

Contribution of arbuscular mycorrhizas to biological protection of micropropagated pineapple (*Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr) against *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands

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Phytophthora cinnamomi Rands causes root rot of pineapple (*Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr.) and the development of this disease is harmful for fruit production. Micropropagated plants of two varieties, Queen Tahiti and Smooth Cayenne (clone CY0), were inoculated at transplanting from axenic conditions with an arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus to evaluate the importance of endomycorrhiza development for biological protection against *P. cinnamomi*. Growth and mineral nutrition of endomycorrhizal plants were not affected by different inoculum levels of *P. cinnamomi*, whilst they were reduced for non-mycorrhizal plants. Root/shoot ratio of endomycorrhizal plants was lower than that of non-mycorrhizal plants, and the pathogen did not modify this effect except at highest inoculum levels of *P. cinnamomi*. Endomycorrhizal colonization was not altered by the pathogen; however symbiotic functioning was reduced by the highest concentration of inoculum of *P. cinnamomi*. Endomycorrhization is an interesting biotechnology for the production of micropropagated pineapple.

Key words: arbuscular endomycorrhizal infection, bioprotection agent, pathogen fungus, pineapple microplant, plant growth

Introduction

In soil, plant roots develop in the presence of micro-organisms, some of which can have a positive (e.g. arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)) or negative (e.g. pathogen fungi) impact on plant growth. Root rot of pineapple (*Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr.), caused by the soilborne fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands, is a major problem in pineapple production (MEHRLICH 1936). This pathogen damages root systems, negatively in-

fluences shoot development (MEHRLICH 1934) causes the production of fruits without commercial interest (PY et al. 1984) and is able to devastate plantations (ANDERSON 1951). The disease is presently controlled by chemical applications (PEGG 1977, ROCHBACH and SCHENCK 1985) and/or by modifying the soil environment before planting (drainage, pH reduction).

Several reports have indicated the bioprotective effect of endomycorrhiza formation against pathogens (GIANINAZZI et al. 1982, PAULITZ and

LINDERMAN 1991). However results are contradictory for *P.cinnamomi*. Whilst an important decrease in root rot disease was observed for endomycorrhizal plants of *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* L. (BÄRTSCHI et al. 1981), the impact of the disease was not modified by endomycorrhization of avocado (MATARÉ and HATTING 1978) or citrus (DAVIS et al. 1978). The aim of this work was to evaluate the success of AMF as biological control agents against damage by *P.cinnamomi* in pineapple plant production.

Material and methods

Two micropropagated pineapple varieties, Queen Tahiti and Smooth Cayenne (clone CY0), were used. Experiments were carried out under simulated tropical conditions (300 μ E s⁻¹ m⁻², 29–25°C, 12h/12h, 70–90% relative humidity). Micropropagated plants were inoculated at transplanting from axenic conditions with root fragments of *Tephrosia ehlenbergiana* infected by an isolate of *Glomus* sp. (LPA21). Inoculation was performed in seed trays containing a mix (1:1, v:v) of γ -irradiated (10kGy) acid soil (Marlins, pH 5.0) and steam-sterilized gravel (GUILLEMIN et al. 1991). Four weeks later, micropropagated plants were individually outplanted to pots containing 400g of the soil-gravel mix. Plant were watered daily with distilled water and twice weekly 20ml of Hoagland no.2 nutrient solution (HOAGLAND and ARNON 1950) without phosphate was supplied.

P.cinnamomi (strain 50, Laboratoire de Pathologie, CIRAD, FLHOR, Montpellier, France) was grown in 30ml of liquid culture at 25°C (LOUVEL 1975). After one week, the macerated *P.cinnamomi* culture was diluted in water from 10-fold to 10000-fold (levels 4 to 1). After pre-inoculation with AMF, 30ml inoculum was applied to each plant at outplanting to pots, or one month later. For the later application, only two dilution levels (1 : 10 (level 4) and 1 : 100 (level 3)) were used.

