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ABSTRACT

The most damaging disease for the trees from the *pomaceae* species (these species are productive for their entire life span – 15-20 years) is the “*focul bacterian*” from rhodoneas because this pathogen can destroy a tree shortly after the infection.

Development and intensification of agriculture has increased people's interest for knowledge, prevention and control of pathogens. This is due to several favorable factors, the most important being the existence of a broad spectrum of bacteria host plants, a large number of disseminators, the aggressiveness of the pathogen, the high speed of the spread of infection in plantations, the sporadic trait of diseases etc..

The host plants for this pathogen are limited to only a few species from the *Rosaceae* family, and the most important species from an economical point of view are from the *Pomoideae* tribe. These plants, grouped by the morphological characteristics of their flowers, must have a common factor that makes them susceptible to this pathogen.

This thesis - ***Researches regarding the biology, epidemiology and the control of the Erwinia amylovora (Burrill) Winslow et al pathogen in the region of Moldavia*** - is split in two parts and has 8 chapters. The first part is a synthesis of the data we found and the second part is a presentation of the environment, the climate and all the conditions from the time we made our experiments, the materials we used and the research methods and finally our results.

The first Chapter - ***The actual state of evolution on the researches focused on the Erwinia amylovora (Burrill) Winslow et al pathogen*** - is focused on the emergence of this pathogen, its identification and its isolation. For a long time many researchers confronted this disease without knowing its origins (the researches note that it might have been a blight, a fungus or the effect of low



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temperatures). In the 1880 sBurrill establish that this pathogen is a bug and manes it a year later: *Micrococcus amylovorus* (Burrill). We also present here the geographical distribution of this pathogen.

The second Chapter - ***The presentation of the most important blight from the trees from the pomaceae spesces*** - describes the *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill) Winslow *et al.* and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syrinage* van Hall. These two pathogens are responsible for the most damagind diseases fot the trees we are talking about.

The third chapted - ***The evaluationof the situation regarding the fire blight of rhodoneas in Iasi-*** presents a complex study from the Fitosanitarian Unit of Iasi made during six years(2004-2010). This evaluation was made in:

- ✓ The fruited gardens of apple trees, quince and pear trees from 2004 to 2007;
- ✓ The mother plantation for graft branches in the 2008-2010 years;
- ✓ The seminary from 2008 until 2010.

The raport made by the Unit underlines the fact that in the last few years the ***fire blight*** of rhodoneas was not present in the mother plantation for graft branches or the seminaries but we could found it in the fruited gardens.

In the forth chapter – **The goal and the objectives of this doctoral dissertation** - we mention that the main goal of this thesis is to present the large documentation that we found concerning the research about the biology, the epidemiology, the semiology and the control of the *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill) Winslow *et al.* pathogen.

Due to the fact that the two pathogens, the *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill) Winslow *et al.* and the *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syrinage* van Hall, wew in the same time isolatete from the same samples we studied, the main goals that we proposed for this study were:

- ✓ The description of the main methods for idetifing this two pathogens;
- ✓ A comparative study of the antagonism for the pathogens;
- ✓ The stability of the szmptoms,manifestation, due to the pathogens, referring to the trees in the condition of an *in vitro* infection;
- ✓ Testing some plant extracts on the strains of *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill.) Winslow *et al* that were collected and isolated from the apples and pears, *in vitro*.



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✓ Testing some active molecules to establish the effectiveness of the products used for the *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill.) Winslow *et al* strains isolated *in vitro*.

✓ A comparative study about the susceptibility of the pathogen samples, isolated in regard to the products that were tested *in vitro*.

The results analysis was made in the research laboratory of Fitopatologie from the Department of Plants Science and the field experiences were made at the “Vasile Adamachi” farm from the University of Agriculture Science and Veterinary Medicine. “Ion Ionescu de la Brad” from Iasi.

The fifth chapter -*The description of the natural environment where we conducted this research* – covers the organizational frame, the relief, the plants and the earth from the farm, the climate from the period that we are referring to an evaluation of the tree collection (apples and pears), about 370 trees.

The sixth chapter - *The material and the methods we used* - details the rules and the procedures that were used to sample the study material and also a description of the tests used for the isolation of the *Erwinia amylovora* pathogen.

A total of 11 samples from the pears and quinces species were examined and tested for immunofluorescence in the bacteriology lab from Bacau.

In the research laboratory of fitopatologie were processed four samples (two from quinces, one from pears and one from apples), these samples were tested for pathogens with green pears.

This Chapter also describes the method of inoculation for ratoons, leaves and fruits from the pears, quinces and apple trees with *Erwinia amylovora* (Burrill.) Winslow *et al.* and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* van Hall, *in vitro* to establish the manifestation that the two pathogens are responsible for, and also the work methods for controlling the pathogen that causes the *fire blight* using eight plant extracts and three active molecules.

The eighth chapter - *Results and discussions* - presents our results from all our activities: the results from the immunofluorescence and pathological tests using green pears, the study regarding the way the pathogens attack the artificial organs, the behaviour of the *Erwinia amylovora* strains in the presence of active molecules and plants extracts on different environments, and also the assessment of this pathogen's attack in a natural infection.



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After an *in vitro* infection the first signs we observed on the inoculated rations were due to the *Erwinia amylovora*. In the same environmental conditions the *Erwinia amylovora* and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae*, are responsible for similar symptoms on the artificial leaves of the trees we refer to, there is a difference only in the time frame that the symptoms occur. For the leaves infected *in vitro* *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* proceeds faster than *Erwinia amylovora*.

Concerning the control of *Erwinia amylovora in vitro* we observed that copper oxychloride was the most efficient product we tested followed by the plant extracts obtained from *Pelargonium odoratissimum* L'Herit, *Tagetes patula* L. and *Thymus serpyllum* L. The least efficient product was the *Hedera helix* L. extract and the rest of the products we tested had a moderate effect. Our results were statistically prelucrated using the Anova test.

We also present here an attack situation of *Erwinia amylovora* on 40 types of pears and a group of quinces. For the assessment we used a diagram made by the Department of Agriculture of USA and we focused our attention on the start and the progress of the attack in a natural environment.

The last chapter presents - **Conclusions and suggestions** - derived from the anterior one pathogenicity test (immature pear fruits) remains the most reliable method to confirm or exclude the presence of the *Erwinia amylovora* bacterium. After testing the three active molecules: copper oxychloride (Alcupral 50 PU), copper hydroxide (Champ 77 WG), fosetyl-aluminium (Aliette 80 WG) three isolates reacted differently. Although it is considered an effective bactericide against *Erwinia amylovora*, after testing *in vitro* the *Aliette 80 WG* pesticide, the results showed no significant antibacterial activity.

Several studies have been done about the extract obtained from *Hedera helix* L. and the results show that presents a good and very good antimicrobial activity in some cases. *In vitro* experiments points out that the strains of *Erwinia amylovora* extract does not show a good antibacterial activity, it is ranked last in the list of products tested.

Key words: fire blight, plant extracts, *in vitro* control, Aliette 80 WG;