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***Streptomyces* spp from Black Pepper Rhizosphere: A Boundless Reservoir of Antimicrobial and Growth Promoting Metabolites**

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Abstract: The present work was undertaken with an objective to study the effect of culture filtrates and secondary metabolites of three *Streptomyces* spp. from black pepper rhizosphere having promising biocontrol and growth promoting traits on different developmental stages of pathogens like *Phytophthora capsici* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*. The study also focuses on identification of compounds responsible for the antimicrobial and growth promotive activity. Crude culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25 were found inhibitory to mycelial growth of *P. capsici*. Diluted culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 (2 %) and IISRBPAc25 (5 %) were found inhibitory to the sporangia formation. Crude culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 can completely inhibit the zoospore germination while it was inhibited to 98.6 % and 87 % by 10 % diluted extracts of IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25 respectively. IISRBPAc1 showed 51.27 % inhibition of mycelial growth of *S. rolfsii*, while IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42 showed 57.63 % and 26.90 % inhibition respectively. IISRBPAc1 is highly inhibitory to sclerotial formation even at 1 % concentration. The secondary metabolites of the three isolates were extracted in three solvent systems and their activity profile was detected and characterized by HPTLC. High resolution UPLC-(ESI)-QToF-MS analysis of the extracts revealed the presence of a vast array of antifungal compounds that supports the antimicrobial activity of culture filtrate and metabolites of the isolates.

Key words: Black pepper, culture filtrate, hyperparasitism, *Phytophthora capsici*, secondary metabolites.

Introduction

A wide variety of bacterial species (eg: *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*) have been exploited as effective biocontrol agents for different crop diseases ^{70,29,73,34}. Among these biocontrol agents, *Actinomycetales* become unique due to their capacity to produce large variety of bioactive compounds ^{4,15,28}. The largest genus *Streptomyces* belonging to the phylum actinobacteria, are aerobic Gram-positive soil bacteria with filamentous growth originating from a single spore upon germination. Nowadays they are well-rec-

ognized for their capability to produce bioactive secondary metabolites with a wide range of biological activities that may ultimately find applications in clinical medicine as anti-infectives, anti-cancer agents or other pharmaceutically useful compounds and also in agriculture. Mainly secondary metabolites are produced during the conversion from vegetative phase (*i.e.* substrate mycelium) to the reproductive sporulation phase in the form of areal multinucleated mycelium under environmental stresses specifically nutrient limitation particularly that of phosphate ⁵⁸ or under

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solid cultivation conditions²¹. More than 85 % of naturally occurring antibiotics discovered yet and continuing as a rich source of new bioactive metabolites⁴ with different chemotypes such as polyketides, lactams, non ribosomal peptides and terpenes⁴⁷ from *Actinomycetales*. Secondary metabolites from microbial origin have been known as one of the boundless reservoir of natural chemical moieties with potent biological activity⁷. *Streptomyces* have been reported to contribute nearly 70 % of metabolites described under actinobacteria. The first successful microbial metabolite from *Streptomyces* spp. as the biocontrol agent was the use of Streptomycin against fire blight of apple and pear caused by *Erwinia amylovora*⁶⁶ which is now used for controlling a variety of crop diseases¹⁶. The secondary metabolites from *Streptomyces* sp are highly effective in controlling fungal pathogens³³. For e.g. a complex polyene antibiotic AB023 produced by *Streptomyces* sp. inhibitory to *Botrytis cinerea*¹⁴, oligomycin A, a macrolide antibiotic produced by *Streptomyces libani*, against phytopathogenic fungi³⁶, compounds like bafilomycin B1 and C1 produced *Streptomyces halstedii* K122 showing inhibitory activity against *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Mucor hiemalis*, *Penicillium roqueforti* and *Paecilomyces variotii*²⁴ etc. Some antibiotics such as alnumycin, fistupyrone, phthoxazolin A-D or vinylamycin were also obtained from *Streptomyces* spp^{5,31,51}. Three fourth of clinically useful antibiotics and 60 % antibiotics used in agriculture are produced by the *Streptomyces* sp.⁶⁹ that include compounds such as aminoglycosides, anthracyclins, glycopeptides, β lactams, macrolides, nucleosides, polyethers, polyenes, peptides and tetracyclines⁴³. Microbial metabolites are supposed to be a good alternative to the chemical pesticides as they can expect to overcome the problems related to crop diseases.

Due to the production of an array of secondary metabolites with different biological activities and ubiquitous presence in the environment, *Streptomyces* spp. are considered as one of the most potential biocontrol agents for plant diseases⁵² having several antagonistic mechanisms such as production of antibiotics and lytic enzymes, competition for nutrients and space, physical or chemi-

cal interference, induction of host resistance, hyperparasitism and predation⁴⁸. Hyphal parasitism has been identified as a mode of action in rare cases^{64,27}. The most effective mechanism is antibiosis by *Streptomyces* spp. where production of antibiotics inhibits the growth of the pathogen^{26,46,54}. The lytic enzyme includes the extracellular cell-wall degrading enzymes (chitinase, b-1, 3-glucanase, cellulase, b-glucosidase, amylase, xylanase and mannanase) also inhibits pathogen growth significantly^{59,65}. In some cases, production of siderophores, (e.g. *Streptomyces pilosus*, have ferrichrome siderophores) allows the sequestration of iron as a growth limiting factor⁴⁵. All these mechanisms contribute to effective biocontrol activity of the *Streptomyces* spp.

Considering the significance of the *Streptomyces* spp., the main objective of the present study was to explore the bioactive metabolites produced by the three potential *Streptomyces* strains (IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25, IISRBPAc42) having antifungal activity against pathogens like *Phytophthora capsici* and *Sclerotium rolfsii*⁶¹. It also aims to study the mechanisms by which the *Streptomyces* strains inhibited the pathogens. The bioactive effect of crude culture filtrates, secondary metabolites and the chemical moiety involved in antifungal activity are discussed in this article. In the previous study, we concluded that the isolates showed better agronomic performance in growth promotion and disease suppression with the presence of PGPR and biocontrol traits such as siderophore production, IAA production, Zn and phosphate solubilization etc⁶¹.

Materials and methods

Culture establishments

The potential strains of *Streptomyces* spp. (IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25, IISRBPAc42), isolated from black pepper rhizosphere that have shown inhibitory effect on *P. capsici* and *S. rolfsii*, causing foot rot and basal rot diseases of black pepper⁶¹, was used for the studies. These three *Streptomyces* spp. strains maintained in PDA slants were sub cultured on to Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) and incubated under room temperature ($24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$) until sufficient growth was obtained. The isolates were identified as *Streptomy-*

ces spp. by 16s-rDNA sequencing and deposited in the NCBI data base with Gen-Bank accession numbers KM361516, KM361514 and KM361515.

Preparation of culture filtrate

Streptomyces spp. strains IISRBPAct1, IISRBPAct25 and IISRBPAct42 were inoculated into 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask containing 300 mL of production medium²⁵ and incubated at 28°C in an orbital shaker at 150 rpm for 7 days. The supernatant was collected by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm and filtered through what man No. 1 filter paper. The culture filtrate thus prepared was made into different dilutions of 1, 2, 5 and 10 percentages with sterile water and used to study its effect on different developmental stages of *P. capsici* and *S. rolfsii*.

Effect of culture filtrates on different developmental stages of *P. capsici*

Mycelial growth

Culture filtrate @ 20 ml of each strain was added to petriplates and inoculated with 5 mm mycelial plugs of 72 hrs old culture of *P. capsici* and incubated at room temperature (26-28°C) under white light for 7 days. Each treatment bared three replicates for accuracy. After completing incubation, the mycelial mats were passed through dried, pre-weighed filter paper and dried at 60°C for one day and weighed. The percentage of inhibition was calculated using the equation with modified definition for y and z⁴⁹ as

$$\text{Hyphal growth inhibition (\%)} = (y-z)/y \times 100$$

Where y = Mycelial growth of the pathogen alone in sterile water (control), z = Mycelial growth of the pathogen in sterile water incorporated with culture filtrates (mg/20 ml). The experiment was repeated thrice for conformation.

Sporangial development

Culture filtrate at different dilutions @ 1 ml was added on to well cell culture plates (NEST, 6x4 wells and 1.5 cm diameter each). Control well was added with 1 ml of sterile water. 5mm mycelial plugs of 72 hrs old culture of *P. capsici* were placed in each well and incubated for sporangia formation under white light at 26-28°C. Observations were taken under 40x for sporangia devel-

opment at 24 hrs interval up to 72 hrs. All the observations were carried out under LEICA DM5000B Research Microscope.

