

PATHOGENIC CHARACTERIZATION OF *LASIODIPLODIA* CAUSING STEM END ROT OF MANGO AND ITS CONTROL USING BOTANICALS

SADIA FIDA ULLAH^{1*}, YAWAR HUSSAIN² AND SHAZIA IRAM³

^{1,3}Department of Environmental Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Women University, 46000, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

¹Department of Molecular Biology, University of Brasilia, 70910-900, Brasilia DF, Brazil

²Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Brasilia, 70910-900, Brasilia DF, Brazil

*Corresponding author's email: sadia.fida@ymail.com

Abstract

Two widely cultivated mango fruit varieties White chounsa and Sindhri were collected from two major mango growing areas of Punjab and Sindh Provinces of Pakistan. This study was focused on pathological characterization of predominant postharvest diseases such as stem end rot of mango (*Mangifera indica*) caused by *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*, and evaluation of bio-control activity by different plant extracts. *L. theobromae* aggressiveness of isolates was tested by artificial inoculations under controlled conditions, all isolates proved pathogenic in varying degree of aggressiveness on (Sindhri and White chounsa) with reference to control. Calculated standard error mean varied in lesion area produced by pathogens 6–63cm² (Sindhri) and 60-170 cm² (White chounsa). Re-isolation of respective fungi verified the Koch's postulates. Plant extract of *Datura stramonium*, *Aloe-vera*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, were used to control the radial growth of *L. theobromae*. Comparative analysis showed *D. Stramonium* and *E. camaldulensis* extracts most efficiently reduced the growth of *Lasiodiplodia* isolates, in comparison to *Aloe-vera* extract, restrict the 15-20% growth. All pathological results and treatments were significant at $p < 0.05$ through ANOVA. This study emphasizes the behavior of pathogens which could be helpful in mango breeding to introduce resistance toward *Lasiodiplodia* and referred plants provide the best alternative of chemical fungicides.

Key words: Botanicals, Pathogenicity, Sindhri, White chounsa.

Introduction

According to worldwide statistical analysis, Pakistan stands fourth largest producer of the mango fruit (Minfal, 2009) after India, China, and Thailand. The river belts of Sindh and Chenab are the traditional zones of mango production in Pakistan. Sindhri and white chounsa are the two best and dominant varieties of mango (Ghafoor *et al.*, 2010). The frequency of these varieties has prevalence because of their delicious taste and appetizing aroma (Maqbool *et al.*, 2007). Mango is the reliable sources of farm income in southern Punjab and lower Sindh (Arshad, 2008). The yield of mango is unfavorably hampered by the several biotic and abiotic stresses (Shahbaz *et al.*, 2009). Postharvest diseases are the principal risk to the mango cultivars. Among them, postharvest losses occur because of infections, by certain physiological disorders, or by the attack of bacteria and fungi (Shivashankar, 2014). Quantitative postharvest losses of mango, amount 8.6 million tons worth US\$ 335.2 million per year (Singh *et al.*, 2013). In Pakistan, traditional technologies used for postharvest fruit processing, packaging, transportation, handling, storage, and consumption, are responsible for causing 20-40% loss of fruit and vegetables (Tahir *et al.*, 2002), Ultimately inducing the major economic losses. Postharvest diseases prune the natural fruit quality. In most cases, blemished fruit failed to meet the required standard of choice and causes the economic loss in the global markets (Arauz, 2000). During storage mango becomes more susceptible to postharvest diseases, because of physiological changes and senescence which facilitate the growth of pathogens (Prusky, 2009). Correspondingly, Jabbar (2011) described that susceptibility of mango fruit to postharvest diseases increases after harvesting and favored pathogen

development. In Pakistan postharvest administration is a noteworthy challenge confronted by the mango industry (Amin *et al.*, 2008). During 2007-2008, about 20% declines were witnessed in export because, in the international market, Pakistan obtained lowest price (per kg) because of the poor quality of fruit. Major fungal pathogens such as *Fusarium* sp., are responsible for the malformation of mango and rotting (Fida & Iram, 2014) Moreover, *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* causal agents of stem end rot and quick decline (Rees, 2012) are the serious menaces to fruit quality and the agrarian economy of Pakistan (Korsten, 1993). In Florida, *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* and *Fusicoccum aesculi* were found causative symptoms linked with the decline on cvs Keit and Tommy Atkins (Ploetz *et al.*, 1996). Latter *Lasiodiplodia* species have also been reported from Brazil as relating with mango dieback and stem-end rot (Costa *et al.*, 2010). Postharvest losses aggravate in Pakistan because 99% mango fruit is harvested manually which causes physical damage, sap burns injuries, and bruising. Stem end rot is the predominant fungal disease in Pakistan, requiring systematic study. Previously, considerable work has been done on the morphological identification and characterization of *Lasiodiplodia* species (Shahbaz *et al.*, 2005). A more detailed investigation is still needed to understand the relationship between the aggressive behavior of fungal pathogens involved in post-harvest fungal diseases of mango and their control. The goal of present study is to analyze the pathogenic behavior of *L. theobromae* fungal pathogen causing post-harvest (stem end rot) disease of mango on Sindhri and White chounsa varieties of mango, and to fathom the reasons about the post-harvest fungal pathogens and market losses of mangoes and their control by using the different plant extracts.

Material and Methods

Collection of mango samples: Two major varieties (White chounsa and Sindhri) of mango fruit were collected from different districts of Punjab and Sindh (Table 1). The observed fruit size was almost equal for both Sindhri and White chounsa, and the age of mango fruit was 6months. Punjab is the second largest province of Pakistan located at the northwestern edge of the geologic Indian plate; while Sindh is located on the western corner, sharing the border with Iranian plateau in the west. Geographically it is the third largest province of Pakistan.

Table 1. No of isolates with their locations (Punjab and Sindh).

