



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF  
TOMATO BACTERIAL WILT CAUSED BY *RALSTONIA*  
*SOLANACEARUM* USING ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI**

**MONTHER MOHUMAD TAHAT**

**FP 2009 14**



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BACTERIAL WILT CAUSED BY *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM* USING  
ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI**

**By**

**MONTHER MOHUMAD TAHAT**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti  
Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy**

**2009**



## **DEDICATION**

Special dedication to:

**My dearest Father; Mohumad Tahat (Abu Faruq), my Mother; (Um Faruq), Sisters,  
Brothers and to my wife, endless and boundless love, understanding, supporting  
waiting and encouragement throughout my study.**



Abstract of thesis submitted to the Senate of, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF TOMATO BACTERIAL WILT CAUSED BY *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM* USING ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI**

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**March 2009**

**Chairman: Associate Professor Kamaruzaman Sijam, PhD**

**Faculty: Agriculture**

Glasshouse experiment was done to study the ability of two local mycorrhizal fungi species (*Glomus mosseae*, *Scutellospora* sp.) and introduced species (*Gigaspora margarita*) to colonize and enhance some tomato growth parameters. *G. mosseae* showed the best performance among species used. *G. mosseae* was able to increase significantly plant height (60%), shoot dry weight (135%) and flowers number (58%) compared to the control plant at the 7<sup>th</sup> weeks of plant growth. *G. mosseae* alter root structures such as root dry weight (42%), root tips (120%), root length(83%), root surface area (106%), and root volume (59%), which can increase nutrient absorption and enhance plant growth. *G. mosseae* was adapted to the local environmental conditions which resulted in more root colonization (300%) and more spores number (300%), different from the introduced species *G. margarita*. The overall data presented in



this study showed that local species can be used for enhancing yield growth more than the introduced species. Three mechanisms were described to explain by how arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) inhibit or control the bacterial wilt disease. Nutrient uptake, biochemical changes and root morphological changes were the mechanisms studied. The concentrations of N (41%), P (133%), K (49%), Fe (44%), and Zn (33%) in tomato shoots were increased after the colonization of *G. mosseae*, indicating that AMF was able to increase the shoot nutrient uptake due to the hyphal net were produced by AMF which allow the roots to absorb more nutrient. The root morphological characteristics (root dry weight, root tips, root volumes, root length and root surface area) were changed significantly in *G. mosseae* treatment compared to all other treatments. The SEM and TEM images provided evidence that AMF can modify the root cortex cells and root structure which finally helps the plant to prevent the disease infection totally. The *G. mosseae* hyphal structures were seen inside the cortex cell. Disease symptoms were not seen in the *G. mosseae* + *R. solanacearum* treated plants. The extensive colonization by AMF was the reason behind the high concentration of chlorophyll (a) and chlorophyll (b) which could contribute to the increase of photosynthetic rate in tomato leaves and enhance plant growth. Ch.(a) and ch.(b) in *G. mosseae* treated plants was significantly higher compared to the rest of the treatments. *G. mosseae* can be used as a bio-protection agent because it can provide root with hyphal net which can minimize the bacterial wilt infection. The production of healthy, huge number and clean *G. mosseae* spores were the targets of another glasshouse experiment. The results obtained from this experiment showed that the harvest date and the type of the



crops were played a critical role in AMF spore production. Corn was the most suitable host for *G. mosseae* sporulation (167 spore/10gm soil). Lentil, green bean, and barley showed low AMF sporulation and colonization related to the inability of these crops to grow under glasshouse conditions. Several important factors must be considered in AMF mass production, included plant host species, environmental conditions, soil types, nutrient regime, pot size, inoculum amount and the source of primary inoculum. *In vitro* experiments were done to study the effects of different root exudates with and without pre-inoculation with *G. mosseae* on the control of *R. solanacearum* and to study the indirect interaction between *G. mosseae* and *R. solanacearum*. In general, the influence of root exudates produced from tomato and corn plants on *G. mosseae* spore germination showed different response. The spores germination number was decreased using different volumes of mycorrhizal tomato root exudates (MTRE) and mycorrhizal corn root exudates (MCRE). It was increased when non-mycorrhizal tomato root exudates (NMTRE) and non-mycorrhizal corn root exudates (NMCRE) were applied in different volumes. *G. mosseae* spores germinated in all types of media used. The spore germination number was increased by increasing the original number of spores cultured and this indicated that the volatiles compounds produced from bacterial pathogen did not inhibit the spore's germination. The overall results concluded from these studies confirm that the local species of AMF were more able to support and enhance plant growth compared to the introduced species. *G. mosseae* was able to control totally the bacterial wilt causal agent *R. solanacearum* under glasshouse conditions. Nutrient uptake, biochemical changes and root morphological