Plant growth was evaluated by leaf area (CHAUVÉL 1991), shoot and root fresh weight and shoot dry weight. N, P, K, Ca and Mg contents of shoots were analysed (WARNER and JONES 1967, Comité

Inter Instituts pour le diagnostic foliaire 1968, 1972). Endomycorrhizal colonization was evaluated by the TROUVELOT et al. (1986) method (intensity of infection in the root cortex (M%) and arbuscular frequency in the root cortex (A%)) after clearing and staining with trypan blue (PHILIPPS and HAYMAN 1970) and after staining for succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) (living) (SMITH and GIANINAZZI-PEARSON 1990) or alkaline phosphatase (ALP) (functional) (TISSERANT et al. 1993) activities.

Each treatment consisted of 5 replicates and all data was analysed statistically by Newman-Keuls tests.

Results

Development of the endomycorrhizal infection

The endomycorrhizal colonization was well developed in roots of both pineapple varieties. Evaluations of infection intensity (M%) were between 83% and 91% after non vital staining with trypan blue (Fig. 1). Values of M% estimated after staining for SDH and ALP activities, to evaluate living and functional infection respectively, were lower, fluctuating between 48% and 63% for the former, and between 27% and 38% for the latter (Fig. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B). *P.cinnamomi* did not significantly affect infection intensity (M%) for either inoculation time, that is at transplanting to pots (Fig. 1A, 2A) or one month later (Fig. 1B, 2B).

Arbuscule frequency (A%) estimated by trypan blue and ALP staining was significantly reduced for the Queen Tahiti variety in presence of the highest inoculum level of *P. cinnamomi* at outplanting to pots (Fig. 1C). For the Smooth Cayenne variety, reduction of A% was observed only for ALP staining and after inoculation of highest concentration of the pathogen at outplanting to pots (Fig. 2C).

Development of *P. cinnamomi* infection

No necroses were observed on roots of non-mycorrhizal and endomycorrhizal plants infected by