Mango varieties	White chounsa	Sindhri
No. location	Punjab	Sindh
1	PL1	SL1
2	PL2	SL2
3	PL3	SL3
4	PL4	SL4
5	PL5	SL5
6	PL6	SL6
7	PL7	SL7
8	PL8	SL8
9	PL9	SL9
10	PL10	SL10
11	PL11	SL11
12	PL12	SL12

PL (Punjab *L. theobromae*) and SL (Sindh *L. theobromae*)

Pure culture of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*: Further studies were conducted in Mycology laboratory of Fatima Jinnah women university, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Collected mangoes were thoroughly washed with the distilled water and surface sterilized with 70% ethanol and washed again three times with distilled water to avoid inhibition growth of fungus. After seven days, the sample was collected from mango parts, exhibiting the disease symptoms of stem end rot. Mango tissue was excised from the diseased portion with the help of surgical blade and cultured on the general PDA media (Potato extract 4g, Dextrose 20g, Agar15g^L⁻¹)

plates. Inoculated plates were incubated at 28 °C for seven days for fungus growth (Fig. 1).

Morphology: All isolates were identified morphologically on the basis of colony (color, shape, texture) and conidia (spore size, shape, Septation) under the compound microscope fitted with the ocular micrometer at 10X (Olympus, Japan).

Molecular analysis: Total genomic DNA of 24 fungal isolates was isolated using modification of phenol extraction method (Reader & Broda, 1985). DNA concentration was estimated to 25ng through lambda DNA standards (Reader & Broda, 1985). Gene 5.8S and two flanking ITS1 and ITS2 internal transcribed spacers were amplified by using the modification of protocol proposed by Mohankumar *et al.*, 2010. The primers sequence used for the amplification were ITS1F (5'- TCC GTA GGT GAA CCT GCG G-3') (Gardes & Bruns, 1993) and ITS4R (5' TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC-3') (White *et al.*, 1990). The 50 µl reaction mixture was prepared which contained 25ng of template DNA, 20 pmol primers ITS1 & ITS4, 10mM of dNTPs, and 5 µl PCR buffer with NH₄(SO₄)₂, 5 µl MgCl₂ and 1U Taq DNA polymerase (Fermentas) PCR conditions were as follows: initial denaturation at 95°C for 1 min, followed by 30 cycles of denature (95°C), annealing (55°C) and extension (72°C) for 1 min each with final elongation at 72°C for 7 min PCR products were observed at 2% Agarose gel to determine the gene amplification and the amplified bands were compared against 1kb ladder (Fermentas). Amplified PCR product was purified with PCR purification kit (Fermentas).

Phylogeny trees: Final nucleotide sequence of 24 isolates was submitted to GenBank NCBI. The obtained sequences were compared with previously identified sequences in GenBank using the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST). Sequences were aligned together with those retrieved from GenBank using Geneious.R.10 (Kearse *et al.*, 2012). Eight isolates were randomly selected, on the basis of highly aggressive, aggressive, moderately aggressive, non-aggressive for construction of phylogeny tree. Tree was constructed in Geneious.R10. Software using Tamura-Nei genetic distance model combination with the neighbor-joining method.

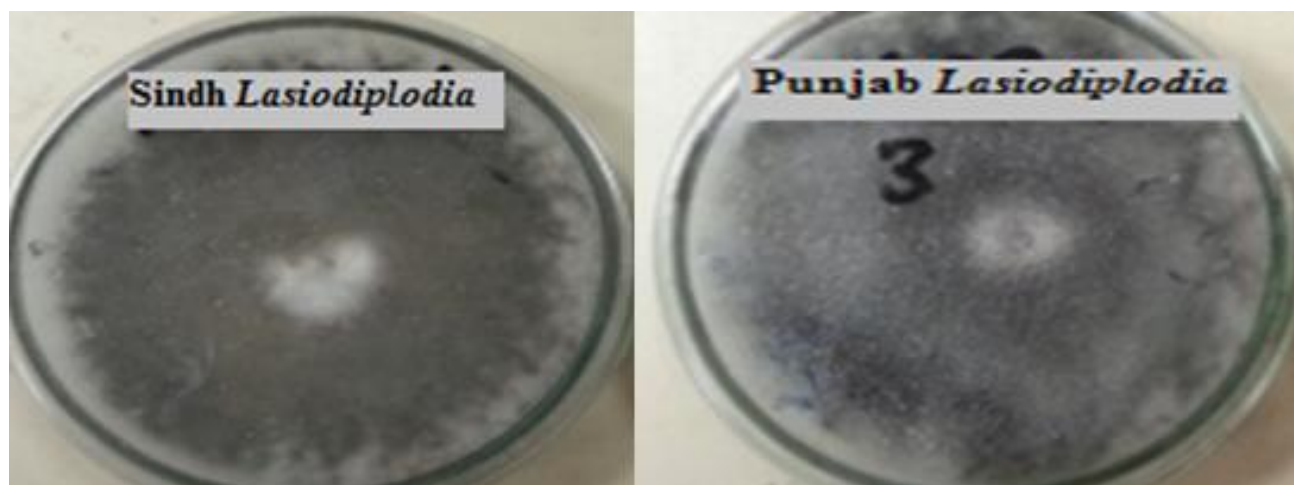


Fig. 1. *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* isolates on PDA agar medium.

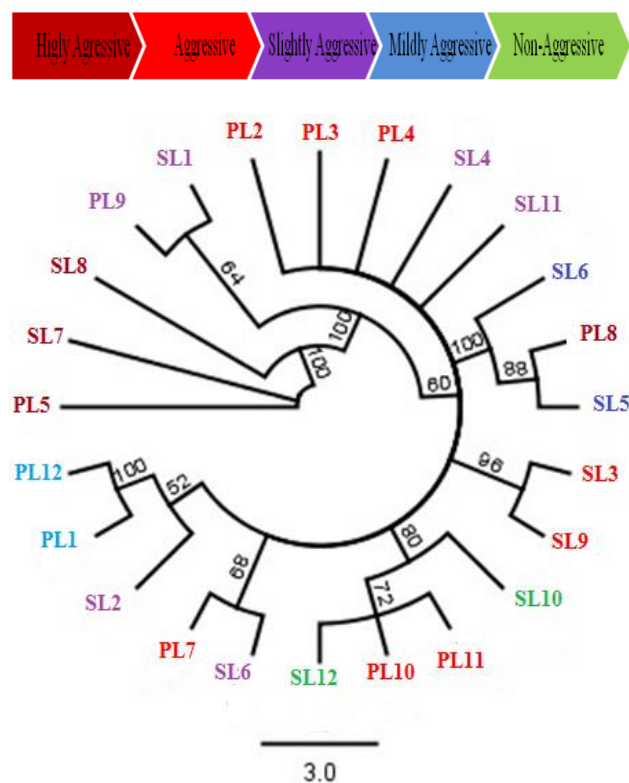


Fig. 3. Correlation between the aggressiveness and molecular phylogeny, within the isolates of *Lasiodiplodia* (Sindh and Punjab). Genetic distances were calculated using the Tamura-Nei model, the phylogenetic tree was constructed using the neighbor-joining method.