Zoospore germination

The sporulated mycelial plugs of *P. capsici* were subjected to cold shock treatment (4°C for 30 min)³⁸. After 30 min the zoospore released was collected and centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 10 min. The pellet of zoospore formed was suspended in 10 mL of sterile water. From this, 200 µl of the suspension (10 zoospores/µl) was loaded in cell culture wells containing different concentrations of the extract and observed for germination. Observations were taken under 10x at 30 min interval up to 1hr and germination rate was recorded¹¹ as

$$\text{Germination rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{No of germinating zoospores}}{\text{total no. of zoospores}} \times 100$$

Effect of culture filtrates on different developmental stages of *S. rolfsii*

Mycelial growth

The different dilutions of the culture filtrates of the isolates as mentioned elsewhere were used to study the effects of its concentration on the mycelial growth *S. rolfsii*. The procedure followed was same as that used for estimating mycelial growth of *P. capsici*. Culture filtrate @ 20 mL for each strain was added to petriplates and inoculated with 5mm mycelial plugs of 72 hrs old culture of *S. rolfsii* and incubated at room temperature (26-28°C) under illumination for 7 days. Each treatment bared three replicates for accuracy. After completing incubation, the mycelial mats were passed through dried, pre-weighed filter paper and dried at 60°C for one day and weighed. The percentage of inhibition was calculated as mentioned previously.

Sclerotium formation

Mycelial plugs of 5 mm cut from the growing edge of 72 hrs old culture of *Sclerotium rolfsii* was placed in cell culture wells containing different concentrations of the extract and observed for sclerotium development up to 2 weeks. All these experiments were repeated three times.

Detection of mode of antagonistic action of *Streptomyces* spp. strains on pathogens

Slide culture method was adopted for observing direct mode of action of the isolates towards the pathogen. Agar blocks (1 cm) were cut from PDA plate, placed on a sterile glass slide and inoculated with pathogens *P. capsici* and *S. rolfsii* before putting cover slip on them and incubated at 28°C for 4 days to attain sufficient growth of the pathogens. The cover slip with the mycelial pathogen was then transferred into spore suspensions of *Streptomyces* spp strains in petriplates and again incubated at 28°C up to 24 hrs for germination and observed under light microscope (Nikon H600L).

Extraction and purification of secondary metabolites and bioassay against fungal pathogens

The culture filtrates of the promising isolates prepared above were extracted with equal volume of three solvents *viz.*, chloroform, ethyl acetate and butanol for complete extraction of both polar and nonpolar compounds and concentrated by rotary vacuum evaporator at 45°C and the resultant residue obtained from each isolate was dissolved in 3 mL of universal solvent dimethyl sulphoxide after proper weighing. The antifungal activity of secondary metabolite was tested against *P. capsici* and *S. rolfsii* by well diffusion method in Carrot agar and Potato dextrose agar respectively.

Detection of minimal inhibitory concentration of secondary metabolites

Minimal Inhibitory concentration (MIC) of each metabolite on different pathogens was calculated by agar well diffusion method⁵³ with slight modifications. 5 mm diameter wells were made on PDA plates with sterilized cork borer. Different concentration of the metabolites (5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 10000 µg/mL) were prepared by diluting the crude extract with required quantity of distilled water. 0.1 mL each of diluted metabolite was added to the wells and 5 mm mycelial plugs of each pathogen was inoculated at the centre of the plates. The diluted DMSO without extract was used as control. The plates were incubated at 28°C for 48-72hrs and zone of inhibition was measured. The lowest concentration that

showed maximum inhibition of the pathogen was considered as the MIC of the extract.

HPTLC fingerprinting of metabolites of *Streptomyces* sp.

The HPTLC finger printing of metabolites were carried out on aluminum sheet coated with silica gel 60 F254 (Merk, Germany). 20 µl of each sample was spotted on the 10x10 cm plate as a band using CAMAG Linomat IV sample applicator. The development of the plates were in CAMAG 10x10 cm twin trough chamber which is equilibrated previously with a mobile phase containing a of mixture Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Formic acid: Methanol (7:5:1:0.5) for 20 minutes. The development was carried up to 8 cm. After completing the development, the plates were dried and scanned at a wavelength of 254 and 366 nm with the help of CAMAG TLC Scanner 3 and chromatograms were recorded. After that the plates were derivatized with 10 % sulphuric acid and heated at 105°C on hot plate for the development of the colour band and observed under white light and the Rf values of visible bands recorded.

Identification of bioactive compounds:

UPLC-(ESI)-QToF-MS analysis

A total of 1 liter of each solvent was concentrated to approximately 10 mL. The concentrated sample was evaporated under nitrogen and diluted with methanol (10X). The butanol extract injected after diluting with methanol + water (10X). The analysis was performed on an Acquity Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatograph (UPLC), coupled to a Quadrupole - Time of Flight mass spectrometer (QToF-MS, Synapt G2 HDMS, Waters Corporation, Manchester, UK). The QToF-MS was operated with electrospray ionization (ESI) at a nominal mass resolution of 20,000 and controlled by MassLynx 4.1 software. The data acquisition was done with the MS^E function in continuum mode in the range of *m/z* 50-1200. The MS^E mode provides the full scan MS data (low energy, 4 V) and MS/MS data (high energy, 10-60 V ramping) simultaneously. The source parameters were set as follows, capillary 3 kV, sampling cone 30 V, extraction cone 5 V, source temperature 120°C, desolvation temperature 500°C, desolvation gas flow 1000 L/h and cone gas flow 50 L/h. For mass

spectrometer calibration, 0.5 mM sodium formate was used. The lock spray, the reference mass leucine enkephalin (m/z 556.2771 in positive and m/z 554.2670 in negative polarity) was used for mass correction with a flow rate 10 $\mu\text{l}/\text{min}$ at the concentration of 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ at every 20 seconds interval. The chromatographic separation was performed on an ACQUITY UPLC BEH C_{18} column (2.1 \times 100 mm, 1.8 μm , Waters India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore) at 35°C. The mobile phase consists of A phase: methanol: water (10:90) and B phase: methanol: water (90:10) with 0.1 % formic acid in both the phases. A gradient program was used with 0.4 ml/min flow rate, with 0-0.5 min/90 % A, 4.5 min/50 % A, 4.5-8 min/50-2 % A, 8-11 min/2 % A, 11-11.5 min/2-90 % A, 12-14 min/90 % A. The injection volume was 5 μl and the samples were maintained at 15°C throughout the analysis.

Data analysis

All raw data was processed with the help of UNIFI software 1.7 versions (Waters Corporation, Manchester, UK). The databases for the secondary metabolites of fungi were prepared in house in the UNIFI software. The database was constructed by providing information of molecular structure, molecular formula, accurate mass from the literature and electronic data which was

reported in literature. The data processing was performed for the targeted list of compounds and the positive identification of any compound was based on the accurate mass (5 ppm mass accuracy) of the parent ion with at least one confirmatory ion [DG SANTE guideline].

Statistical analysis

The data was statistically analyzed by using PROC ANOVA procedure of SAS 9.3. Least square means statements were used for mean separation.

Results

Effect of culture filtrates on different developmental stages of P. capsici

The culture filtrates of all the *Streptomyces* spp. strain effectively inhibited the mycelial growth of *P. capsici* *in vitro*. Percentage of inhibition was found directly proportional to the concentration of the culture filtrate. 10 % of cultures filtrate of IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25 showed around 74 % inhibition of mycelial growth of *P. capsici*. However, the crude culture filtrates are more effective, showing higher percentage of inhibition (77.13 and 75.10 respectively). The culture filtrate of IISRBPAc42 was not as effective as compared to the other two (Fig. 1).