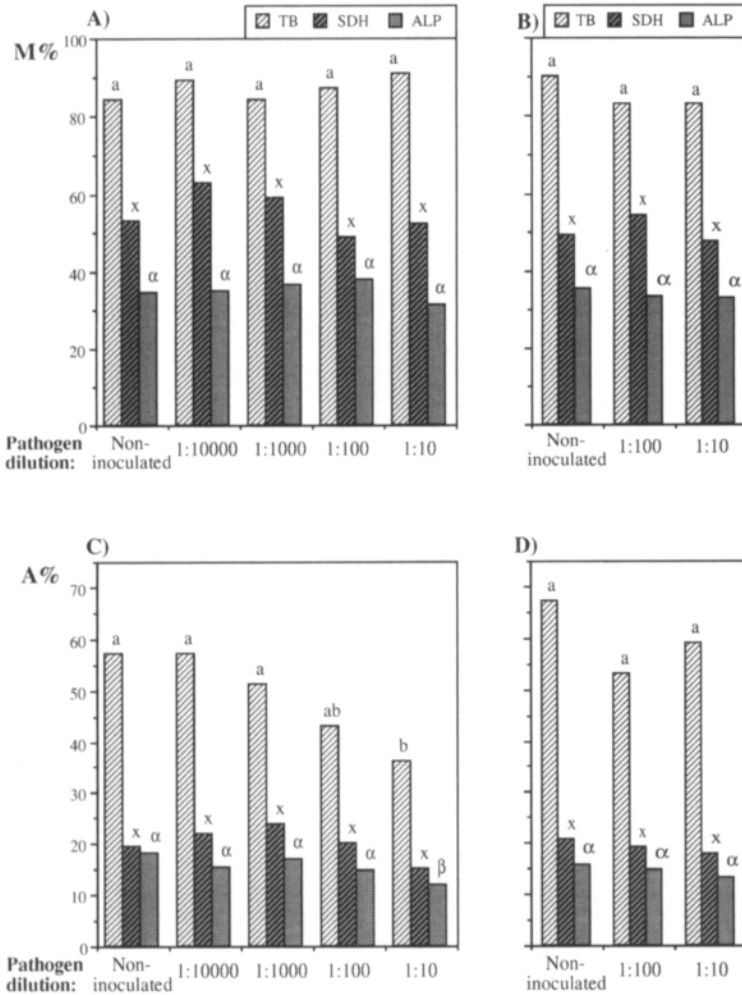


Fig. 1. Intensity of infection (M%) (A and B) and arbuscular frequency (A%) (C and D) observed after trypan blue (TB), succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) staining of roots of endomycorrhizal Queen Tahiti variety of pineapple inoculated with *P. cinnamomi* at different dilutions at outplanting to pots (A and C) and one month later (B and D). Values for each staining followed by different letters are significantly different ($p = 0.05$).

P. cinnamomi at any concentrations of the pathogen inoculum.

Plant growth

The important development of the AMF in roots of both pineapple varieties was reflected in the better growth of endomycorrhizal plants, with or without *P. cinnamomi* (Tables 1, 2, 3, 4).

Effect of *P. cinnamomi* at outplanting to pots

P. cinnamomi significantly decreased shoot growth of non-mycorrhizal plants of the Queen Tahiti

variety at all dilutions whilst such a negative effect was only observed for endomycorrhizal plants at the highest inoculum level of the pathogen (Table 1). All concentrations of *P. cinnamomi* significantly decreased root growth of non-mycorrhizal plants whilst root growth of endomycorrhizal plants was only negatively influenced by the two higher levels of pathogen inoculum (Table 1). Shoot and root growth of endomycorrhizal plants, whether infected or not by *P. cinnamomi*, was always greater than that of non-mycorrhizal plants.