Statistical analysis: Data recorded for various characteristics were analyzed, with completely randomized design (CRD) a two-factor factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique, using statistix 8.1. For significant F value, the least significant difference (LSD) was used for mean comparison at 0.05% level (Sakalidis *et al.*, 2011). Clustering was done through Minitab 17 statistical software for grouping and characterized as aggressive, slightly aggressive, moderately aggressive, highly aggressive, and non-aggressive. Phylogenetic tree was prepared by using the Geneious (Kearse *et al.*, 2012) software.

Results and Discussion

Morphology: *L. theobromae* isolates were morphologically characterized on PDA media. The maximum growth was observed at 30°C temperature and pH~6. These findings are similar to (Jacobs & Rehner, 1998); indicating the observed temperatures ranging 25 - 30°C are the most favorable for the majority of *Botryodiplodia* sp., that cause decline and die-back of mango (Table 4).

Similar results consisting limited morphological differences in isolates of *L. theobromae* have already been reported by Al-Adawi *et al.* (2003) and also supported by Punithalingam (1980) who reported that size of conidia on maturity ranged usually 20–30 x 10–15 µm. Correspondence with limited differences is in agreement with (Arshad, 2008) where observed septate conidia were 20.3 – 23.3 x 10.3 - 12.8 µm.

Table 4. Morphological characterizations of *L. theobromae* on PDA media.

No.	Morphology	Characteristics	Growth time
1.	Colony color	Grey	Initial
		Black	After 10 days
2.	Pycnidia color	Shiny black	
3.	Pycnidia shape	Oblong , Globose	
4.	Conidia	Aseptate	Initial
		1-septa	After 6 days
5.	Conidia length	18-25µm	After 10 days
6.	Conidia width	11-15µm	After 10 days
7.	Spores wall	Thin	Initial
		Thick	After 10 days
8.	Spores color	Pale brown	Initial
		Dark brown	After 10 days

Molecular analysis: Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS1 and ITS4) regions amplified approximately 600 to 650bp. Bootstrap support values were evaluated using 100 bootstrap replicates. The combined dataset contained 1,065 characters with identical sites 661 (62.6%) having pairwise identity (95.4%) (Fig. 2).

The minimum genetic identity (83.87%) and maximum (100%) was observed among all the isolates. As representing in the tree, all the eight isolates showed (100%) similarity to *Lasiodiplodia* (AC-JF923830.1-India).

Correlation between aggressiveness and genetics: Tree is divided into two groups, one containing sister taxa of highly aggressive isolates on sindhri and White chounsa (PL5 and SL7) while other group further divided into two clades with one outer taxa containing Highly aggressive isolates of Sindhri (SL8). The clade having sister taxa of slightly aggressive isolates (PL9 and PL11) and other major clade containing all the isolates. The color alphabates indicating the scale of aggressiveness from highly aggressive to non-aggressive as represents in the scale above the tree. PL stands for Punjab *Lasiodiplodia* and SL is representing Sindh *Lesioplodia* (Fig. 3).

Tree was constructed in Geneious.R10 software using Tamura-Nei genetic distance model combining with the neighbor-joining method. Bootstrap support values were evaluated using 50 bootstrap replicates. The combined dataset contained 909 characters with identical sites 534 (63.3%) having pairwise identity (93.6%). The minimum genetic identity (78.38%) was found between the PL3 and PL12 while maximum genetic identity (100%) was observed among all the isolates.

Pathological Characterization of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* isolates:

The morphologically similar fungal isolates showed variable pathogenic (Highly aggressive to Slightly-aggressive) responses towards mango cultivar (Sindhri and White chounsa) under controlled conditions. *L. theobromae* was proved to be pathogenic through artificial inoculations method on detached mango fruit (Fig. 4). Positive results for postharvest symptoms were obtained through artificial inoculations. This finding is in line with the work of Palejwala *et al.* (1987) and Kumar *et al.* (1993) both of these groups provided similar results on different fruits and plants and established the fact that wounding is

required for disease to rots and this is in line with previous studies from all over the world (Ismail *et al.*, 2012). The comparison of lesion mean produced by postharvest fungal pathogens showed that lesions were significantly larger than control (agar plug only) at $p < 0.05$. The fungus that was inoculated successfully re-isolated from infected fruit supporting Koch's postulates.

The pathogenicity trials were carried out in triplicates (three fruit). Mean lesion length of different isolates was ranged 1.9 cm (min) to 7.2 cm (max) on White chounsa variety and 0.8cm (min) to 3.3cm (max) on Sindhri variety. The appearance of lesions produced in stem end rot disease by *L. theobromae*, was brownish black and started from stem (collar) region and spread linearly along the fruit resulting in the softening of skin and pulp became watery which could be punctured with the finger. Lesion size (area) observed, was variable 60-170 cm² (White chounsa) and 6-63 cm² (Sindhri) (Fig. 5).

Present study reveals the extensive association of fungal isolates with mango losses after harvesting. The

reason behind considering Sindhri and White chounsa for pathogenicity trials was that these two cultivars of Pakistan are regarded as the exporter commodity. Bar graph indicating the diseased area on Sindhri ranged from 6 to 63 cm² showed that Sindhri cultivar is more resistant (Figs. 5 & 6) to rots and this is in line with previous studies from all over the world (Malik *et al.*, 2005). This resistance to rot could be due fact that Sindhri variety is hard in texture while White chounsa cultivar has soft texture and prone to rots.