changes were the three mechanism tested. The production of huge number of AMF spores is a critical area for mycorrhizal research using suitable host plant as a trap.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**MEKANISMA YANG TERLIBAT DALAM KAWALAN BIOLOGI LAYU  
BAKTERIA TOMATO DISEBABKAN OLEH *RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM*  
MENGUNAKAN KULAT MIKORIZA ABUSKULAR**

Oleh

**MONTHER MOHAMMAD TAHAT**

**March 2009**

**Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Kamaruzaman Sijam, PhD**

**Fakulti: Pertanian**

Kajian rumah kaca telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji keupayaan kolonisasi dan meningkatkan beberapa parameter pertumbuhan pokok tomato oleh dua spesies kulat mikoriza tempatan iaitu *Glomus mosseae*, *Scutellospora* sp., dan spesies luar, *Gigaspora margarita*. *G. mosseae* menunjukkan prestasi yang terbaik di antara spesies yang digunakan. *G. mosseae* berkemampuan meningkatkan tinggi pokok (60%), berat kering pokok (135%) dan bilangan bunga (58%) berbanding pokok kawalan pada minggu ke-7 pertumbuhan. *G. mosseae* mengubah struktur akar seperti berat kering akar (42%), hujung akar (120%), panjang akar (83%), luas permukaan akar (106%) dan jumlah akar (59%), yang mana boleh meningkatkan penyerapan nutrien dan meningkatkan pertumbuhan pokok. *G. mosseae* dapat beradaptasi dengan persekitaran yang mana menyebabkan peningkatan kolonisasi akar (300%) dan jumlah spora (300%) berbeza dengan spesies luar, *G. margarita*. Secara keseluruhannya





data yang dipersembahkan dalam kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa spesies tempatan dapat digunakan untuk meningkatkan hasil lebih berbanding dengan spesies luar. Tiga mekanisme telah diperjelaskan untuk menerangkan bagaimana kulat mikoriza arbuskular (AMF) merencat atau mengawal penyakit layu bakteria. Pengambilan nutrient, perubahan biokimia dan perubahan morfologi akar adalah mekanisme yang dikaji. Kepekatan N (41%), P (133%), K (49%), Fe (44%) and Zn (33%) dalam pucuk daun tomato meningkat selepas dikolonisasi oleh *G. mosseae*, ini menunjukkan bahawa AMF berupaya meningkatkan pengambilan nutrien disebabkan jaringan hifa yang dihasilkan oleh AMF membenarkan akar menyerap lebih nutrien. Ciri-ciri morfologi akar (berat kering akar, hujung akar, jumlah akar, panjang akar, luas permukaan akar) telah berubah secara berkesan pada rawatan *G. mosseae* berbanding dengan rawatan yang lain. Gambar SEM dan TEM memberi bukti bahawa AMF dapat mengubah sel kortek akar dan struktur akar yang akhirnya membantu pokok daripada dijangkiti penyakit secara total. Struktur hifa *G. mosseae* dapat dilihat di dalam sel kortek. Simptom jangkitan tidak dilihat pada pokok yang dirawat dengan *G. mosseae* + *R. Solanacearum*. Kolonisasi secara ekstensif oleh AMF adalah sebab peningkatan kepekatan ch(a) dan ch(b) yang mana menyumbang peningkatan kadar fotosintesis pada daun tomato dan meningkatkan pertumbuhan pokok. Ch(a+b) pada pokok yang dirawat dengan *G. mosseae* adalah lebih tinggi berbanding dengan rawatan yang lain. *G. mosseae* boleh digunakan sebagai agen kawalan biologi dan dengan penghasilan jaringan hifa dapat meminimumkan jangkitan layu bakteria. Penghasilan spora *G. mosseae* yang sihat, banyak dan bersih merupakan sasaran eksperimen rumah kaca yang