Culture filtrates of three potential isolates

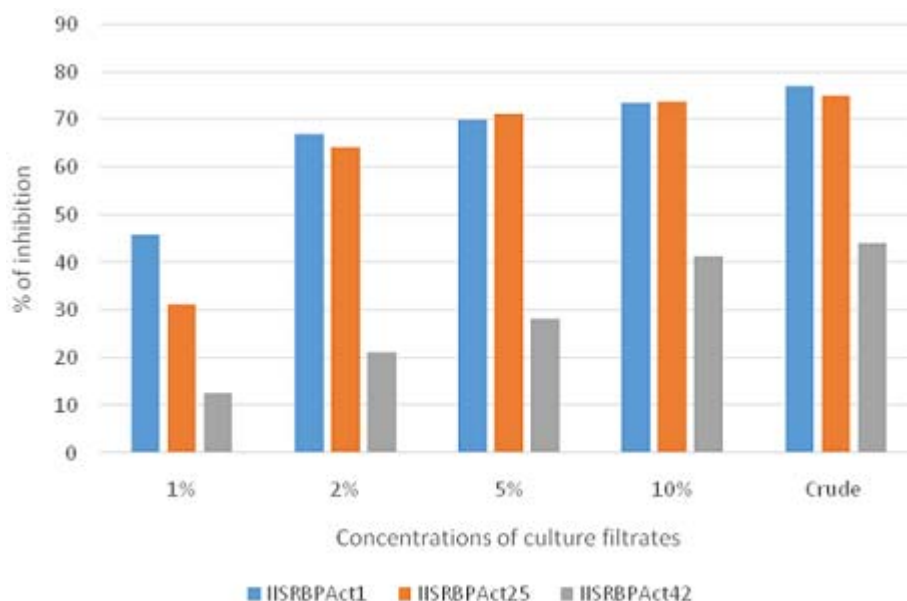


Fig. 1. Comparative efficacy of the culture filtrates of promising isolates on mycelial growth of *P. capsici*

IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42 showed inhibition of sporangial development of *P. capsici* (Fig. 2). The crude extract of all the isolates completely inhibited the sporangial formation under controlled conditions. Even 2 % culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 and 5 % of IISRBPAc25

were found inhibitory to *P. capsici* for its sporangia development, up to 10 % of dilution of culture filtrate of IISRBPAc42 was not at all inhibiting sporangia development completely (Fig. 3).

Culture filtrates of IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25 were found inhibitory to zoospore

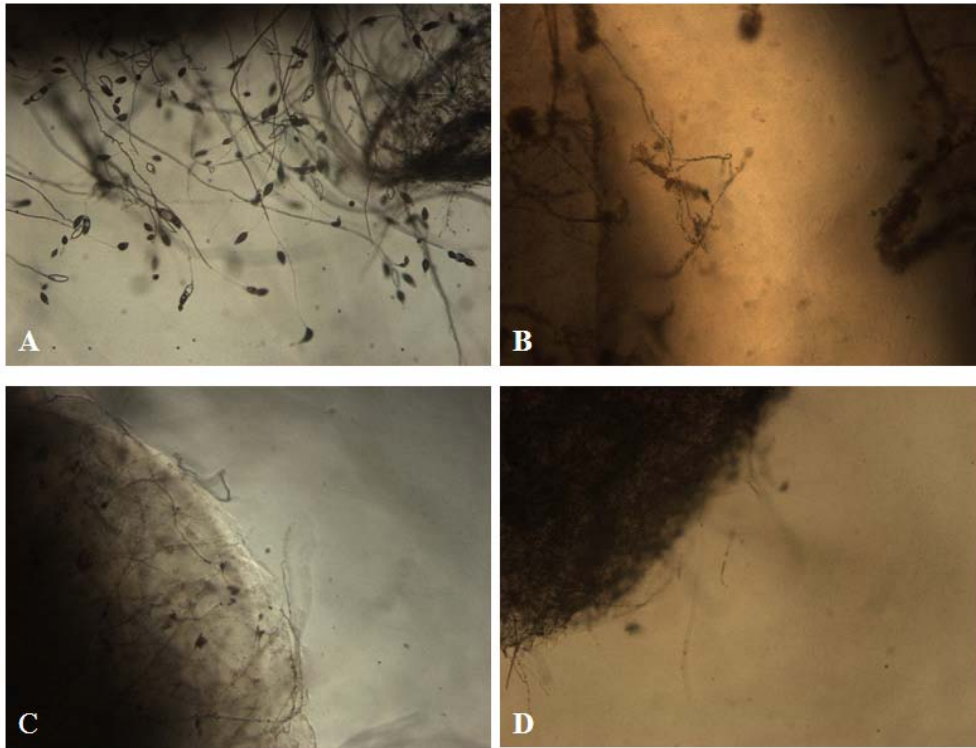


Fig. 2. Sporangial development in presence of (A) sterile water, (B) Crude filtrates of IISRBPAc42, (C) IISRBPAc1 and (D) IISRBPAc25, observed under light microscope

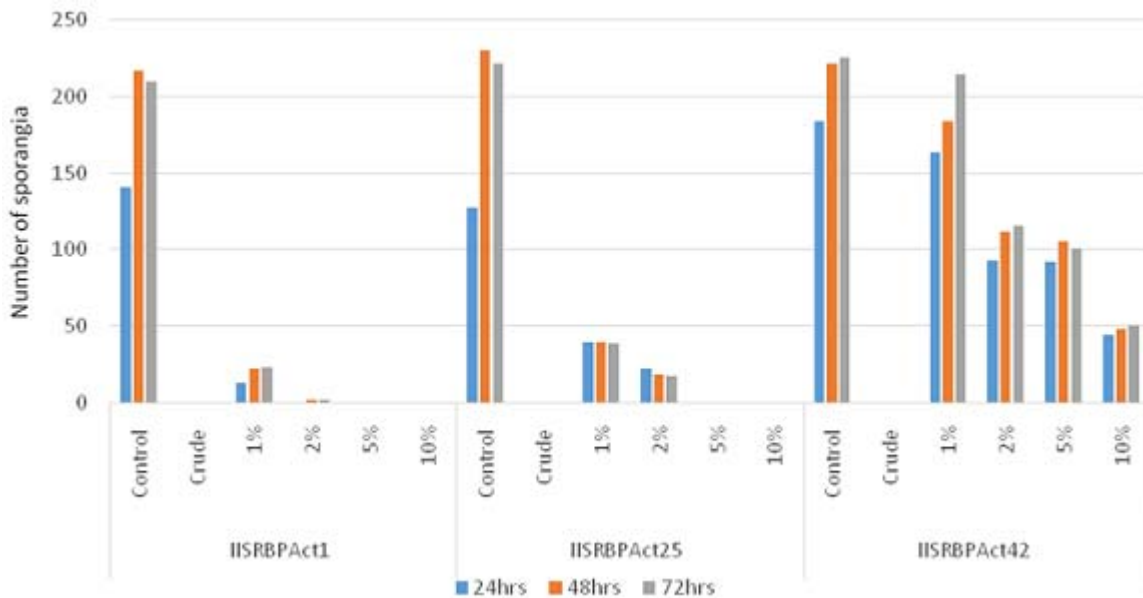


Fig. 3. Effect of culture filtrate on sporangial formation of *P. capsici*

germination of *P. capsici*. Only 1.4 % germination was observed with 10 % IISRBPAct1 (Fig. 4) while 13 % was observed with 10 % IISRBPAct25. Crude culture filtrate of IISRBPAct1 completely inhibited the zoospore germination while in the case of IISRBPAct25; germination rate was 4.4 %. However, the culture filtrate of IISRBPAct42 did not inhibit zoospore germination at all (Table 1).