The variability in the pathogenic behavior of isolates of same species is due to evolution among isolates. Similar results were obtained by Shah *et al.* (2010); where these authors collected and studied thirteen isolates of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* in terms of their morphological and the pathological characterization isolated from the pear fruit grown in the Punjab. The pathogenicity trials were carried out on fruit. Pathogenicity results demonstrated that isolates of *L. theobromae* were the most pathogenic towards mango.



Fig. 4. Mango fruits showing symptoms of stem end rot disease.

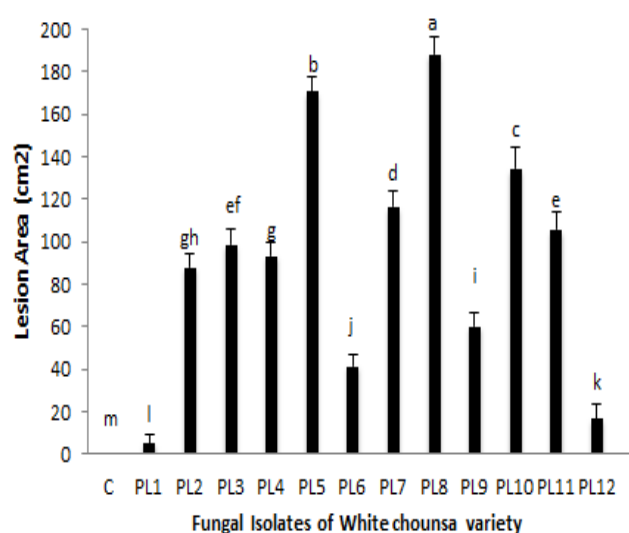


Fig. 5. Mean lesion area (cm²) on White chounsa mango caused by *L. theobromae* isolates. A bar above column represents standard error of the mean and lesion area which are significantly different at $p < 0.05$ have different lettering. PL represents the Punjab *Lasiodiplodia* isolates and C representing the control

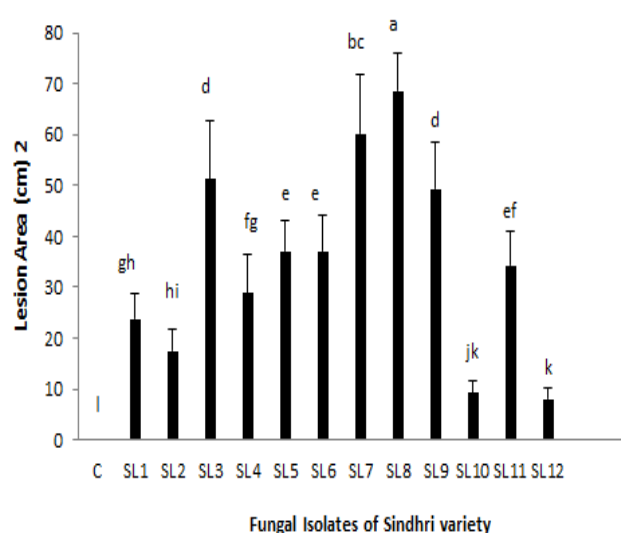


Fig. 6. Mean lesion area (cm²) on Sindhri mango affected by *L. theobromae* isolates. A bar above column represents standard error of the mean and lesion area significantly different at $p < 0.05$ have different lettering. SL represents the Sindh *Lasiodiplodia* isolates and C representing the control