Plants of the Smooth Cayenne variety tolerat-

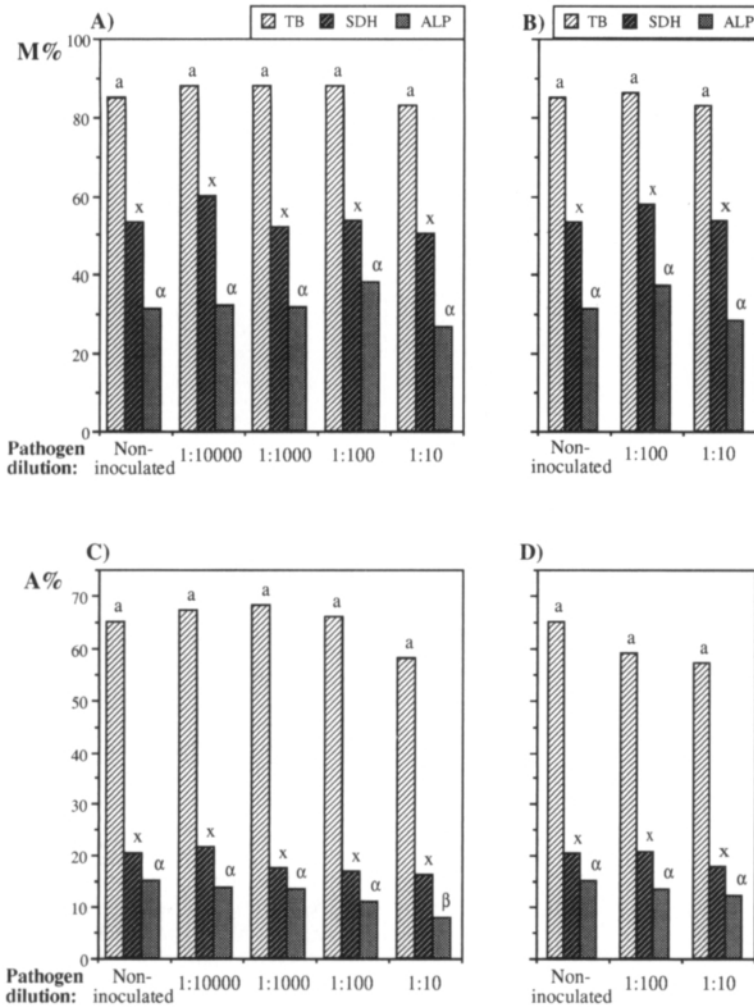


Fig. 2. Intensity of infection (M%) (A and B) and arbuscular frequency (A%) (C and D) observed after trypan blue (TB), succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) staining of roots of endomycorrhizal Smooth Cayenne variety of pineapple inoculated with *P. cinnamomi* at different dilutions at outplanting to pots (A and C) and one month after later (B and D). Values for each staining followed by different letters are significantly different ($p = 0.05$).

ed *P. cinnamomi* better. Only the inoculum dilutions of 1:100 and 1:10 affected shoot growth of non-mycorrhizal plants. For endomycorrhizal plants, shoot growth was not significantly affected by the pathogen at any concentration (Table 2). However, root growth of endomycorrhizal plants was altered by higher levels of pathogen inoculum, but values were always greater than those of non-mycorrhizal plants, with or without the pathogen.

In these experiments, root/shoot ratios (R/A) of endomycorrhizal plants were always lower than those of non-mycorrhizal plants for both pineap-

ple varieties except for endomycorrhizal plants of the Queen Tahiti variety in presence of the highest level of *P. cinnamomi* inoculum (Fig. 3A, 3C).

In the absence of *P. cinnamomi*, endomycorrhiza formation improved shoot mineral contents of the Queen Tahiti variety (Table 5). Pathogen inoculation caused a reduction in the P concentration of non-mycorrhizal plants. Decreases in Ca and Mg nutrition were less important for *P. cinnamomi*-inoculated endomycorrhizal plants. However, N and K concentrations tended to increase in the presence of *P. cinnamomi* in all plants (Table 5).

Table 1. Leaf area (cm²), shoot (g) and root (g) fresh mass and shoot dry (g) mass of endomycorrhizal (M) and nonmycorrhizal (NM) Queen Tahiti variety of pineapple, inoculated at outplanting to pots with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions.

Pathogen dilution		Leaf area	Shoot fresh mass	Root fresh mass	Shoot dry mass
Non-inoculated	NM	312.4b	24.82b	2.52b	2.58b
	M	482.9a	37.52a	3.52a	3.99a
1 : 10000	NM	221.5c	16.84c	1.78c	1.74c
	M	484.1a	33.80a	3.22ab	3.61a
1 : 1000	NM	165.9c	13.23c	1.45c	1.43c
	M	437.1a	32.65a	3.09ab	3.30a
1 : 100	NM	223.3c	16.62c	1.80c	1.72c
	M	463.5a	33.66a	2.83b	3.51a
1 : 10	NM	240.9c	17.75c	1.63c	1.85c
	M	344.0b	26.07b	2.85b	2.43b

Values in a column followed by different letters are significantly different ($p = 0.05$)

Table 2. Leaf area (cm²), shoot (g) and root (g) fresh mass and shoot dry (g) mass of endomycorrhizal (M) and nonmycorrhizal (NM) Smooth Cayenne variety of pineapple, inoculated at outplanting to pots with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions.