Effect of culture filtrates on different developmental stages of *S. rolfsii*

The culture filtrate of the three isolates IISRBPAct1, IISRBPAct25 and IISRBPAct42 showed inhibitory activity against the growth and development of the pathogenic fungus *S. rolfsii*. From Fig. 5, it was very clear that there was a gradual hike in percentage of inhibition from 1 % dilution up to crude extract of the isolates. Ten

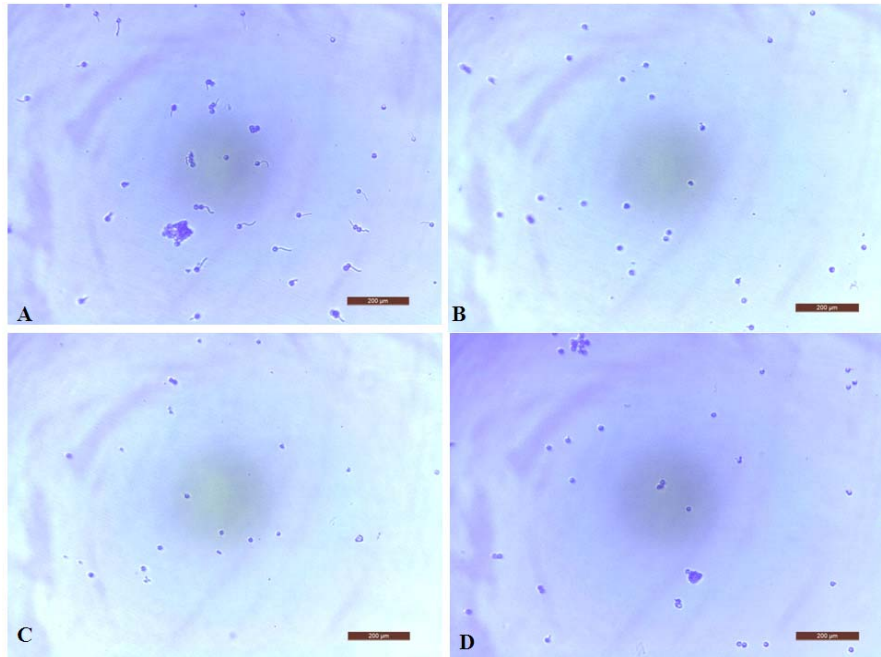


Fig. 4. Zoospore germination observed under light microscope (10X) in presence of (A) sterile water, (B) 5 % IISRBPAct1, (C) Crude extract of IISRBPAct1, (D) 10 % IISRBPAct1

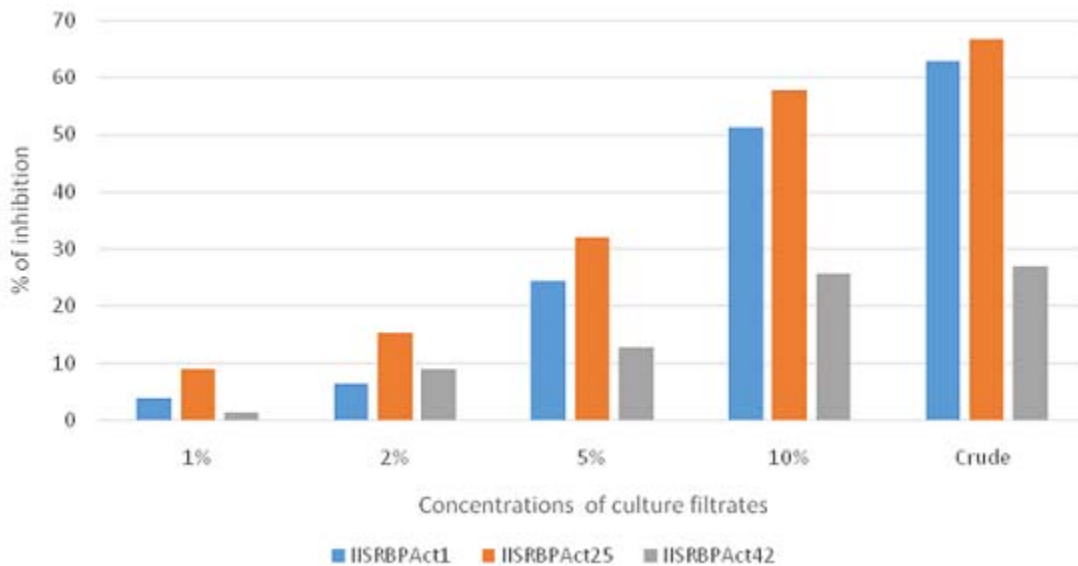


Fig. 5. Effect of culture filtrate on mycelial growth of *S. rolfsii*

Table 1. Effects of culture filtrate on zoospore germination of *P. capsici*

	Isolates																						
	IISRBPAc1				IISRBPAc25				IISRBPAc42														
	Control	1	2	5	10	Crude	Mean	Control	1	2	5	10	Crude	Mean	Time mean								
Time interval	30min	58.03	51.93	38.3	21.20	1.43	0	28.48	59.67	50.20	54.00	13.73	11.87	4.37	32.31	57.27	52.53	51.30	45.67	45.2	39.83	48.63	36.47
	60min	65.63	57.27	45.5	22.37	3.17	0	32.32	64.33	53.53	52.50	15.80	13.00	3.30	33.74	67.80	54.57	52.17	49.10	46.43	42.67	52.12	39.40
	Mean	61.83	54.60	41.9	21.78	2.30	0	30.40	62.00	51.87	53.25	14.77	12.43	3.83	33.03	62.53	53.55	51.73	47.38	45.82	41.25	50.38	General Mean = 37.94

CV% isolates: 13.08, Concentration: 18.53, Time: 15.18

CD at 5% Isolates : 3.25, Concentration: 4.79, Time: 2.25, Isolates X Concentration: 8.20, Isolates X time: NS, Concentration X time: NS, Isolates X

Concentration X time : NS

percent dilution of culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 showed 51.27 % of inhibition of mycelial growth of *S. rolf sii*, where as it was 57.63 % and 26.90 % in the case IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42 respectively. The crude culture filtrates showed higher percentage of inhibition 62.77, 66.60 and 26.90 % respectively by the strains IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42. Among the strains, culture filtrate of IISRBPAc25 showed higher activity towards mycelial inhibition of *S. rolf sii* (66.60 %).

The effect of culture filtrate on sclerotium development was observed on cell culture plates (Fig. 6) up on further incubation. Even at the lowest dilution (1 %) IISRBPAc1 could inhibit the formation of sclerotium. The strain IISRBPAc25 also have the same effect where as in the case of strain IISRBPAc42, only crude extract and 10 % dilution was found inhibitory to sclerotium formation (Table 2).

Mode of action of isolates on the pathogens

In the slide culture, clear colonization of the hyphae around the mycelia of *S. rolf sii* was observed under 40x of light microscope with all the strains tested. A continuous mycelial growth was observed by IISRBPAc1 around the mycelial pathogen with in 24 hrs of incubation (Fig. 7). Hyphal fragments formed from the mycelia of IISRBPAc25 were centered on the hyphae of *S. rolf sii*, suggesting the beginning of hyperparasitism (Fig. 8). IISRBPAc42 also showed the capacity to grow around the pathogen. The mode of action of the isolates was entirely different towards *P. capsici* where deformation, degradation or mycelial lysis was observed in the presence of culture filtrate of all the strains (Fig. 9).

Extraction, purification and bioassay of secondary metabolites against pathogens

The activity of crude extracts of three isolates viz., IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42 (*Streptomyces* sp.) in three solvent systems is given in Table 3. The extracellular secondary metabolites were extracted by organic solvents and potential compounds responsible for the inhibition of pathogen were concentrated by evaporation in their active forms. The compounds ex-



Fig. 6. Cell culture plate showing inhibition of Sclerotium formation at different concentrations of culture filtrates of potential isolates

Table 2. Inhibition of Sclerotium formations by culture filtrate of *Streptomyces* spp.

Isolate	Concentrations of culture filtrate	Sclerotium formation
IISRBPAct1	Control	+
	1 %	-
	2 %	-
	5 %	-
	10 %	-
	Crude extract	-
	IISRBPAct25	Control
1 %		-
2 %		-
5 %		-
10 %		-
Crude extract		-
IISRBPAct42		Control
	1 %	+
	2 %	+
	5 %	+
	10 %	-
	Crude extract	-

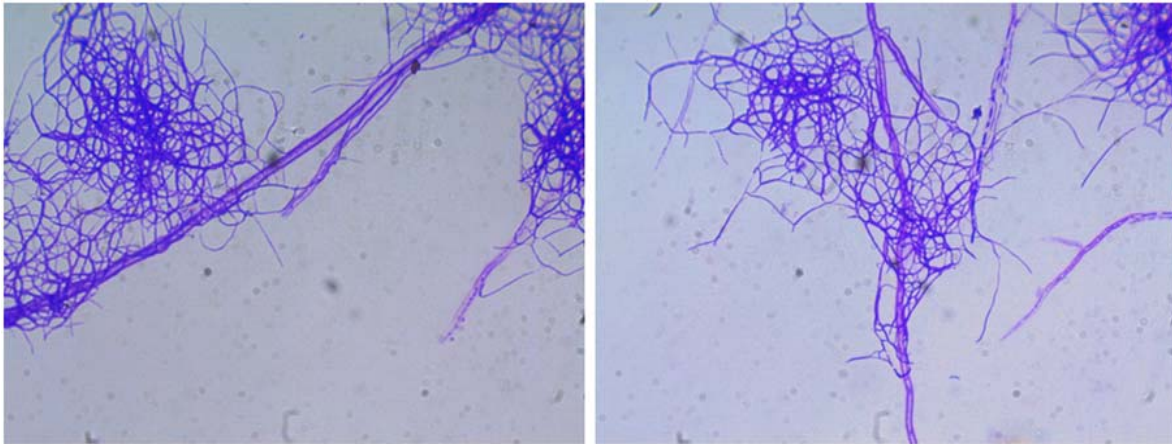


Fig. 7. Hyphal parasitism of IISRBPAc1 over *S. rolfsii* observed under light microscope (40X)