Similarity between Lasiodiplodia isolates on the basis of Aggressive behaviour

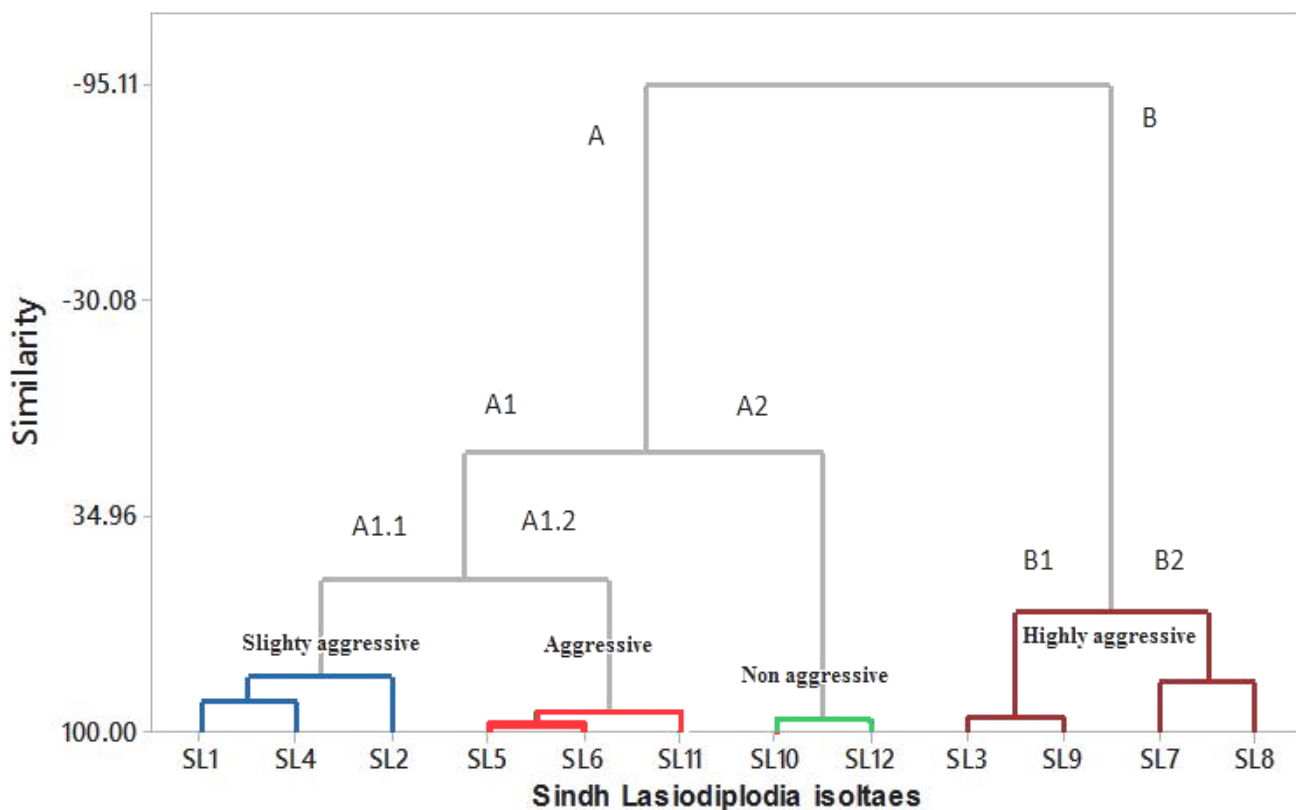


Fig. 7. Dendrogram clustering showing the aggressive behavior similarity of *L. theobromae* isolates on White chounsa variety.

Similarity between Lasiodiplodia isolates on the basis of Aggressive behaviour

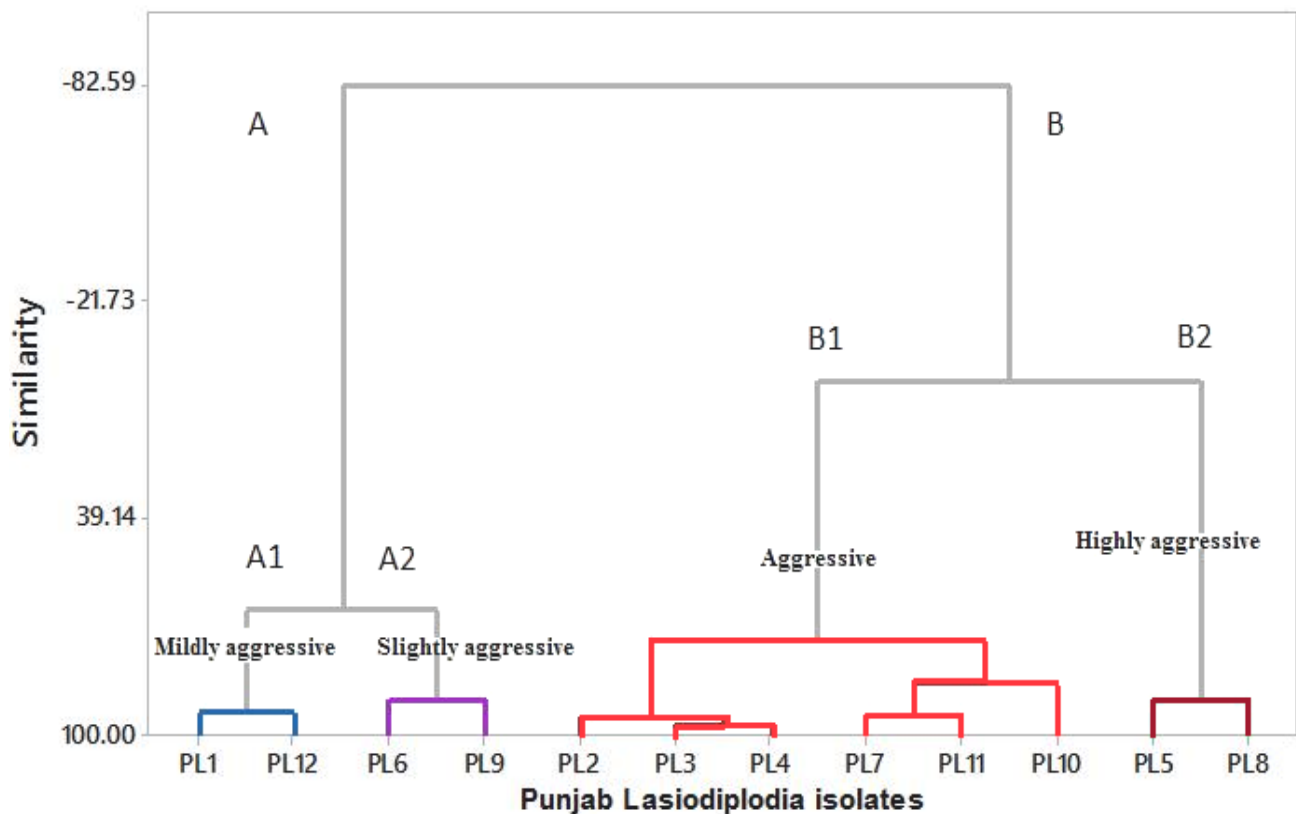


Fig. 8. Dendrogram clustering showing the aggressive behavior similarity of *L. theobromae* isolates on Sindhri variety.

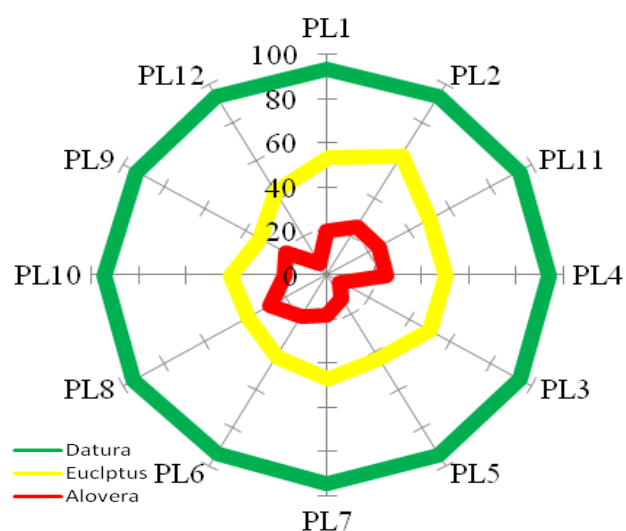


Fig. 9. Radar Chart indicates the reduction in radial growth by using the plant extract against *L.theobromae* isolates collected from White chounsa (Punjab mango variety). The values indicate the growth diameter (mm).

