The Scientific Body of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Bessenyei György Teacher’s College, National Committee of the SCOPE, Agricultural and Food Microbial Section of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology, Université de Nancy I and Université de Lyon I

PROGRAMME OF THE 10th MICROBIOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION

NYÍREGYHÁZA
Bessenyei György Teacher’s College
31/B Sóstói str.
5-7 October 1995.
Isozyme analysis of some *Phoma* - like fungi

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To confirm the identification of the *Phoma*-like isolates based on morphological characters *in vitro*, complementary α-esterase isozyme analyses of fungal extracts were made. Isozyme banding patterns, as produced by electrophoresis, are a reflection of the genetic content of an organism. We applied the PhastSystem® microgel electrophoretic device (Pharmacia). The α-esterase isozyme patterns of 26 *Phoma* isolates were determined.

*Phoma pinodella* is a seed- and soil-borne fungus and causal organism of black stem disease of red clover and foot rot and leaf spot of pea moreover leaf spot of soybean. Identification of *Phoma pinodella* is based on stable *in vitro* morphological characters described on oatmeal, malt and cherry agar using standardized conditions, presence of chlamydospores and characteristic dendritic crystals (pinodellalide A and B), always occurring abundantly in malt agar cultures are also important features of fungus. For *Phoma pinodella* a comparative table, based on the profiles of 11 isolates from different sources (soil, *Phaseolus, Pisum, Glycine*) was made.

α-esterase zymogram of 4 *Phoma sojicola* isolates was different from those of *Phoma pinodella* and *Phoma exigua* var. *exigua* and it confirmed the identification of those isolates which has been determined as 'Ascochyta' *sojicola* (= *Phoma sojicola*) before.

Analysis of 13 *Phoma exigua* var. *exigua* isolates yielded 5 enzyme loci which could be used as additional feature for identification.

A good progress was made in identification and separation of different *Phoma exigua* varieties: var. *exigua*, *lilacis*, *heteromorpha*, *linicola*, *inoxydabilis*, *diversispora* and *sambuci-nigrae*. More isolates should be examined to determine α-esterase isozyme maps to properly characterise *Phoma exigua* varieties. There are plans to make further isozyme examinations not only for α-esterase but other isozymes as well.

The opinion that *Phoma foveata* is a distinct species, which formerly considered as a variety of *Phoma exigua* (*P. exigua* var. *foveata*), was confirmed by the help of esterase isozyme pattern.