

Abstract

Antifungal Activity of Thymol against the Main Fungi Causing Fruit Rot in In Vitro Conditions †

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† Presented at the 1st International Online Conference on Agriculture—Advances in Agricultural Science and Technology, 10–25 February 2022; Available online: <https://iocag2022.sciforum.net/>.

Abstract: Pomegranate fruit rot is caused by the fungi *Penicillium* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Botrytis cinerea*, *Rhizopus* spp., *Nematospora* spp. and *Coniella* spp. In the present study, the antifungal effects of thymol on the growth of *Aspergillus niger* and *Penicillium commune* isolated from pomegranate fruits were investigated in in vitro conditions. The experiment was performed as a factorial based on a completely randomized design (CRD) with three replicates. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum fungicidal concentration (MFC) of thymol for both fungi were 250 and 500 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$, respectively. The lowest diameter of the *Penicillium commune* colony (6.66 mm) was found at a concentration of 250 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ after 168 h; however, it was not significantly ($p \leq 0.01$) different from the diameter of the *Aspergillus niger* colony at the same time. Thymol at the concentration of 500 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ had a similar effect as a fungicidal agent compared with thiabendazole (1500 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$).

Keywords: *Aspergillus niger*; minimum inhibitory concentration; minimum fungicidal concentration; *Penicillium commune*



Citation: Ranjbar, A.; Ramezanián, A. Antifungal Activity of Thymol against the Main Fungi Causing Fruit Rot in In Vitro Conditions. *Chem. Proc.* **2022**, *10*, 79. <https://doi.org/10.3390/IOCAG2022-12194>

Academic Editor: Bin Gao

Published: 10 February 2022

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Supplementary Materials: The poster presentation can be downloaded at: <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/IOCAG2022-12194/s1>.

Author Contributions: A.R. (Azam Ranjbar): data curation, formal analysis, writing original draft; A.R. (Asghar Ramezanián): Supervision, lab equipment's, editing paper. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was supported by the Research Affairs Office at Shiraz University (Grant # 99GCB1M153030).

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.