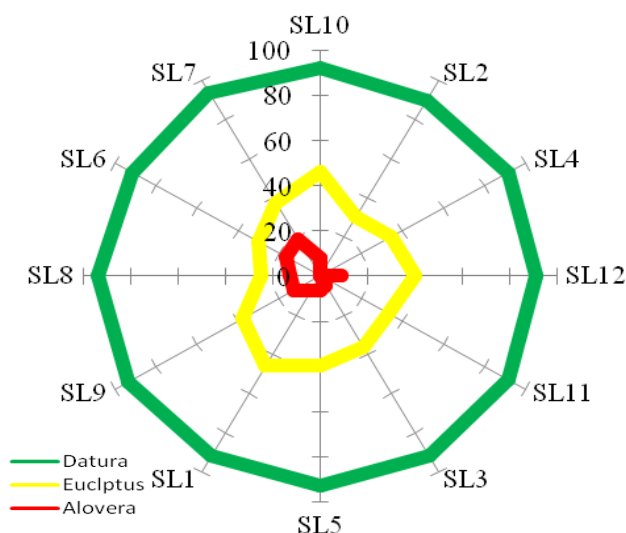


Fig. 10. Radar Chart indicates the variability in a reduction of radial growth by using the plant extract against *L.theobromae* isolates collected from Sindhri (Sindh mango variety). The values indicate the growth diameter (mm).

The significant achievement of the present study is the authentication of the pathogenic behavior of respective isolates by successful re-isolation of fungus from fruit. Isolates of Punjab were proved more aggressive towards fruit than the isolates from Sindh. As the dendrogram indicates the occurrence of two clusters A-(non-aggressive) containing 4 isolates and B-(aggressive) contain 8 isolates (Fig. 8). Cluster A is further grouped into A1-(non-aggressive) and A2-(slightly aggressive). Figure 8 also indicates almost 66% isolates are observed aggressive on the White chounsa variety. While dendrogram of Sindhri variety (Fig. 7) represent the cluster A is divided further into A2-(non-aggressive) and A1-(slightly aggressive to aggressive). Cluster B, contains all aggressive isolates. About 66% isolates are non-aggressive on Sindhri variety, completely contradicted to White chounsa containing 66% aggressive isolates. This is in clear agreement with

pathogenic studies conducted on *L. theobromae* isolates of mango by (Khanzada *et al.*, 2004; Sakalidis *et al.*, 2011); both groups found that the dominant symptoms were developed apparently in stem of the inoculated plant in comparison to root.

Aggressiveness is due to the reason that in Punjab, orchards are relatively smaller and closer to each other while in Sindh the situation is almost reverse (Meer *et al.*, 2013). Another important fact for more aggressive behavior of Punjab isolates is excessive use of nitrogen fertilizers, which also facilitate the attack of pathogens; Arshad *et al.* (2007) argued that the different sources of carbon and nitrogen influenced the growth of *L. theobromae*. Maximum growth was observed with sucrose and potassium nitrate. Another study of Shelar *et al.* (1997) also succeeded in developing the maximum growth of *L. theobromae* with sucrose and potassium nitrate. The environmental conditions play crucial role in the disease development and pathogens spread as the weather is hot and humid (54% to 95%) in Pakistan because environmental factors, harvesting techniques, packaging, transportation, and marketing all factors are in the favor of pathogens attack and destroy the fruit quality.

Effect of plant extracts on radial growth of fungus:

The present study tested the antifungal activity of three different plant extracts. All the isolates (Aggressive and non-aggressive) were used in the experiment. All plants showed antifungal efficiency at varying degree in methodology. Significant results were obtained in previous study conducted by Sharma *et al.* (2013) in which, *D. stramonium* leaf extract showed greater fungicidal activity against *R. stolonifera*. A similar finding was also observed by Soni *et al.* (2012) and confirmed antifungal activity of a concoction brewed from *D. stramonium* against *F.mangiferae*. *Datura* plants contain tropane alkaloids such as hyoscyamine, scopolamine, and atropine in all parts, but phytochemicals are rich in leaves. The leaves of the plants have already been reported to contain high phytoconstituents than any other parts of the plant (Malik *et al.*, 2015).

E. camaldulensis showed 40-50% reduction (growth mean value of control and *E. camaldulensis*) in fungal radial growth; these findings were in excellent agreement with work of Bashir & Tahira (2012) and explained that the leaf extract of *E. camaldulensis* was the most efficient antifungal against *Fusarium* sp.

The least effective plant extract is *Aloe-vera*, which controls the 10-20% fungal growth (Figs. 9-10). Ezeibekwe *et al.*, 2009 investigation showed that *Aloe-vera* gel in concentrations 25, 50 and 100% proved ineffective against the *Fusarium* sp. and *Botryodiplodia theobromae*. Phytochemicals present in *Aloe vera* are tannins carbohydrates, terpenoids, alkaloids, and flavonoids (Nidiry, 2011). Overall plant antifungal efficiency was better on the isolates of White chounsa as compare to isolates of Sindhri. The reason is Sindhri variety of mango contains natural resistance to disease. These results are in line with early observations of Fida & Iram (2014) who brilliantly identified that antifungal activity of different plant extract against *Fusarium* sp. which was efficient on White chounsa than Sindhri. Biocontrol is prophylactic way to control the plant pathogens (Akthar *et al.*, 2017).

Conclusion

Poor management, culture practices causing major loss of mango. A detailed investigation of the pathogenic behavior of fungal pathogens is needed for the identification of the potential threat to mango industry of Pakistan. This study will be helpful in mango breeding, to introduce resistance towards *Lasiodyplodia theobromae*. The lack of tolerance to these fungal isolates is a major factor of concern worldwide and in the development of transgenic plants possessing the tolerance for species of *Lasiodyplodia*. Punjab variety is less resistant to diseases because of its texture as well as environmental and chemical factors; further work on variety maintenance could be helpful to induce the resistance. Moreover, the analysis provides the appropriate disease control strategies for suppression of mango postharvest fungal diseases i.e control use of fungicides, development of botanical disease controls (*Datura Stramonium*) and use of appropriate techniques for harvesting, storage, and distribution.