Pathogen dilution		Leaf area	Shoot fresh mass	Root fresh mass	Shoot dry mass
Non-inoculated	NM	299.7b	23.25b	2.63c	2.88b
	M	640.9a	54.87a	5.48a	5.02a
1 : 10000	NM	285.5b	22.37b	2.42c	2.31b
	M	527.9a	46.14a	4.16ab	4.10a
1 : 1000	NM	373.9b	23.45b	2.52c	2.43b
	M	544.3a	45.44a	4.35ab	4.36a
1 : 100	NM	241.0b	18.27c	2.03cd	1.73c
	M	479.2a	39.05ab	3.64b	3.43ab
1 : 10	NM	166.6c	12.65c	1.74d	1.24c
	M	502.2a	39.02ab	3.86b	3.71a

Values in a column followed by different letters are significantly different ($p = 0.05$)

Table 3. Leaf area (cm²), shoot (g) and root (g) fresh mass and shoot dry (g) mass of endomycorrhizal (M) and nonmycorrhizal (NM) Queen Tahiti variety of pineapple, inoculated one month after outplanting to pots with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions.

Pathogen dilution		Leaf area	Shoot fresh mass	Root fresh mass	Shoot dry mass
Non-inoculated	NM	278.1b	22.14c	2.49c	2.09b
	M	637.0a	49.03a	5.04a	4.64a
1 : 100	NM	272.6b	21.86c	2.29c	2.09b
	M	590.9a	40.14ab	3.77b	4.08a
1 : 10	NM	230.2c	16.99d	1.49d	1.59c
	M	549.8a	38.14ab	4.15ab	3.94a

Values in a column followed by different letters are significantly different ($p = 0.05$)

Table 4. Leaf area (cm²), shoot (g) and root (g) fresh mass and shoot dry (g) mass of endomycorrhizal (M) and nonmycorrhizal (NM) Smooth Cayenne variety of pineapple, inoculated one month after outplanting with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions.

Pathogen dilution		Leaf area	Shoot fresh mass	Root fresh mass	Shoot dry mass
Non-inoculated	NM	299.7b	23.25b	2.63b	2.88b
	M	640.9a	54.87a	5.48a	5.02a
1 : 100	NM	244.2b	20.07b	2.54b	2.02b
	M	540.6a	46.16a	4.40a	4.44a
1 : 10	NM	287.7b	23.06b	2.44b	2.25b
	M	523.1a	44.22a	4.18a	4.01a

Values in a column followed by different letters are significantly different (p = 0.05)

