



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**INFECTION AND SOME ASPECTS OF RESISTANCE
MECHANISM OF CAPSICUM ANNUUM TO RALSTONIA
SOLANACEARUM**

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INFECTION AND SOME ASPECTS OF RESISTANCE MECHANISM OF
CAPSICUM ANNUUM TO *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM*

By

MUHAMMED ABDUR RAHMAN

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of Philosophy in the Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia

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DEDICATION

To my wife Nasima,
my true friend and companion,

To my aunt Mrs. Khodeza and uncle
Mr. Afzal who brought me up and to
whom I owe everything

I dedicated this work



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xv
LIST OF PLATES.....	xvii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	xix
ABSTRACT.....	xx
ABSTRAK.....	xxiii
 CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION.....	1
II REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	6
Chilli pepper (<i>Capsicum</i> spp.).....	6
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	7
Procedures of Bacterial Inoculation.....	9
Resistance of Solanaceous Hosts to Bacterial Wilt...	10
Anatomical Characters in Relation to the Mechanisms of Disease Resistance.....	17
Bacterial Multiplication and Distribution in Relation to Disease Resistance.....	20
Infection Process of Some Bacterial Pathogens.....	22
Resistance Mechanism to Disease.....	25
Effect of Calcium on Incidence of Diseases.....	32
III SUSCEPTIBILITY OF <i>CAPSICUM ANNUUM</i> TO <i>RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM</i> , ANATOMICAL DIFFERENCES AND BACTERIAL MULTIPLICATION IN RESISTANT AND SUSCEPTIBLE CULTIVARS.....	40
Introduction	40
Materials and Methods	42
Bacterial Cultures and Preparation of Inoculum and Stock Culture.....	42



	Page
Propagation of Test Plants	43
Screening of 42 Chilli Pepper Accessions/Cultivars to <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	43
Anatomical Study of Bacterial Wilt-Resistant and Susceptible Cultivars of Chilli.....	46
Population Dynamics and Distribution of <i>R.</i> <i>solanacearum</i> in Resistant and Susceptible Chilli Cultivars	48
Results	49
Screening of 42 Chilli Pepper Accessions/ Cultivars to <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	49
Anatomical Characters of Bacterial Wilt Resistant and Susceptible Cultivars of Chilli.....	53
Population Dynamics of <i>R. solanacearum</i> in Susceptible cv. LC 455 and Resistant cv. Kulai of Chilli after Stem Inoculation.....	55
Population Dynamics of <i>R. solanacearum</i> in Susceptible cv. LC 455 and Resistant cv. Kulai Following Root Inoculation	59
Population of <i>R. solanacearum</i> in Susceptible cv. LC 455 and Resistant cv. Kulai of Chilli Following Soil Inoculation	62
Discussion	67
IV INFECTION PPROCESS OF <i>RALSTONIA</i> <i>SOLANACEARUM</i> IN <i>CAPSICUM ANNUUM</i>	75
Introduction.....	75



	Page
Materials and Methods	77
Root Infection and Vascular Colonization of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 by <i>R. solanacearum</i> ...	77
Fixation, Dehydration, Infiltration and Embedding of Tissues.....	79
Microtomy, Staining and Electron Microscopy.	81
Comparative Histopathology of Susceptible and Resistant Cultivars of Chilli Infected with <i>R.</i> <i>solanacearum</i>	82
Results.....	84
Root Infection and Vascular Colonization of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 by <i>R. solanacearum</i> ...	84
Comparative Histopathology of Susceptible and Resistant Chilli Cultivars Infected with <i>R. solanacearum</i>	93
Discussion.....	116
Root Infection and Vascular Colonization of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 by <i>R. solanacearum</i>	116
Comparative Histopathology of Susceptible and Resistant Cultivars of <i>C. annuum</i> Infected with <i>R.</i> <i>solanacearum</i>	120