lain. Keputusan daripada eksperimen ini menunjukkan bahawa tarikh tuaian dan jenis tanaman memainkan peranan yang penting dalam pengeluaran spora AMF. Jagung adalah perumah yang sangat sesuai untuk pembentukan spora *G. mosseae* (167 spora/10g tanah). Kacang kuda, kacang hijau dan barli menghasilkan spora AMF yang rendah dan kolonisasi adalah berkait dengan keupayaan tanaman ini dibiak di dalam rumah kaca. Beberapa faktor penting perlu dipertimbangkan dalam pengeluaran spora AMF yang besar iaitu jenis perumah, cuaca persekitaran, jenis tanah, regim nutrien, saiz pasu, jumlah inokulum dan punca inokulum. Perhubungan negatif di antara *G. mosseae* dan *R. solanacearum* telah dilihat semasa ujian tanpa pokok tomato dijalankan. Eksperimen *in vitro* telah dijalankan untuk mengkaji kesan perbezaan rembesan akar tanpa dan pre-inokulasi oleh *G. mosseae* untuk mengawal *R. solanacearum* dan mengkaji perhubungan tidak langsung di antara *G. mosseae* and *R. solanacearum*. Umumnya, pengaruh rembesan akar tomato dan jagung pada percambahan spora *G. mosseae* memberi reaksi yang berbeza. Percambahan spora menurun menggunakan rembesan akar tomato mikoriza (MTRE) dan rembesan akar jagung mikoriza (MCAR) pada jumlah yang berbeza. Apabila rembesan akar tomato (NMTRE) dan rembesan akar jagung (NMCRE) digunakan dalam jumlah yang berbeza ia dapat meningkatkan kadar percambahan spora. Spora *G. mosseae* bercambah didalam semua jenis media yang digunakan. Jumlah percambahan spora meningkat dengan meninjugkatuya jumlah asla spora yang fikultur dan ini menunjukkan bahawa kompaun meruap daripada bakteria patogen tidak merencat percambahan spora. Keputusan keseluruhan kajian merumukan bahawa dan meringkatakan



pertumbuhan pokok berbanding dengan spesies luar. *G. Mosseae* berupaya menguwal penyakit layu bakteria yang disebabkan oleh. Pengambilan nutrien, perubahan biokimia dan perubahan morfologi akare adalah tiga mekanisma yang telahdikaji. Pengeluran spora AMF secara besr-besaran adalah bidang kritical dalam penyelidikan mikoriza dengan menggunakan perumah sebagai perangkap.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on **date of viva voce** to conduct the final examination of **Monther Mohumad Yusef Tahat** on his **Doctor of Philosophy** thesis entitled “**Biological Control of Tomato Bacterial Wilt Caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* Using Endomycorrhizal Fungi**” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

Members of the Examination Committee were as follows:

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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Date: 8 June 2009



## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

---

Monther Mohumad Yuesef Tahat

Date:





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	ii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vi
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	x
<b>APPROVAL</b>	xii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xx
<b>LISR OF FIGURES</b>	xxi
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATION</b>	xxiv
 <b>CHAPTER</b>	
 <b>1    INTRODUCTION</b>	 01
 <b>2    LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	 06
Tomato Plant, Botany and Importance	06
Tomato Diseases	07
Bacterial Wilt Disease	07
Causal Agents	07
Occurrence and Host Range	09
Disease Distributions	10
Disease Symptoms	11
Bacterial Wilt Disease in Malaysia	13
Control Methods	14
Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF)	18
Identification, Distribution and Classification of AMF	18
The Functions of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi	20
Mycorrhizal Fungi as a Bio-control Agent	20
Nutrient Uptake	27
The Effect of Environmental Conditions	29
Soil Temperature	29
Soil pH	29
Soil Moisture	30
Fertilizer	30
<i>in Vitro</i> Biology of AMF	31



3	<b>RESPONSE OF LYCOPERISCON ESCULENTUM MILL TO DIFFERENT ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI SPECIES</b>	32
	<b>Introduction</b>	32
	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	34
	Mycorrhizal Spores Production	34
	Soil Preparation	35
	Spore Inoculation	36
	Tomato Plant	36
	Shoot Growth	36
	Root Growth	37
	Root Dry Weight	37
	Root Colonization (%)	38
	Mycorrhizal Spore Determination	38
	Statistical Analysis	38
	<b>Results and Discussion</b>	39
	A-Shoot Growth	39
	Plant Height	39
	Shoot Dry Weight	40
	Flower Numbers	40
	B-Root Growth	41
	Root Colonization (%)	42
	Mycorrhizal Spore Determination	43
	<b>Conclusion</b>	46
4	<b>THE POTENTIAL OF ENDOMYCORRHIZAL FUNGI TO CONTROL TOMATO BACTERIAL WILT CAUSED BY <i>RALSTONIA SOLANACEARUM</i> UNDER GLASSHOUSE CONDITIONS</b>	48
	<b>Introduction</b>	48
	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	50
	<i>R. solanacearum</i> Primary Inoculum	50
	Pathogenicity Test	51
	Bacterial Identification	52
	Streaming Test	52
	Solubility Test	52
	Bacterial Isolation	52
	Data Collection	53