Acknowledgment

This research was carried out as a part of grant supported by Government of Australia through ACIAR under Pakistan-Australia Agricultural Sector Linkages Program (ASLP). The financial support is greatly appreciated. A special gratitude to Dr. Alice Nagata, for reviewing this article.

References

- Al-Adawi, A.O., M.L. Deadman, A.K. Al-Rawahi, A.J. Khan and Y.M. Al-Maqabli. 2003. *Diplodia theobromae* associated with sudden decline of mango in the Sultanate of Oman. *Jr. Pl. Path.*, 52(3): 419.
- Amin, M., A.U. Malik, M.S., Mazhar, D.I. Khalid and S. Ahmed. 2008. Mango fruit de-sapping in relation to time of harvesting. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 40: 1587-1593.
- Analytical Software, Statistix version 8.1. 2005. User's manual. Analytical Software, Tallahassee, Florida.
- Akhtar, T., Q. Shakeel, G. Sarwar, S. Muhammad, Y. Iftikhar, M.I. Ullah, M. Mubeen and A. Hannan. 2017. Evaluation of fungicides and biopesticides for the control of *Fusarium wilt* of tomato. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 49(2): 769-774.
- Arauz, L.F. 2000. Mango anthracnose: economic impact and current options for integrated management. *Plant Dis.*, 84: 600-611.
- Arshad, M. 2008. Studies on characterization and management of *Lasiodyplodia Theobromae* (PAT) Griff & Maubl associated with quick decline of mango. Ph.D. Thesis University of the Punjab. Lahore, Pakistan.
- Arshad, M., N.K. Salik, A. Shaukat and M.K. Samiya. 2007. Survey for the prevalence quick decline of mango in different districts of the Punjab. *Pak. J. Phytopathol.*, 19: 86-89.
- Bashir, U. and J. Tahira. 2012. Evaluation of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* against *Fusarium solani*. *Int. J. Agri. Biol.*, 14: 675-677.
- Corkidi, G., R.K.A. Balderas, B. Taboada, C.L. Serrano and E. Galindo. 2006. Assessing mango anthracnose using a new three dimensional image analysis technique to quantify lesions on fruit. *Plant Pathol.*, 55: 250-257.
- Costa, V.S., S.J. Michereff, R.B. Martins, C.A. Gava, E.S.G. Mizubuti and M.P.S. Câmara. 2010. Species of *Botryosphaeriaceae* associated on mango in Brazil. *Eur. Jr. Pl. Pathol.*, 127: 50.
- Ezeibekwe, I.O., M.I. Opara and F.N. Mbagwu. 2009. Antifungal Effect of *Aloe-vera* Gel on Fungal Organisms Associated with Yam (*Discorea rotundata*, Poir) Rot. *J. Mol. Gene.*, 1: 11-17.
- Fida, S. and S. Iram. 2015. Isozymes and Bio-control Analysis of *Fusarium* spp. from post-harvest diseased mango of Pakistan. *Int. J. Sci. & Eng. Res.*, 5: 8-14.
- Ghafoor, A., K. Mustafa, I. Zafar and K. Mushtaq. 2010. Determinants of mango export from Pakistan. *J. Agric. Res.*, 48: 105-119.
- Ismail, A.M, G. Cirvilleri, G. Polizzi, P.W. Crous, J.Z. Groenewald and L. Lombard. 2012. *Lasiodyplodia* species associated with dieback disease of mango in Egypt. *Aus. Plant Pathol.*, 4: 649-660.
- Jabbar, A., A.U. Malik, Islam-Ud-Din, R. Anwar, M. Ayub, I.A. Rajwana, M. Amin and A.S. Khan. 2011. Effect of combined application of fungicides and hot water quarantine treatment on postharvest diseases and quality of mango fruit. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 43(1): 65-73.
- Jacobs, K.A. and S.A. Rehner. 1998. Comparison of cultural and morphological characters and its sequences in Anamorphs of *Botryosphaeria* and related taxa. *Mycologia*, 90(4): 601-610.
- Kazmi, M.R., C.A. Akem, M. Weinert, A. Ghaffar, F.S. Fateh and G. Bahar. 2014. Pre-harvest management strategies for post-harvest disease control in mango. *Post-harvest Pathology*, 7: 73-80.
- Kearse, M., R. Moir, A. Wilson, S. Stones-Havas, M. Cheung, S. Sturrock, S. Buxton, A. Cooper, S. Markowitz, C. Duran, T. Thierer, B. Ashton, P. Mentjies and A. Drummond. 2012. Geneious Basic: an integrated and extendable desktop software platform for the organization and analysis of sequence data. *Bioinformatics*, 28(12): 1647-1649.
- Khanzada, M.A., A.M. Lodhi and S. Shehzad. 2004a. Pathogenicity of *Lasiodyplodia theobromae* and *Fusarium solani* on mango. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 36: 181-189.
- Korsten, L., E.E. Villiers and J.H. Lonsdal. 1993. Biological control of mango postharvest diseases in the pack house. *SA Mango Grower's Assoc. Yearbook*, 13: 117-121.
- Kumar, J., U.S. Singh and S.P.S. Beniwal. 1993. *Mango malformation*: one hundred years of research. *Annu. Rev. Phytopathol.*, 31: 217-232.
- Lelliott, R.A and D. E. Stead. 1987. Methods for the diagnosis of bacterial diseases of plants. In: *Methods in Plant Pathology*, Vol. 2. T.F. Preece Series, British Society of Plant Pathology, Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, 216.
- Mahasuk, P., N. Khumpeng, S. Wasee, P.W. Taylor and O. Mongkolporn. 2009. Inheritance of resistance to anthracnose (*Colletotrichum capsici*) at seedling and fruiting stages in chili pepper (*Capsicum* spp.) *Plant Breed.*, 128: 701-706.
- Malik, M.T., T.Y. Mehboob-ur-Rahmanb, A.A. Dastic, S.M. Khand and Y. Zafar. 2005. Genetic diversity among *Botryodyplodia theobromae* isolates causing collar/stem rot of mango in Pakistan. In: *Proceeding of the international conference on mango and date palms. Organized by Horticultural Foundation of Pakistan Agricultural University Faisalabad, Pakistan Science Foundation 20th to* (pp. 64-71).
- Malik, R., T.Z. Bokhari, M.F. Siddiqui, U. Younis, M.I. Hussain and I.A. Khan. 2015. Antimicrobial activity of *Nerium oleander* L. and *Nicotiana tabacum* L.: A comparative study. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 47(4): 1587-1592.
- Maqbool, M., A.U. Malik and A. Jabbar. 2007. Sap dynamics and its management in commercial mango cultivars of Pakistan. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 39(5): 1565-1574.
- Meer, H., S. Iram, I. Ahmed, F. S. Fateh and M. R. Kazmi. 2013. Identification and characterization of post-harvest fungal pathogens of mango from domestic markets of Punjab. Identification and characterization of post-harvest