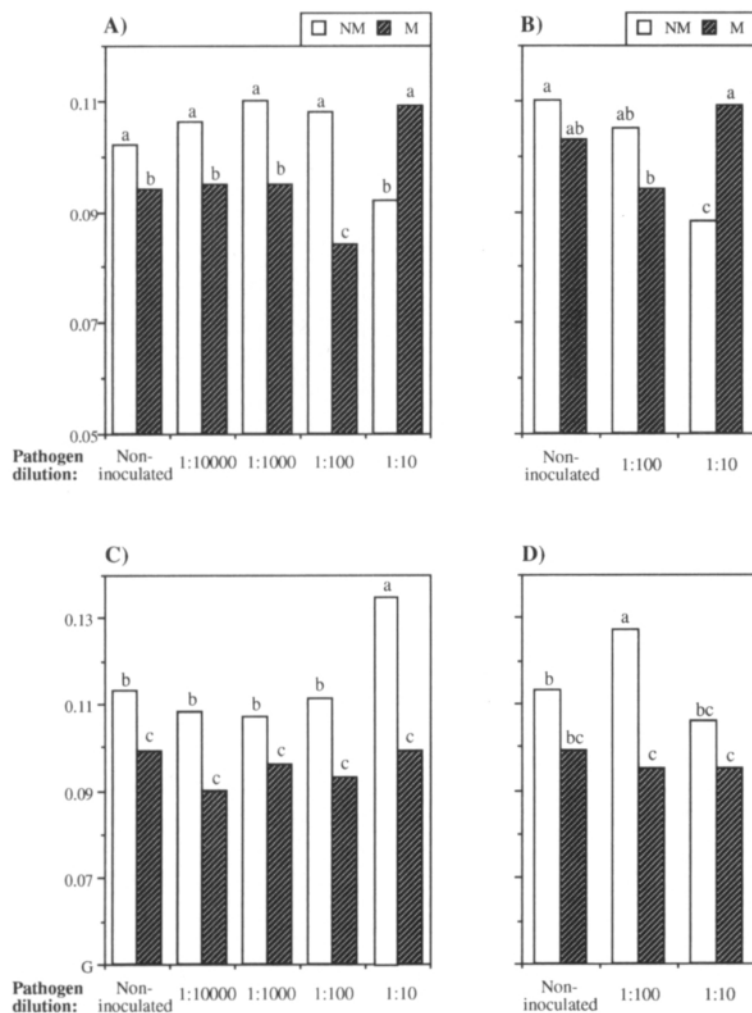


Fig. 3. Root/shoot ratios of non-mycorrhizal (NM) and endomycorrhizal (M) Queen Tahiti (A, B) and Smooth Cayenne (C, D) varieties of pineapple inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions: A, C) at outplanting to pots and B, D) one month later. Values followed by different letters are significantly different (p = 0.05).

Table 5. Mineral concentration (% of dry mass) of shoot of nonmycorrhizal (NM) and endomycorrhizal (M) Queen Tahiti variety of pineapple inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions at outplanting to pots

Pathogen dilution		N	P	K	Ca	Mg
Non-inoculated	NM	1.72	0.10	3.83	0.83	0.33
	M	1.83	0.12	3.87	0.91	0.36
1 : 10000	NM	1.82	0.07	4.40	0.64	0.27
	M	1.87	0.14	4.03	0.84	0.36
1 : 1000	NM	1.80	0.06	4.47	0.68	0.27
	M	1.90	0.11	4.03	0.76	0.31
1 : 100	NM	2.45	0.08	4.62	0.74	0.28
	M	1.89	0.11	4.10	0.83	0.34
1 : 10	NM	1.90	0.09	4.40	0.82	0.32
	M	2.22	0.14	4.42	0.90	0.36

Table 6. Mineral concentration (% of dry mass) of shoot of nonmycorrhizal (NM) and endomycorrhizal (M) Smooth Cayenne variety of pineapple inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions at outplanting to pots

Pathogen dilution		N	P	K	Ca	Mg
Non-inoculated	NM	2.03	0.13	4.46	1.05	0.35
	M	1.99	0.13	4.07	1.17	0.34
1 : 10000	NM	2.21	0.11	4.68	1.11	0.32
	M	1.99	0.17	3.81	1.19	0.35
1 : 1000	NM	2.04	0.11	3.90	1.12	0.34
	M	2.02	0.15	4.14	1.23	0.35
1 : 100	NM	1.95	0.09	4.20	1.05	0.33
	M	1.96	0.17	3.94	1.23	0.38
1 : 10	NM	2.07	0.08	4.71	1.07	0.33
	M	1.99	0.17	3.68	1.18	0.37

For the Smooth Cayenne variety, positive effects of endomycorrhiza on P, Ca and Mg nutrition was more important in presence of the pathogen (Table 6). N and K concentrations were not modified by *P.cinnamomi* inoculation and were generally slightly lower for endomycorrhizal plants (Table 6).

Effect of P. cinnamomi one month after outplanting to pots

In contrast to non-mycorrhizal plants, shoot growth of endomycorrhizal plants of the Queen

Tahiti variety was not altered by *P.cinnamomi* inoculation (Table 3). However, the root growth of both endomycorrhizal or non-mycorrhizal plants of this variety was reduced by the pathogen (Table 3). *P.cinnamomi* did not affect shoot or root growth of the Smooth Cayenne variety (Table 4).

As could be expected, root/shoot ratios were lower in endomycorrhizal plants, with the exception of the Queen Tahiti variety in presence of the highest level of *P. cinnamomi* inoculum (Fig. 3B, 3D).