	Page
V	
EFFECT OF CALCIUM NUTRITION ON BACTERIAL WILT IN <i>CAPSICUM ANNUUM</i>	131
Introduction	131
Materials and Methods	133
Effect of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ on Growth of <i>Ralstonia</i> <i>solanacearum</i> and pH of Media.....	133
Plant Propagation	133
Greenhouse Experiments.....	134
Effect of Time of Application and the Efficacy of Ca-Fertilizers on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli.....	135
Effect of Transplanting of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ Treated and Untreated Chilli Plants on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt.....	135
Effect of Techniques of Inoculation of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ Treated and Untreated Chilli Plants on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt.....	136
Field Experiments.....	137
Effect of Ca-fertilizers on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli Under Field Conditions....	137
Sampling and Processing for EDAX and Histological Staining.....	139
Anatomical Study of Ca Treated and Untreated Chilli cv. LC 455.....	140



	Page
Results.....	141
Effect of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ on Growth of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> and pH of Media	141
Effect of Ca-Fertilizers on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli and pH of Soil Under Greenhouse Conditions.....	141
Effect of Transplanting of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ Treated or untreated Plants on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli	144
Effect of Techniques of Inoculation of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ Treated or Untreated Plants on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli	146
Effect of Ca-Containing Fertilizers on the Incidence of Bacterial Wilt in Chilli Under Field Conditions.....	146
Energy Dispersive Analysis of X-Rays (EDAX)..	151
Relationship Between Incidence of Bacterial Wilt and Amount of Ca as Indicated by the X-Ray Peak Formation.....	157
Histological Staining for Ca.....	160
Differences in Anatomy Between Ca Treated and Untreated Chilli cv. LC 455 Plants.....	163
Discussion.....	170
VI GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS .	177
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	183



	Page
APPENDIX A	216
APPENDIX B.....	243
VITA.....	244



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Sources of germplasm of chilli pepper accessions /cultivars.....	44
2	Reaction of 42 chilli pepper accessions/cultivars to <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	50
3	Anatomical characters of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli to <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	54
4	Bacterial population at different dates of sampling of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after root inoculation.....	61
5	Bacterial population at three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after root inoculation	61
6	Spatial distribution and initial population of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> in susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli	66
7	Mean population of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> in Ca(NO ₃) ₂ amended CPG broth and pH of the media....	142
8	Effect of Ca-fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in <i>Capsicum annuum</i> and pH of soil under greenhouse conditions	145
9	Effect of transplanting of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated chilli plants cv. LC 455 on the incidence of bacterial wilt.....	147
10	Effect of techniques of inoculation of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated plants on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli.....	148



Table	Page
11 Effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli and pH of soil under field conditions.....	150
12 Peak height for Ca using a stationary beam probe in the lumen of metaxylem vessel of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 treated with Ca-fertilizers in the field.....	152
13 Peak formation for Ca using a stationary beam probe in the lumen of metaxylem vessel of root and mid stem of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 seedlings treated with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ in the nursery for 30 days.....	155
14 Thickness of cortex from the root and mid stem of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 treated or untreated with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ at different sampling dates.....	167
15 Length of vascular elements from the root and stem of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 treated or untreated with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ at different sampling dates.....	168
16 Diameter of vascular elements from the root and stem of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 treated or untreated with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ at different sampling dates.....	169
17 ANOVA table of reaction of 42 chilli pepper accessions /cultivar to <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	216
18 T-test table of the bacterial population at the mid stem region of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after stem inoculation.....	216
19 T-test table of the bacterial population at the collar region of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after stem inoculation	217



Table	Page
20	T-test table of the bacterial population at the tap root region of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after stem inoculation 218
22	Bacterial population of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 at different dates of sampling after stem inoculation..... 219
23	ANOVA table of the bacterial population at different sampling dates of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after stem inoculation..... 219
24	Bacterial population of resistant chilli cv. Kulai at different sampling dates and three sites of detection after stem inoculation 220
25	ANOVA table of the bacterial population at three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv Kulai and susceptible cv. LC 455 after stem inoculation..... 221
26	ANOVA table of the bacterial population recorded at 4 days interval, for 32 days period of sampling at three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv. Kulai..... 222
27	T-test of the bacterial population between two consecutive dates of sampling in resistant chilli cv. Kulai for 32 days period after stem inoculation..... 225
28	T-test table of the bacterial population at the tap root region of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after root inoculation..... 227
29	T-test table of the bacterial population at the collar region of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after root inoculation..... 228
30	T-test table of the bacterial population at the mid stem of susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli after root inoculation..... 229