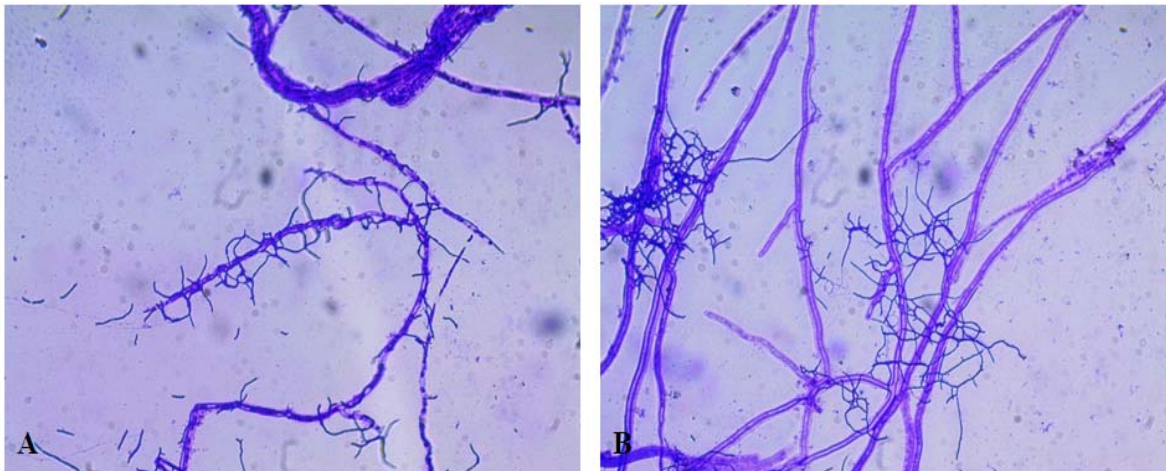


Fig. 8. Parasitism on *S. rolfsii* by (A) IISRBPAc25 and (B) IISRBPAc42

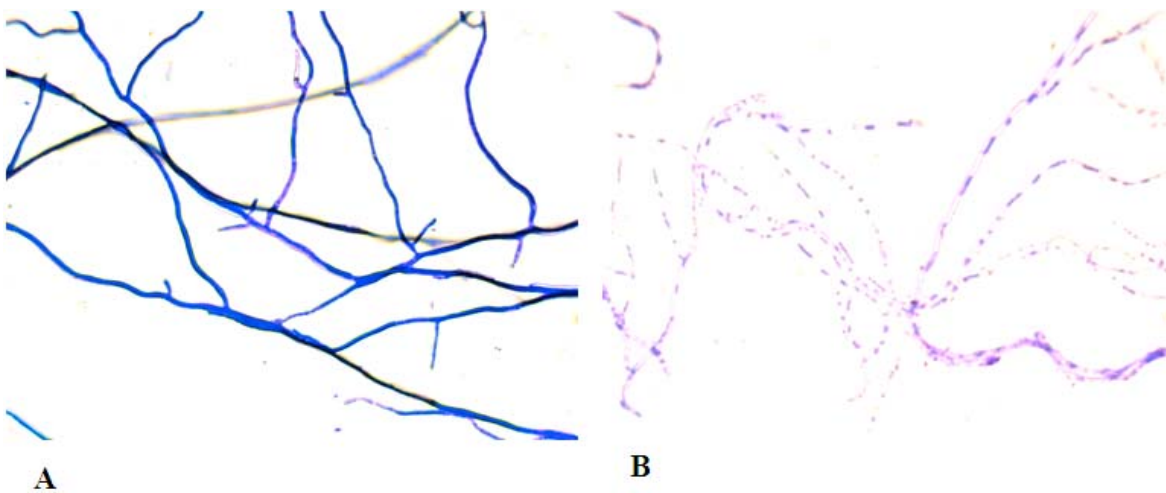


Fig. 9. (B) Degradation or lysis of mycelia of *P. capsici* in the presence of culture filtrate. (A) Mycelial growth of *P. capsici* under sterile water

Table 3. Antifungal activity of crude solvent extracts

	IISRBPAc1			IISRBPAc25			IISRBPAc42			Test pathogen Mean			
	Ethyl acetate	Butanol	Mean	Ethyl acetate	Butanol	Mean	Ethyl acetate	Butanol	Mean				
<i>Phytophthora capsici</i>	73.53	0.80	01.77	25.37	44.70	44.70	58.30	49.23	1.60	0.40	0.93	0.98	25.19
<i>Sclerotium rolfsii</i>	24.27	16.67	43.30	28.08	0.47	06.63	74.70	27.27	0.47	-0.00	4.23	1.57	18.97
Mean	48.90	08.73	22.53	26.72	22.58	25.67	66.50	38.25	1.03	0.20	2.58	1.27	General Mean=22.08
CV%	isolates: 6.45, Solvent: 5.36, Test pathogen: 6.30												
CD at 5%	Isolates: 1.32, Solvent: 0.86, Test pathogen: 0.80, Isolates X solvent: 1.78, Isolates X test pathogen: 1.62, Isolate X solvent X test pathogen : 2.45												

tracted in different solvents were dissolved in universal solvent DMSO and bioactivity was recorded for each metabolite at a concentration of 10 mg/mL. Each *Streptomyces* sp showed differences in their activity profile with respect to organic solvents used for the extraction of the antifungal compounds. The ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 showed highest activity against *P.capsici* (73.5 % of inhibition) (Fig. 10) suggesting that the compound responsible for anti-oomycetal activity is a polar compound. The butanol extracts of IISRBPAc25 showed highest activity against *S. rolfsii* (74.7 % of inhibition) (Fig. 11).

HPTLC fingerprinting of metabolites of *Streptomyces* sp.

The HPTLC fingerprinting analysis of ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 and butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 that showed highest activity against the pathogens were done according to the standard procedure. The study helped to estimate total number of chemical moiety present in each metabolite and also for its characterization. The preliminary HPTLC analysis revealed the presence of antimicrobial compounds in both extracts. A total 15 different compounds were estimated from ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 and 9 compounds with different Rf values were estimated from butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 (Table 4). The peak No. 1 of butanol extract occupied maximum % area (59.91) indicates presence of the particular compound nearly half in the given metabolite. The other compounds ranged from 0.50 to 17.01 %. However the peaks in ethyl acetate extract ranged from 3.63 to 17.32. The peak 2, 6 and 8 occupied the maximum and other peaks ranged from 0.5 - 9.3. Peak No. 2 of ethyl acetate extract showed 17.32 % area showing the predominance of that particular compound in the extract. TLC plate view of the extract at 254 nm is shown in Fig. 12.

