4.2	4.9	4.5	1.9	3.5
72	0.7	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.0	4.4	5.8
96	0.7	6.4	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.0	7.2
120	0.7	7.5	8.5	8.0	7.5	6.7	9.0
144	0.8	8.5	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.9	9.5
Mean	0.7± 0.2	6.2±0.1	7.0±0.2	6.9±0.8	6.8±0.2	5.3±0.2	7.0±0.2
Type of growth	Scanty	Moderate	Normal	Moderate	Moderate	Scanty	Normal

*Podaxis pistillaris**Clavaria sp.*