Table	Page
31 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at different dates of sampling of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 after root inoculation.....	229
32 Bacterial population of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 at different dates of sampling after root inoculation.....	
230	
33 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at the three sites of detection of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 after root inoculation.....	230
34 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at different dates of sampling of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after root inoculation.....	231
35 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after root inoculation.....	231
36 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at three sites of detection of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 after soil inoculation	232
37 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at different dates of sampling of bacterial wilt susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 after soil inoculation	232
38 Bacterial population of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 at different dates of sampling after soil inoculation	233
39 T-test table of the bacterial population at the three sites of detection of root- and soil-inoculated susceptible chilli cv. LC 455.....	233
40 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at the three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv. Kulai after soil inoculation.....	234



Table	Page
41 Bacterial population in resistant chilli cv. Kulai after soil inoculation.....	234
42 T-test of the comparative bacterial population at the three sites of detection of root- and soil-inoculated resistant chilli cv. Kulai	235
43 ANOVA table of the bacterial population at three sites of detection of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 using various techniques of inoculation	235
44 ANOVA table of the bacterial population using three techniques of inoculation of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455.	236
45 ANOVA table of the mean bacterial population at three sites of detection of resistant chilli cv. Kulai using various techniques of inoculation	236
46 ANOVA table of the mean bacterial population using three techniques of inoculation of resistant chilli cv. Kulai.....	237
47 Bacterial population at the three sampling sites and using three techniques of inoculation of resistant chilli cv. Kulai	237
48 ANOVA table of population of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> in CPG medium amended with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	238
49 ANOVA table of the pH of CPG medium for the growth of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> amended with $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	238
50 ANOVA table of effect of Ca-fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible cultivar of <i>Capsicum annum</i> under greenhouse conditions.....	239



Table	Page
51 ANOVA table of effect of Ca-fertilizers on the pH of soil in <i>Capsicum annuum</i> under greenhouse conditions.....	239
52 ANOVA table of the effect of transplanting of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated plants on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible chilli cultivar.....	240
53 ANOVA table of the effect of techniques of inoculation of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated plants on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible chilli cultivar.....	240
54 ANOVA table of the effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli under field conditions.....	241
55 ANOVA table of the effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli and pH of soil under field conditions.....	241
56 ANOVA table of the amount of Ca as indicated by the peak formation, under field conditions.....	242
57 Contents of nutrient broth for multiplication of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	243



Figure		Page
1	Mean bacterial population in susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai chilli after stem inoculation (a, mid stem; b, collar and c, tap root). Bar shows the standard error.....	56
2	Mean bacterial population at (a) three sites of cv. Kulai and cv. LC 455; (b) in cv. Kulai after stem inoculation. Bar shows LSD value.....	58
3	Development of bacterial population in susceptible cv. LC 455 and resistant cv. Kulai of chilli following root inoculation (a, tap root; b, collar and c, mid stem). Bar shows the standard error.....	60
4	Mean bacterial population in resistant cv. Kulai and susceptible cv. LC 455 chilli following soil inoculation (bar shows LSD value).....	63
5	Mean bacterial population in (a) at the mid stem, collar and susceptible cv. LC 455 chilli over a period of 16 days (bar denotes the LSD value).....	65
6	Schematic diagram of chilli seedlings in conical flask containing MS medium and bacteria for root inoculation...	78
7	Effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible cultivar of <i>Capsicum annum</i> under greenhouse conditions.....	143