Identification of bioactive compounds from the extracts

The bioactive compounds were identified by high resolution UPLC-(ESI)-QToF-MS analysis. A total of 51 compounds were identified from ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 (Table 5) and 11

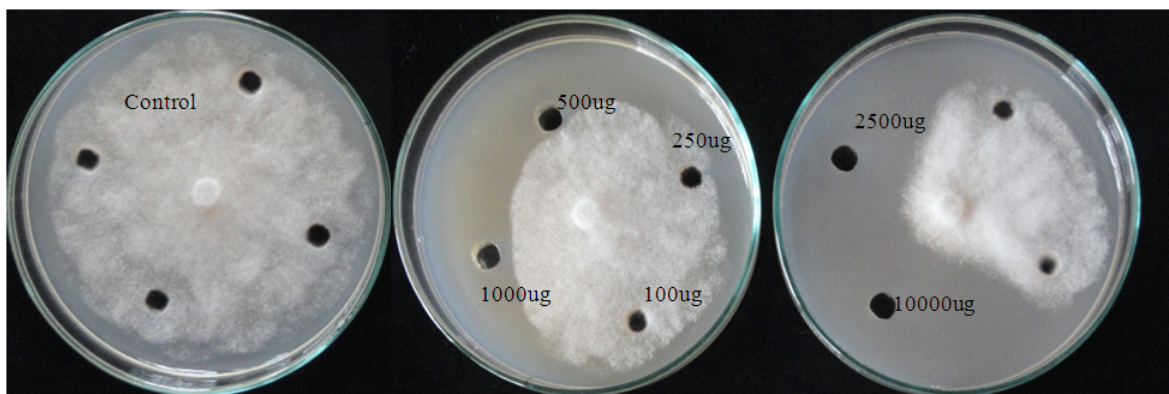


Fig. 10. Activity profile of ethyl acetate extracts of strain IISRBPAct1 against *P. capsici*

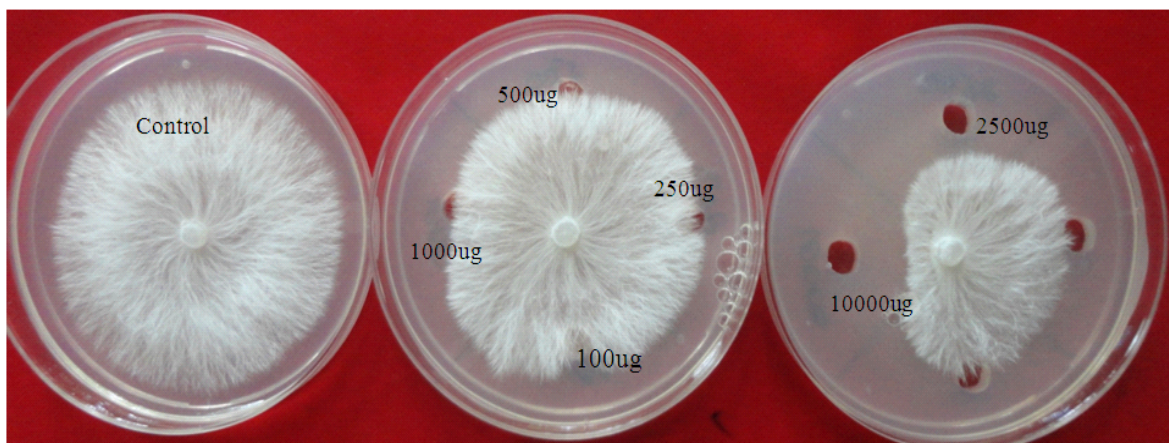


Fig. 11. Activity profile of butanol extracts of strain IISRBPAct25 against *S. rolfsii*

Table 4. Area and peaks of butanol extract of IISRBPAct25 and ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAct1 at 254 nm in HPTLC

Butanol extract of IISRBPAct25				Ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAct1			
Peak No	Rf value	Area (AU)	% Area (AU)	Peak no	Rf value	Area (AU)	% Area (AU)
1	0.02	6516.3	59.91	1	0.02	660.7	3.63
2	0.06	178.2	1.64	2	0.05	3150.3	17.32
3	0.09	945.1	8.69	3	0.08	75.4	0.41
4	0.14	275.7	2.53	4	0.14	1691.7	9.3
5	0.35	454.3	4.18	5	0.18	90.3	0.5
6	0.4	110.4	1.02	6	0.25	2274.1	12.5
7	0.6	54.4	0.5	7	0.28	214.8	1.18
8	0.67	1850.3	17.01	8	0.35	2572	14.14
9	0.77	491.4	4.52	9	0.4	1675.7	9.21
				10	0.45	2496.7	13.73
				11	0.56	567.1	3.12
				12	0.6	336.8	1.86
				13	0.64	806.7	4.44
				14	0.75	1462.4	8.04
				15	0.82	112.1	0.62

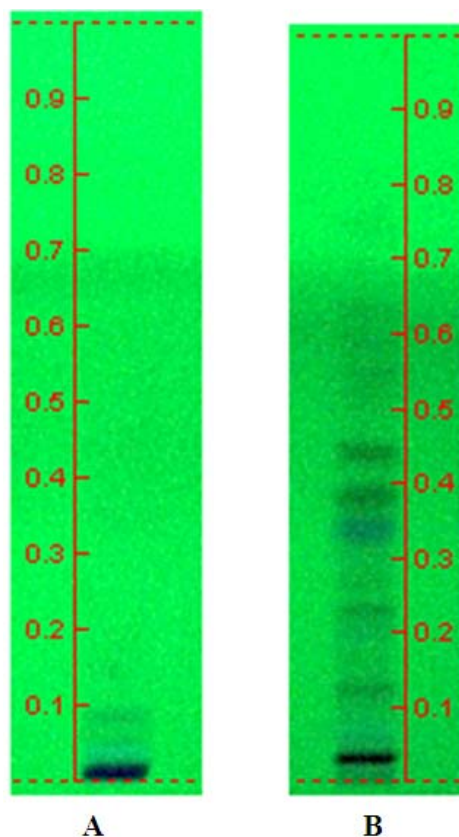


Fig. 12. TLC plate view of the extracts at 254 nm (A) Butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 and (B) Ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1

Table 5. Ethyl acetate extract profiling by UPLC-QTOF-MS

No.	Component	Neutral mass (m/z)	Observed mass (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	RT (min)	Detector counts	Adducts
1	(2E,6E)-Farnesol	222.1983	223.2065	4	8.3	1932	+H
2	(2R)-2,3-Dihydroxypropyl palmitate	330.2770	353.2664	0.4	10.6	8466	+Na, +H
3	(2S,3S,4R)-2-Amino-1,3,4-hexadecanetriol	289.2617	290.2702	4.3	7.35	42787	+H, +Na
4	(R)-2,5,11-Bisabolatriene	204.1878	205.1958	3.3	8.78	2411	+H
5	15-Hydroxyacronenone	236.1776	237.1857	3.2	7.14	1232	+H, +Na
6	2-Carboxy-3-(2-hydroxypropanyl)phenol	196.0735	219.0634	2.7	3.48	1858	+Na, +H
7	3-Methyl-crotonylglycine	157.0738	158.0819	4.9	3.16	2759	+H, +Na
8	Aigialomycin A	378.1314	378.1324	3.9	6.82	1119	-e, +H
9	Asperilin	248.1412	249.1481	-1.8	6.23	14213	+H
10	Biotin	244.0881	267.0784	3.9	1.21	1181	+Na, +H
11	Brefeldin A	280.1674	281.1735	-4.3	7.38	12941	+H
12	Brevianamide F [Cyclo(L-Trp L-Pro)]	283.1320	284.1405	4.1	4.59	55146	+H, +Na

table 5 (continued).