- fungal pathogens of mango from domestic markets of Punjab. *Int. J. Agron. & Plant Prod.*, 4(4): 650-658.
- Minfal, 2011. *Government of Pakistan*. Ministry of Food and Agriculture Economic Wing) Islamabad. Pakistan. www.minfa.gov.pk.
- Minitab Inc. MINITAB statistical software. 2015. Releases 17 for Windows, State College, PA.
- Mohankumar, M., Vijayasamundeeswari, A., Karthikeyan, M., Mathiyazhagan, S., Paranidharan, V. and Velazhahan, R. 2010. Analysis of molecular variability among isolates of *Aspergillus flavus* by PCR-RFLP of the ITS regions of rDNA. *J. Plant Prot. Res.*, 50(4): 446-451.
- Nidiry, E.S., G. Ganeshan and A.N. Loksha. 2011. Antifungal activity of some extractives and constituents of *Aloe vera*. *J. Med. Plants Res.*, 5: 196-200.
- Pakdeevaraporn, P., S. Wasee, P.W. Taylor and O. Mongkolporn. 2005. Inheritance of resistance to anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum capsici* in Capsicum. *Plant Breed.*, 124: 206-208.
- Palejwala, V.A., C.K. Patki, S.V. Bhatt and V.V. Modi. 1987. Post-harvest spoilage of mangoes by *Aspergillus niger*. *Intl. J. Food. Microbiol.*, 5: 111-116.
- Ploetz, R.C., D. Benschler, A. Vázquez, A. Colls, J. Nagel and B. Schaffer. 1996. A re-examination of mango decline in Florida. *Plant Dis.*, 80: 664-668.
- Prusky, D. I. Kobiler, I. Miyara and N. Alkan. 2009. Fruit diseases. In: Litz, R. E. (2nd Ed.), *The Mango, Botany, Production and Uses*. CABI International Cambridge, MA, USA pp. 210-231.
- Punithalingam, E. 1980. Plant Diseases Attributed to *Botrydiplochia theobromae* Pat. *Bibl. Mycol.*, 71: 1-123.
- Raeder, U. and P. Broda. 1985. Rapid preparation of DNA from filamentous fungi, *Lett. App. Microbiol.*, 1: 17-20.
- Rees, D., G. Farrell and J. Orchard. 2012. *Crop Post-Harvest: Science and Technology Perishables* (3rd Ed.), Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, UK.
- Sakalidis, M.L., I.D. Ray, V. Lanoiselet, G.E.S. Hardy and T.I. Burgess. 2011. Pathogenic Botryosphaeriaceae associated with *Mangifera indica* in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. *Eur. J. Plant. Pathol.*, 130: 379-391.
- Shah, M.D., K.S. Verma, K. Singh and R. Kaur. 2010. Morphological pathological and molecular variability in *Botryodiplodia theobromae* isolates associated with die-back and bark canker of pear trees in Punjab, India. *Genet. Mol. Res.*, 9(2): 1217-1222.
- Shahbaz, M., S.M. Khan, Z. Iqbal, A. Rehman, F. Muhammad and A. Saleem. 2005. Etiological studies to explore the causal agent of mango decline in the Punjab, Pakistan. *Pak. J. Phytopathol.*, 17: 33-35.
- Shahbaz, M., Z. Iqbal, A. Saleem and M.A. Anjum. 2009. Association of *Lasioidiplodia theobromae* with different decline disorders in mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) *Pak. J. Bot.*, 41: 359-368.
- Sharma, P., R.A. Sharma and G.K. Vyas. 2013. Comparative antimicrobial activity and phytochemical analysis of *Datura stramonium* L., plant extracts and callus *In vitro*. *Eur. J. Med. Plants.*, 3: 281-287.
- Shelar, S.A., D.N. Padule, D.M. Sawant and B.K. Kond. 1997. *In vitro* evaluation of fungicides against *B. theobromae* Pat. the cause of dieback disease of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) *Ind. J. Plant Prod.*, 25: 118-120.
- Shivashankar, S. 2014. Physiological disorders of mango fruit. *Hort Reviews*, 42:313-348.
- Singh, Z., R.K. Singh, V.A. Sane and P. Nath. 2013. Mango-postharvest biology and biotechnology. *Cri. Rev. Plant. Sci.*, 32: 217-236.
- Soni, P., A.A. Siddiqui, J. Dwivedi and V. Soni. 2012. Pharmacological properties of *Datura stramonium* L., as a potential medicinal tree: An overview. *Asian Pac. J. Trop. Biomed.*, 2(12): 1002-1008.
- Tahir, F.M., M.A. Pervaz and C. Hameed. 2002. Losses of mango fruit after harvest and its control. *Agric. Digest.*, 37: 62-64.
- Thompson, A.K. 2007. Pre-harvest factors on postharvest life. *Fruit and vegetables: harvesting, Handling and Storage*, 1-14.
- Vincent, J.M. 1947. Distribution of fungal hyphae in the presence of certain inhibitors. *Nature*, 159: 850.
- White, T.J., T. Bruns, S. Lee and J.W. Taylor. 1990. *PCR protocols: A guide to methods and applications*. New York: Academic Press Inc.

(Received for publication 19 April 2016)