Table	Page
51 ANOVA table of effect of Ca-fertilizers on the pH of soil in <i>Capsicum annuum</i> under greenhouse conditions.....	239
52 ANOVA table of the effect of transplanting of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated plants on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible chilli cultivar.....	240
53 ANOVA table of the effect of techniques of inoculation of Ca(NO ₃) ₂ treated or untreated plants on the incidence of bacterial wilt in susceptible chilli cultivar.....	240
54 ANOVA table of the effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli under field conditions.....	241
55 ANOVA table of the effect of Ca-containing fertilizers on the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli and pH of soil under field conditions.....	241
56 ANOVA table of the amount of Ca as indicated by the peak formation, of plants treated with Ca-fertilizers under field conditions.....	242
57 Contents of nutrient broth for multiplication of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	243



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
1	Scanning and transmission electron micrographs of <i>R. solanacearum</i> inoculated root of susceptible chilli cultivar, Long Chilli 455 (cv. LC 455) grown in MS liquid medium.....	86
2	Light and scanning electron micrographs of inoculated susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 root, 72 hours after inoculation, grown in MS liquid medium.....	89
3	Scanning and transmission electron micrographs and light microscopy of infected susceptible chilli roots of cv. LC 455 grown in MS liquid medium.....	92
4	Light microscopy and transmission electron micrographs of inoculated and non-inoculated susceptible chilli root of cv. LC 455 grown in MS liquid medium.....	95
5	Light microscopy and transmission electron micrographs of <i>R. solanacearum</i> inoculated tap root of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 grown in sterilized soil.....	98
6	Transmission electron micrographs and light microscopy of susceptible chilli cv. LC 455 root infected with <i>R. solanacearum</i> grown in soil.....	101
7	Light and transmission electron micrographs of <i>R. solanacearum</i> inoculated root of resistant chilli cv. Kulai grown in soil.....	104



	Page	
8	Transmission and light microscopy of artificially inoculated root of resistant chilli cv. Kulai grown on soil.....	107
9	Transmission electron micrographs of roots of resistant chilli cv. Kulai following soil inoculation.....	110
10	Transmission electron micrographs of the root of <i>R. solanacearum</i> resistant chilli cv. inoculation.....	112
11	Light microscopy of the mid stem of the resistant chilli cv. Kulai at 12 days following root or soil inoculation.....	115
12	Peak formation for Ca using a stationary beam probe in the lumen of metaxylem vessel of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 plants, fertilizers under field conditions. Arrow shows the peak for Ca.....	154
13	Peak formation for Ca using a stationary beam probe in the lumen of metaxylem vessel of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 plants grown for a period of 30 days in the nursery. Arrow shows the peak for Ca.....	157
14	Longitudinal sections of mid stem tissue of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 grown in field. Sections were stained with 2% alizarin red S. (Scale bar = 50 μ m).....	162
15	Longitudinal sections of mid stem and tap root tissue of <i>C. annuum</i> cv. LC 455 grown in the nursery for a period of 30 days. Sections were stained with 2% alizarin red S. (Scale bar = 50 μ m).....	165



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAA = Formalin-acetic acid

DPX= Mixture of distrene, tricresyl phosphate & xylene

rpm = Revolution per minute

cfu = Colony forming unit

ml = Milliliter

g = Gram

LSD= Least Significant Difference

FM = Fresh Matter

SEM = Scanning Electron Microscope

TEM = Transmission Electron Microscope

cv. = Cultivar

LC 455 = Long Chilli 455

TZC = Tetrazolium Chloride

CPG = Casamino acid-Peptone Glucose

RCBD = Randomized Complete Block Design

CRD = Complete Randomized Design

MS = Murashige and Skoog

w = Weight

EDAX = Energy Dispersive Analysis of X-rays



Abstract of dissertation submitted to the Senate of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

**INFECTION AND SOME ASPECTS OF RESISTANCE MECHANISM OF
CAPSICUM ANNUUM TO *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM***

by

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March 1997

Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Hiriyati Abdullah, Ph. D.