No.	Component	Neutral mass (m/z)	Observed mass (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	RT (min)	Detector counts	Adducts
13	Brevianamide F [Cyclo(L-Trp L-Pro)]	283.1320	284.1402	3.1	4.48	26141	+H, +Na
14	Chermesinone A	290.1518	291.1580	-3.8	6.17	1861	+H
15	Chokolic acid B	212.1412	213.1490	2.4	6.45	1009	+H
16	Cyclo (L-Pro-L-Leu)	210.1368	211.1450	4.0	3.89	239670	+H, +Na
17	Dermadin	179.0582	180.0651	-2.3	2.82	1923	+H
18	Dihydrocoriandrins	232.0735	233.0804	-1.8	3.28	6103	+H
19	Enniatin B	639.4094	639.4074	-2.4	9.28	37359	-e, +H
20	Enniatin D	653.4251	653.4230	-2.4	9.6	2302	-e, +H
21	Fusaric Acid	179.0946	180.1027	4.3	3.71	9307	+H
22	Gamma-CEHC	248.1412	249.1488	1.2	5.81	1433	+H
23	Gliocladic acid 1	254.1518	255.1602	4.5	7.19	4117	+H, +Na
24	Harzianolide	222.1255	223.1334	2.4	4.14	2257	+H
25	Harzianopyridone	281.1263	282.1346	3.7	3.08	3230	+H
26	Isonitric acid E	177.0425	177.0418	-1.6	1.34	1316	-e, +H
27	Isonitric acid E	177.0425	177.0418	-1.6	1.94	1316	-e
28	Kandenol C	284.1623	285.1705	3.1	8.85	2867	+H
29	Koninginin D	298.1780	299.1863	3.4	8.85	1938	+H
30	Koninginin G	302.2093	325.1990	1.4	8.82	15031	+Na, +H
31	Methyl cinnamate	162.0680	163.0760	4.0	3.71	1492	+H
32	N-[(2S,3R,4E)-1,3-Dihydroxy-4-octadecen-2-yl]acetamide	341.2929	342.3010	2.2	6.81	9544	+H
33	Natamycin	665.3047	665.3041	-0.1	6.84	2943	-e, +H
34	Nectriapyrone	194.0942	195.1022	3	7.7	1845	+H
35	Phytosphingosine	317.2929	318.3007	1.3	7.81	3377	+H
36	Phytosphingosine	317.2929	318.3009	2	7.29	4912	+H, +Na
37	Roridin A	532.2672	533.2758	2.4	8.01	71710	+H
38	Roridin D	530.2515	531.2603	2.8	7.78	1512	+H
39	Roridin E	514.2566	515.2653	2.5	7.55	58200	+H
40	Roridin E	514.2566	515.2653	2.6	8.01	192268	+H
41	Roridin L	530.2515	531.2603	2.7	7.13	1689	+H
42	Salfredin B11	232.0735	233.0818	4	8.01	1417	+H
43	Sphinganine	301.2980	302.3062	2.7	7.75	5046	+H
44	Tetradecenoylcarnitine	369.2879	370.2964	3.2	7.06	1121	+H
45	Trichodermadiene	386.2093	387.2151	-3.9	7.07	4350	+H
46	Trichodermadienediol A	404.2198	405.2252	-4.8	7.18	2153	+H
47	Trichodermadienediol A	404.2198	405.2252	-4.9	6.91	2771	+H
48	Trichodermanone	408.1784	409.1840	-4	3.29	1754	+H
49	Trichodermin	292.1674	292.1664	-1.8	2.9	3314	-e, +H
50	Trichothecinol B	334.1780	335.1862	2.8	4	2048	+H, -e
51	Zeaenol	364.1522	365.1578	-4.6	2.97	1217	+H

compounds from butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 (Table 6). For example; identification and confirmation of fusaric acid in ethyl acetate extract is depicted in Fig. 13. The major antibiotics identified from IISRBPAc1 were brefeldin A, dermadin, fusaric acid and salfredin B11. Brefeldin A is an antiviral antibiotic. A wide variety of compounds with antifungal activities identified were brevianamide F, enniatin B, harzianopyridone 1, harzianopyridone 2, isonitric acid E, natamycin, trichodermin and zeaenol. Harzianopyridone 1 is an antifungal metabolite reported as produced by *Trichoderma harzianum*. Trichodermin, a biofungicide compound produced by *Trichoderma*, is also identified from ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1. Interestingly a plant growth regulator harzianolide produced by *Trichoderma harzianum* and a fungitoxic sesquiterpene chokolic acid B were also identified from the ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1. The antibacterial compounds identified in this extract were phytosphingosine, nectriapyrone, harzianopyridone 2, gliocladic acid 1 and brevianamide F. Phytosphingosine is an antibacterial lipid, harzianopyridone 2 and brevianamide F exhibits both antifungal and antibacterial activity. Besides all these compounds, mycotoxins such as roridin A, D, E, L and enniatin D, were also identified. Natamycin and brevianamide F were produced by IISRBPAc25 in butanol extract. Naphthoquinomycin B, an antibiotic, maculosin 6, an herbicide, verrucaric acid A, sesquiterpene toxins, (2E, 6E)-Farnesol, a natural pesticide for mites were also identified from the butanol extract of IISRBPAc25.

Discussion

The three *Streptomyces* sp. IISRBPAc1, IISRBPAc25 and IISRBPAc42 already have proven their activity as plant growth promoter as well as biocontrol agent against major black pepper pathogens such as *P. capsici* and *S. rolfsii* under both *in vitro* and *in planta* conditions⁶¹. Foot rot disease of black pepper is the most serious disease of black pepper and it causes drastic reduction in the production i.e. it becomes a major limiting factor for successful cultivation of the crop in India and world over. Rotting and wilting at the

nursery stages of black pepper (seedlings) is also a major threat. The present study mainly focused on exploring the potential of antimicrobial metabolites from the *Streptomyces* spp. strains against these important pathogens.

Recently the use of secondary metabolites of microbial origin has gain great importance in biological control of plant diseases and it will be of a good alternative to the chemical control⁵². These metabolites are synthesized biologically so that these are highly specific to the targeted organism and also biodegradable in nature⁷¹. Here the metabolites from three strains were extracted with three different solvent systems (ethyl acetate, butanol and chloroform) in order to get the complete chemical moieties that are responsible for the antifungal activity of the isolates. A similar study was carried out³ in which they extracted *Streptomyces* sp. SBSK-8 isolates in three different solvent systems and tested its activity against *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Proteus vulgaris* and *Escherichia coli*. In our studies the three strains showed differences in their activity profile according to the organic solvents used. The ethyl acetate extract of the IISRBPAc1 showed maximum activity against *P. capsici* revealing the great solubility of anti-oomycete compounds in the particular solvent system.

When optimum condition (high humidity at 25-30°C) is obtained, *P. capsici* zoospores develop appressorium within few hours and on reaching the host plant, complete their life cycle within 2-3 days^{35,40}. So an ideal antifungal agent should inhibit both the development of sporangia and zoospore germination. Here culture filtrate of IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25 are found to be effectively inhibiting both sporangial formation and zoospore germination of *P. capsici*. Even though IISRBPAc42 did not inhibit zoospore germination completely, the length of the germ tube was greatly reduced. Similarly, though 10% dilution of IISRBPAc42 could not stop the sporangia development completely but reduced its number. Similar results were reported with culture filtrates of *Streptomyces plicatus* isolate B4-7 under *in vitro* test¹¹.

The minimal inhibitory concentration of each extract varied with pathogens. This may be due to

Table 6. Chemoprofile of butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 by UPLC-QTOF-MS

No.	Component name	Neutral mass (m/z)	Observed mass (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	RT (min)	Detector counts	Adducts	Fragment ions
1	(2E,6E)-Farnesol	222.1983	223.205	-2.7	8.16	1132	+H	119.0853, 205.1950, 91.05423
2	Brevianamide F [Cyclo(L-Trp L-Pro)]	283.132	284.1387	-2.2	1.98	1970	+H	118.0645, 245.1267, 159.0889
3	Brevianamide F [Cyclo(L-Trp L-Pro)]	283.132	284.1397	1.1	4.43	3692	+H, +Na	245.1283, 130.0651, 154.0733
4	Levetiracetam	170.1055	171.1125	-1.6	2.08	1211	+H	128.0703, 111.0438
5	Maculosin 6	210.1368	211.1444	1.4	3.54	38971	+H, +Na	154.0736, 153.0660,
6	Maculosin 6	210.1368	211.1444	1.6	3.76	140684	+H, +Na	86.0966 154.0735,
7	Mycotoxin T-2_inariotoxin	466.2202	466.222	5	6.66	2018	-e	70.0652 448.2119,
8	Naphthoquino-mycin B	717.2971	717.299	3.4	6.66	2886	-e, +H	242.1534 594.3025, 403.2479,
9	Palmitoleic acid	254.2245	255.2312	-2.6	7.5	2143	+H	466.2223 237.2206, 95.0855,
10	Palmitoleic acid	254.2245	255.2317	-0.7	7.23	1217	+H	109.1007 237.2206
11	Verrucaric A	502.2202	503.2286	2.1	6.9	7634	+H	485.2176, 467.2078, 381.2241