	Glasshouse Experiment	53
	Soil Preparation	53
	Bacterial Materials and Growth Conditions	53
	Disease Severity	54
	Shoot Nutrient Analysis	54
	Chlorophyll (a) and (b) Determination	55
	Root Morphology	55
	Root Colonization (%)	56
	Mycorrhizal Spores Determination	56
	Scanning Electron Microscopy	56
	Transmission Electron Microscopy	57
	Statistical Analysis	57
	<b>Results and Discussion</b>	58
	Plant Height	58
	Disease Severity	60
	Root Morphology	61
	Chlorophyll Analysis	64
	Ultrastructural Results	68
	<b>Conclusion</b>	79
<b>5</b>	<b>PLANT HOST SELECTIVITY FOR MULTIPLICATION OF <i>GLOMUS MOSSEAE</i> SPORES</b>	81
	<b>Introduction</b>	81
	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	83
	Soil Preparation	83
	Primary Inoculums	83
	Host Selection and Growth Conditions	84
	Root Colonization (%)	85
	Statistical Analysis	85
	<b>Results and Discussion</b>	85
	Spore Numbers	85
	Root Colonization (%)	86
	<b>Conclusion</b>	90
<b>6</b>	<b>ROLE OF PLANT HOST IN DETERMINING DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSES TO BACTERIAL WILT <i>RALSTONIA</i> <i>SOLANACEARUM</i> AND MUTUALISTIC FUNGUS <i>GLOMUS</i> <i>MOSSEAE</i></b>	92
	<b>Introduction</b>	92



	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	94
	Soil Preparation	94
	Root Exudates Collections	94
	<i>G. mosseae</i> and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	94
	Preparation	
	Plant Growth Conditions	95
	Shoot and Root Biomass	96
	Disease Severity	96
	Soil pH	96
	Root Colonization (%)	96
	Statistical Analysis	96
	<b>Results and Discussion</b>	97
	Morphology Biomass	97
	Mycorrhizal Spore Determination	98
	Soil pH Measurement	98
	<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> Population	100
	Disease Severity	101
	<b>Conclusion</b>	106
7	<b>BIOLOGICAL STUDY OF <i>GLOMUS MOSSEAE</i> UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS</b>	108
	<b>Introduction</b>	108
	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	109
	Experiment (1)	109
	Root Exudates Production	109
	Root Exudates Quantification	111
	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , Isolation and Collection	111
	Culture Media	112
	Surface Sterilization of Spore	112
	Spore Germination	113
	Experiment (2)	113
	Water Agar Medium Preparation	113
	Nutrient Agar Medium Preparation	114
	Soil Medium Preparation	114
	Bio-compartmental <i>in vitro</i> Cultural System	114
	Bacterial Preparation	116
	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , Isolation and Collection	116
	Cultural Medium	116
	Surface Sterilization of Spore	116



	Spore Germination Measurement	116
	Experiment (3)	116
	Root Exudates Production	116
	Bacterial Suspension Preparation	116
	Plant Growth Conditions	117
	<b>Results and Discussion</b>	117
	Experiment (1)	117
	Root Exudates Quantification	117
	Spore Germination (%)	119
	Experiment (2)	122
	pH Water Agar	122
	pH Nutrient Agar	123
	pH Soil Medium	123
	Spore Germination (%) In Water Agar	124
	Spore Germination (%) In Nutrient Agar	125
	Spore Germination (%) In Bio-compartmental System	126
	Experiment (3)	127
	Bacterial Concentration (CUF)	127
	pH Determination	131
	<b>Conclusion</b>	138
<b>8</b>	<b>GENERAL CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION</b>	140
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	145
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	173
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	175
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	176



## LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1.2	The most important races ,host range, geographical distribution and biovars of <i>Solanacearum</i>	9
1.3	Effects of different mycorrhizal fungi treatments <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Scutellospora sp.</i> , <i>Gigaspora margarita</i> and control on tomato plant height	40
2.3	Effects of different mycorrhizal species on tomato dry shoot weight and flowers number	41
3.3	Effects of different mycorrhizal fungi species on tomato root dry weight, root tips, root length, root surface area and root volume.	42
4.3	Effects of different mycorrhizal fungi treatments ( <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>scutellospora sp.</i> , <i>Gigaspora margarita</i> and control on tomato root colonization percentage and spore number in the soil.	43
1.4	Effect of AMF and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> inoculation on tomato plant height within seven weeks of plant growth.	59
2.4	Effect of three AMF species and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> on tomato root morphology included (root tips, root length, root surface area, and root volume.	61
3.4	Effect of three AMF species and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> on chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b contents in tomato leaves.	65
4.4	Effect of three AMF and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> on the macro and micro nutrient leaves contents	66
1.5	Effect of different plant host on <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spores production at different harvest period.	86
2.5	Effect of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> on root colonization assessment of different plant host at different interval period.	87
1.6	Effect of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Ralstonia solancearum</i> , <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> with <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , and control on tomato shoot dry weight, root dry weight, and colonization percentage .	97

2.6	Effect of different treatments ( <i>G. mosseae</i> , <i>R. solanacearum</i> , <i>G. mosseae</i> with <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> and Control) on soil pH within three different times (7 days before plant growth, 30 and 60 days after plant growth).	99
1.7	Amino acid contents in different types of root exudates	118



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.2	Classification of the order <i>Glomales</i>	19
1.3	Root analyzer machine	37
1.4	Disease severity of tomato bacterial wilt <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>	60
2.4	Effects of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> on the spore production of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> <i>Scutellospora</i> sp., and <i>Gigaspora margarita</i> at 10,20,30 days after inoculation.	63
3.4	Effects of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> on the tomato root colonization percentage inoculated by <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Scutellospora</i> sp., <i>Gigaspora margarita</i> after 10 weeks of inoculation.	64
4.4	Ultrastrutural features of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> in tomato root (SEM)( <i>Glomus mosseae</i> + <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> treatment).	70
5.4	Ultrastrutural features of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> in tomato root (TEM). <i>Glomus mosseae</i> + <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> treatment	72
1.6	Effect of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> , on <i>Glomus mosseae</i> , spore production at 7 days before planting, 30, and 60 days after planting tomato.	98
2.6	Effect of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> on <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> concentration (CFU) at 7 days before planting, 30, and 60 days after planting.	100
3.6	Disease severity of bacterial wilt of tomato inoculated with <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> and <i>Glomus mosseae</i> at 10 days interval time.	101
1.7	Modified bio-compartmental system of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore germination using three types of medium (water agar (A), nutrient agar (B), and soil (C).	115
2.7	Relationship between different volumes of mycorrhizal tomato root exudates (MTRE) and spores germination after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi	119
3.7	Relationship between different volumes of non mycorrhizal tomato root exudates (NMTRE) and spores germination after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi	120





4.7	Relationship between different volumes of mycorrhizal corn root exudates (MCRE) and spores germination after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi.	120
5.7	Relationship between non-mycorrhizal corn root exudates (NMCRE) and pH and spores germination after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi.	121
6.7	Relationship between different number of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore culture and water agar pH after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi.	122
7.7	Relationship between different number of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore culture and nutrient agar pH after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi.	123
8.7	Relationship between different number of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore culture and the germination of the spore after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture of mycorrhizal fungi.	124
9.7	Relationship between different number of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore culture and spore germination number after 5 days of <i>in vitro</i> culture.	125
10.7	Relationship between number of <i>Glomus mosseae</i> spore culture and soil pH after 5 days of in sandwich system culture.	126
11.7	Relationship between different volume of mycorrhizal tomato root exudates and CFU after 48 hours of incubation.	127
12.7	Relationship between different volumes of NMTRE and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (CFU) after 48 hours of incubation.	128
13.7	Relationship between different volumes of mycorrhizal corn root exudates and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (CFU) after 48 hours of incubation.	129
14.7	Relationship between different volume of non-mycorrhizal corn root exudates and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> concentration (CFU) after 48 hours of incubation.	130
15.7	Relationship between different volume of mycorrhizal tomato root exudates (MTRE) and <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> concentration (CFU) after 48 hours of incubation.	131
16.7	Relationship between different volume of non-mycorrhizal tomato root exudates and the pH of the mixture ( <i>Ralstonia solanacaerum</i> and exudation) after 48 hours of incubation	132