Faculty: Agriculture

Bacterial wilt of chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.) caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* is a major constraint to the production of the crop in Malaysia. To-date very few resistant germplasm of chilli to the pathogen is known. Information on the mechanism of infection and resistance, and multiplication of the pathogen in chilli are lacking. There is also no information on the anatomical characters of the hosts which might be related to resistance. The present study was, therefore, undertaken to obtain this information which would provide an understanding of the disease. It could be useful in formulating wilt-resistance breeding programme in chilli and an effective control measures for the disease.



Greenhouse evaluation of the susceptibility of accessions/cultivars of *Capsicum* spp. to *R. solanacearum* revealed that the cultivar 'Kulai' was highly resistant. Three accessions were moderately resistant while all others were susceptible to highly susceptible.

Anatomical study of resistant and susceptible cultivars showed significant differences in several anatomical characters which may contribute to the limitation of the infection process, movement and multiplication of the pathogen.

Population dynamics of the pathogen in susceptible and resistant cultivars revealed that in susceptible cultivar bacterial population did not differ after inoculation, at all sites tested, regardless of inoculation techniques used. Bacterial population differed significantly between cultivars at similar sites tested and for all the techniques used. Bacterial population in stem, root and soil-inoculated resistant plants decreased significantly at all sites. However, when soil-inoculated, the pathogen was not detected from the mid stem only. Thus, the infection was not limited but the resistance may be due to the lower rate of multiplication of the pathogen in resistant plants.

Root infection and colonization of susceptible chilli cultivar by *R. solanacearum* showed that the pathogen partially degraded the outermost tissues of the longitudinal grooves on root elongation sites and infected the inner cortex, vascular parenchyma and xylem vessels. Simultaneously, bacterial penetration through emerging lateral roots also occurred. Degradation and rupturing of the wall of the xylem vessels was observed

when 75% of the plants showed signs of wilting. Thus, in susceptible chilli, natural openings may cause early infection. Morphological barriers to limit the pathogen spread were absent.

Histopathological investigation of vascular colonization of both cultivars showed several induced responses in resistant cultivar. Cell wall coating material was developed together with swelling of the primary wall of the xylem vessels; formation of various types of vesicles in the xylem cells and the distortion and lysis of the bacteria in the xylem vessels were observed. These reactions were not observed in the susceptible cultivar where bacterial spread was not limited.

Greenhouse and field experiments showed that Ca-containing fertilizers effectively reduced the incidence of bacterial wilt in chilli. Ca nutrition also influenced the growth and multiplication of the pathogen by increasing pH of the growth medium and soil.



Abstrak dissertation yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Pertanian bagi memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor falsafah

JANGKITAN DAN BEBERAPA ASPEK MEKANISME RESISTAN *CAPSICUM ANNUUM* KEPADA *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM*

by

MOHAMMED ABDUR RAHMAN

Mac 1997

Pengerusi : Prof. Madya Hiryati Abdullah, Ph. D.

Fakulti: Pertanian

Penyakit layu bakteria pada cili (*Capsicum annuum* L.) yang disebabkan oleh *Ralstonia solanacearum*, adalah sekatan utama kepada pengeluaran tanaman ini di Malaysia. Hingga kini, hanya segelintir janaplasma cili yang resistan kepada patogen telah diketahui. Maklumat mengenai mekanisme jangkitan dan keroskatan, dan pembiakan patogen dalam cili sangat berkurangan. Maklumat mengenai ciri-ciri anatomi perumah yang mungkin berkaitan dengan keroskatan juga tiada kedapatan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mendapatkan maklumat yang boleh memberi kefahaman mengenai penyakit ini. Ianya berguna dalam program pembiakbakaan untuk keroskatan penyakit layu bakteria pada cili dan suatu cara kawalan yang berkesan bagi penyakit ini.

Penilaian rumah hijau untuk menilai kerentanan jenis/kultivar *Capsicum* spp. kepada *R. solanacearum* menunjukkan bahawa kultivar 'Kulai' adalah