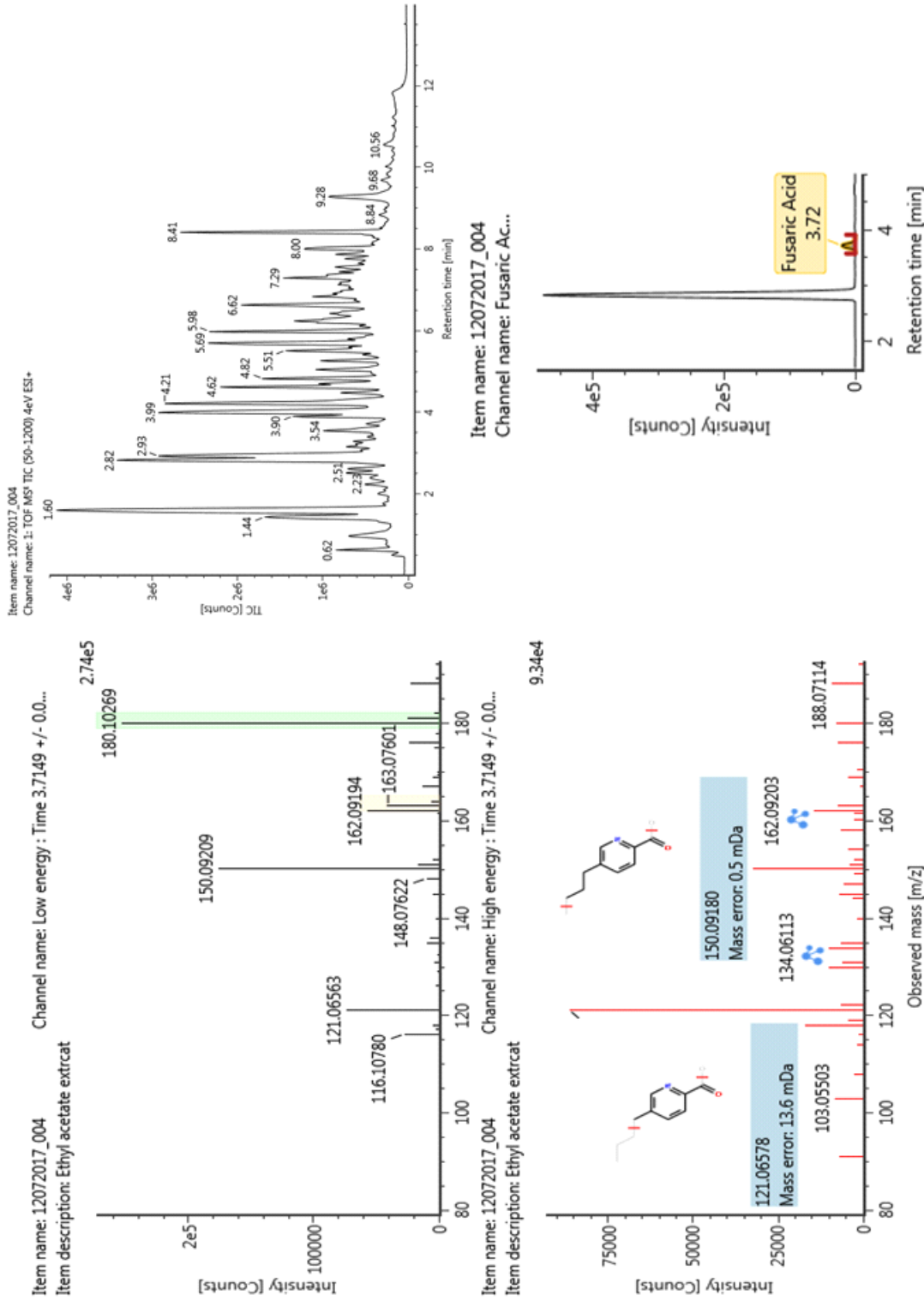


Fig. 13. Total ion chromatogram for ethyl acetate extract, extracted ion chromatogram (XIC), MS spectra and MS/MS spectra for Fusaric acid

the differences in cell wall composition which is entirely different between fungi and oomycetes. 500 µg of ethyl acetate extract of the IISRBPAc1 was inhibitory to *P. capsici* while 25000 µg of butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 was needed to inhibit *S. rolfisii*. The pharmacological activities of secondary metabolites of *Streptomyces olivaceus* showed highest level of inhibition with 500 µg/mL concentration against major clinical bacterial pathogens⁵⁶. They also reported that the activity of the crude extract was gradually increased from 100-500 µg/mL concentration. This is in accordance with our studies, that the activity of crude extract was increased from 500-25000 µg/mL concentration (Fig. 11) against the fungal pathogens. The increased concentration may be due to the resistance of fungus and oomycetes over bacteria.

The hyperparasitism was already reported in *Streptomyces* spp. such as in *S. albus*⁶³, *S. griseoviridis*⁶⁰ and *S. alni*⁷². The hyperparasitic ability of *Streptomyces* towards *S. rolfisii* was the first report from our studies. The spore suspension of *Streptomyces* spp was directly applied to mycelia of *S. rolfisii* grown on cover slip by slide culture technique. A continues mycelial growth was observed with in 48 hrs of incubation by IISRBPAc1 around the pathogen indicating that the growth of actinobacteria and its activity starts with in that particular period. The inhibitory effect of *Streptomyces* sp on the development or germination of *S. sclerotiorum* was already reported^{30,9,41,50,68,37}. The potential isolates are also capable of producing siderophores and lytic enzymes⁶¹ which also enhances the antagonistic activity towards the pathogens. Brefeldin A, dermadin, fusaric acid and salfredin B11 etc are the antibiotic compounds identified from IISRBPAc1.

The HPTLC profile of ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 and butanol extract of IISRBPAc25 revealed the overall chemical moiety present. Thus HPTLC can be used as a proper tool for isolation and characterization of such metabolites. Similar studies were carried out to characterize the secondary metabolites present in various extracts of *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) seeds using different solvents⁶⁷. There also the ethanolic extract

showed maximum secondary metabolites compared to other solvent systems. In our study ethanolic extract showed 15 types of compounds while butanol extract exhibit only 9 compounds.

Using high resolution UPLC-(ESI)-QToF-MS analysis, an antifungal metabolite and protein inhibitor trichodermin found in *Trichoderma taxi* sp¹² was identified from ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1. Roridin, a macrocyclic trichothecene mycotoxin produced by black mold *Stachybotrys atra* was also detected. Natamycin, otherwise known as pimaricin is an antifungal agent produced by *S. natalensis*²², *S. chattanoogensis*²⁰ and *S. gilvosporeus*^{42,10} that showed activity against different fungal pathogens such as species of *Candida*, *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium etc*, used for the treatment of a variety of yeast and mold diseases^{55,32,62,13} were also identified from our isolates. Natamycin is also considered as a GRAS (generally regarded as safe) compound according to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines because of its low toxicity. So it is used as potentially safe preservative agent in cheese, olive, meat and fruit and processing industries^{1,6,51}. The most important use of Natamycin in this study is in the field of crop protection because of its safety and naturality^{17,18}. Natamycin is produced by both IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25. Isonitric acid E and F isolated from *Trichoderma hamatum* HLX 1379² have antifungal activity widely used for the biological control of phytopathogens. *Trichoderma harzianum* IMI298371 produces antifungal compound harzianopyridone¹⁹ also exhibit antifungal activity. A new plant growth regulator and systemic resistance elicitor obtained from *T. harzianum*⁸, harzianolide was also identified from ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1 suggesting the capability of the isolate not only in the biocontrol activity but also in the plant growth promotion. The active compound brevianamide F also has antifungal activity, already reported from *Streptomyces* sp²³ identified from both IISRBPAc1 and IISRBPAc25. Diketopiperazine [cyclo(l-Pro-d-Leu)] is an antifungal agent produced by *Bacillus cereus* subsp. *thuringiensis*³⁹. It was also identified in ethyl acetate extract of IISRBPAc1. The results of the chemical analysis very clearly revealed the relative occurrence

of chemical moieties common to both *Trichoderma* spp. and the strain of *Streptomyces* sp IISRBPAc1, identified in our study. Based on 16srDNA analysis, the isolate IISRBPAc1 showed 95 % homology to two species such as *S. albulus* and *S. albogriseus* with 93 % query coverage indicating the identity of a new species⁶¹. Both of the species never reported for the production of the particular compounds described above emphasis the present situation. Moreover, this is the first report of the presence of the plant growth regulator harzianolide identified from the *Streptomyces* spp. strains.

(2E, 6E)-Farnesol is an antimicrobial compound agent which slows the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoans and a natural pesticide for mites and a pheromone for several insects identified from the butanol extract of IISRBPAc25. A new ansamycin antibiotic Naphthoquinomycin B was isolated from the culture filtrate of *Streptomyces* strain No. S-1998⁴⁴ also identified in the butanol extract of IISRBPAc25.

Conclusions

The results of the present study clearly indicated that the *Streptomyces* sp isolated from the black pepper rhizosphere are potential candidates for the extraction of anti-oomycete and antifungal moieties, most of them are too complex to synthesize by combinatorial chemistry, which can be exploited in agriculture especially in the cropping system of black pepper, for disease suppression and growth promotion.

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