Endomycorrhization increased P, Ca and Mg

Table 7. Mineral concentration (% of dry mass) of shoot of nonmycorrhizal (NM) and endomycorrhizal (M) Queen Tahiti variety of pineapple inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions one month after outplanting to pots

Pathogen dilution		N	P	K	Ca	Mg
Non-inoculated	NM	2.21	0.09	5.12	0.80	0.27
	M	1.77	0.15	3.54	1.03	0.36
1 : 100	NM	1.97	0.08	5.04	0.73	0.28
	M	1.63	0.14	3.57	0.96	0.38
1 : 10	NM	2.33	0.11	5.11	0.84	0.32
	M	1.75	0.15	3.95	0.99	0.37

Table 8. Mineral concentration (% of dry mass) of shoot of nonmycorrhizal (NM) and endomycorrhizal (M) Smooth Cayenne variety of pineapple inoculated with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* at different dilutions one month after outplanting to pots

Pathogen dilution		N	P	K	Ca	Mg
Non-inoculated	NM	2.03	0.13	4.46	1.05	0.35
	M	1.99	0.13	4.07	1.17	0.34
1 : 100	NM	2.18	0.12	4.87	1.02	0.33
	M	2.27	0.15	4.28	1.24	0.35
1 : 10	NM	2.19	0.08	4.66	1.18	0.33
	M	1.94	0.17	3.89	1.21	0.36

nutrition of the Queen Tahiti variety with and without *P. cinnamomi* (Table 7). However, N concentration of endomycorrhizal plants was less (phenomenon of dilution). The effect of the symbiotic fungus on P nutrition was more important in presence of the pathogen for the Smooth Cayenne variety (Table 8). For both varieties, N and K contents were lower in endomycorrhizal plants and *P. cinnamomi* inoculation did not modify this effect (Tables 7, 8).

Discussion

Experiments with both pineapple varieties showed that the endomycorrhizal effect on plant growth was not influenced by *P. cinnamomi*, except for the Queen Tahiti variety in the presence of the highest concentration of pathogen, when patho-

gen inoculation was carried out at outplanting to pots. The negative effect of *P. cinnamomi* on non-mycorrhizal plants was likewise important for the Queen Tahiti variety when inoculation was performed at outplanting to pots. Pathogen inoculation did not alter endomycorrhizal colonization of this variety roots but the highest concentration of inoculum depressed fungal activity (arbuscule formation, ALP activity and endomycorrhizal effect). The reduction in endomycorrhizal plant growth could be explained by a less efficient endomycorrhizal symbiosis in the presence of *P. cinnamomi*.

The influence of the pathogen depends on several factors. Although root necroses were not observed both varieties of micropropagated pineapple showed varying susceptibility to negative effects of *P. cinnamomi*. Better shoot growth of the Smooth Cayenne variety following colonization

by AMF was less affected by *P. cinnamomi* than that of the Queen Tahiti variety. The level of pathogen inoculum influenced plant growth in a similar way to that reported by DAVIS and MENGE (1981) for citrus, with growth of endomycorrhizal pineapple being decreased at higher levels of *P. cinnamomi* inoculum. The protective effect of the symbiosis can also change with the AMF. BÄRTSCHI et al. (1981) showed that it was more interesting to inoculate with a mixture of symbiotic fungi to ensure good plant growth and a good level of tolerance towards the pathogen. Such a mixture could contain efficient fungi for both mineral nutrition and protection, and so act synergistically to provide more efficient tolerance to the pathogen.

It is well known that AMF positively influence P nutrition of plants (HARLEY and SMITH 1983) and increases in P nutrition have been suggested to decrease root membrane permeability, therefore reducing and modifying root exudation (RATNAYAKE et al. 1978). Root exudates of endomycorrhizal plants have been reported to contain more arginine and reducing sugars (BALTRUSCHAT and SCHÖNBECK 1975), and changes in exudate composition can modify rhizosphere populations and decrease pathogen activity (GRAHAM and MENGE 1982). MEYER and LINDERMAN (1986) reported reductions in sporangia and zoospore production by *P. cinnamomi* in rhizosphere soil extracts from endomycorrhizal roots. Better absorption of P by endomycorrhizal roots could also counterbalance pathogen damage (DAVIS and MENGE 1980), but P is probably not the only factor contributing to pathogen tolerance (GRAHAM and EGEL 1988). The present study on pineapple shows that the influence of *P. cinnamomi* also depends on the age of the two varieties at the time of pathogen inoculation and that this is modified by endomycorrhiza infection. Non-mycorrhizal plants were more severely affected by early inoculation with the pathogen but no such difference was observed with endomycorrhiza formation, indicating modifications in the physiology of the plant. Endomycorrhiza can influence other aspects of plant physiology than mineral nutrition. As could be expected, they modified

biomass distribution in pineapple, root production being lower in relation to that of shoots. However, the application of the highest inoculum level of *P. cinnamomi* inversed this proportion for Queen Tahiti variety, suggesting that the endomycorrhizal plants may have produced a more important root system to support the pathogen. AMF can also influence phenol metabolism and root lignification (DEHNE and SCHÖNBECK 1979), making plants better adapted to resist to pathogen aggressions.

Other micro-organisms can show a potential for biological control of *Phytophthora* root rot, such as antagonistic bacteria and fungi (BROADBENT and BAKER 1974, GEES and COFFEY 1989, OWNLEY and BENSON 1992). CALVET et al. (1993) have reported the synergistic action of a fungal antagonist with an AMF in increasing marigold growth in the presence of *Pythium ultimum*. This effect may be through increases in the population of the antagonistic micro-organism under the influence of AMF (SECILIA and BAGYARAJ 1987), and opens the possibility of using both groups of mycoflora for improving biocontrol of the root pathogen.

Conclusion

AMF can be considered as potential biological control agents contributing to tolerance to *P. cinnamomi* in pineapple; the Smooth Cayenne variety may be more tolerant to *P. cinnamomi* aggression. It will be interesting to use this biotechnology in association with other antagonists, or with reasonable pesticide applications (AZIZ et al. 1990, GUILLEMIN et al. 1993), when pathogen pressure is very important. Furthermore, introduction of endomycorrhization during early stages of pineapple plant production represents an interesting technology towards improving plant development with decreases in chemical input.

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SELOSTUS

Mykorritsasienten merkitys biologisena torjuntakeinona *Phytophthora cinnamomi*-tautia vastaan mikrolisätyllä ananaksella (*Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr).

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Phytophthora cinnamomi Rands aiheuttaa ananaksessa saatoa alentavaa juurilahoa. Tutkimuksessa selvitettiin arbuskelimykorrhitsasienisiirrostuksen vaikutusta *P. cinnamomi*-sientä vastaan ananaslajikkeilla Queen Tahiti ja Smooth Cayenne. Mykorritsasieni siirrostettiin ananaksen pikkutaimiin *in vitro* -vaiheen jälkeen. Erisuuruiset *P. cinnamomi*-tartutemäärät eivät vaikuttaneet mykorritsallisten kasvien kasvuun ja ravinteiden ottoon, mutta mykorritsattomilla kasveilla *P. cinnamomi* alensi sekä kasvua että ra-

vinteiden ottoa. Mykorritsallisten kasvien juuri/verso -suhte oli pienempi kuin mykorritsattomien kasvien eikä *P. cinnamomi* vaikuttanut suhteeseen muulloin kuin käytettäessä suurimpia tartutemääriä. Taudinaiheuttajan vaikutus juurten mykorritsasieni-infektioon oli vähäinen, mutta symbioosin toiminta heikkeni suurimmilla *P. cinnamomi*-tartutemäärillä. Mykorritsasienten hyödyntäminen on mielenkiintoinen bioteknologian sovellutus mikrolisätyjen ananastaimien tuotannossa.