

Identification of Biodiversity of Some *Streptomyces* Species and Determination of a Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) Profile of *16S rDNA* Gene Region

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Abstract: In this study, soil samples from the roots and peripheral regions of some agricultural plant species growing in the Van region (such as sainfoin, bean, malus, wheat and sugar beet) were collected between May and June 2004 and 139 strains of *Streptomyces* bacteria were isolated from these samples. Moreover, researchers determined the physicochemical characteristics of these soil samples. *Streptomyces* bacteria were color-grouped and the Diaminopimelic Acid (DAP) forms were detected followed by the determination of then phenotypic characteristics. When these isolates were divided into 39 color groups, 20 strains were found to contain L-DAP and therefore were confirmed as members of the genus *Streptomyces*. The species were identified using the TAXON Software and similarity dendrograms were constructed by the Unweighted Pair-Group Method with an Arithmetic average (UPGMA) cluster analysis using the Multi-Variate Statistical Package (MVSP 3.1). Genomic DNA was isolated from these bacteria and *16S rDNA* gene was amplified by PCR followed by restriction digestion with BspI 43I, HaeIII, MnlI and SphI for Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) analysis. In the dendrogram obtained at the end of the RFLP analysis, four groups of two or more members and six 1-member groups were established according to the similarity ratio criterion.

Key words: *Streptomyces*, isolation, *16S rDNA*, RFLP, ratio criterion

INTRODUCTION

Due to seasonal and climatic changes and human intervention, there is little information on geographical distribution of the *Streptomyces* sp. (Sembiring *et al.*, 2000; Saintpierre *et al.*, 2003). *Streptomyces* are a genus of bacteria that live for a long time in the soil as arthrospores and germinate under appropriate conditions. It is known that the spore form survive longer than the hyphae phase and are scattered in the soil by arthropods and the flow of water through soil and in the atmosphere by wind and rain. Basic factors that affect the activity and scattering of *Streptomyces* include nutrients, heat, pH, moisture, a soil type and seasonal changes (Upton, 1994; Atalan, 1993; Leiminger *et al.*, 2013). Similarly, physiological processes are also important factors that determine the activity and scatter of the *Streptomyces* bacteria. Under *in situ* conditions, most *Streptomyces* sp. grow at an optimum temperature. Mud and humic acid content of the soil affects activity of *Streptomyces*. These bacteria live

in the soil as Gram-positive filaments and undergo morphological differentiation at different life stages. Under normal conditions they do not form spores. If sufficient moisture and nutrients are available then they germinate and form vegetative mycelia. However, the lack of nutrients or water deficiency halts mycelium formation and *Streptomyces* survive such environmental stresses through the formation of spores. Moreover, these bacteria simultaneously initiate the production pigments, antibiotics and other secondary metabolites (Kutzner, 1986).

Soil is the most frequent habitat of *Streptomyces* bacteria and they are present in all kinds of soil (Williams *et al.*, 1989). These bacteria generally play a substantial ecological role in decomposing different components in soil in addition to plant waste and fungus mycelia on the surface (Samson *et al.*, 1994). *Streptomyces* are present in the habitats that are rich in organic matter (Hagedorn, 1976). The 1-20% of all live microorganisms present in the soil are generally

Streptomyces (Xu *et al.*, 1996), in addition, 64-97% of all Actinomycetes that can be isolated are Streptomycetes (Wang *et al.*, 1999; Chronakova *et al.*, 2010; Demain, 1999).

Streptomyces which are considered to be indicators of soil moisture that triggers microbial development are known to be producers of secondary metabolites that have various antibacterial, antifungal, antiparasitic, antitumor and immunostimulatory properties (Mishra *et al.*, 1980). Some species cause infections but most are non-pathogenic (Williams *et al.*, 1983a). It is not generally accepted that Actinomycetes play a sufficient role in plant root systems (Sardi *et al.*, 1992) nevertheless, it has been reported that *Streptomyces* species are generally scattered throughout plant root systems (Atalan *et al.*, 2000; Jussila *et al.*, 2003). However, data on the activity, microbial interspecific interactions and biodiversity of *Streptomyces* in root systems are scarce. It is reported that *Streptomyces* positively affects root systems of wheat, tomato, soy, barley and perennial grasses (Trejo-Estrada *et al.*, 1998). There are numerous studies analyzing the mutualistic relationships between *Streptomyces* sp. and roots for example these bacteria suppress fungal pathogen growth in roots which affects the development and growth of plants (Adams, 1990). Moreover, the use of *Streptomyces* bacteria as biocontrol agents for inhibiting the growth of fungal pathogens has been recommended. *Streptomyces* antibiosis helps rhizosphere development in the presence of one or more diffusible components, antibiosis inhibits the development and growth of pathogens and prevents colony formation thereby preventing the development of diseases as well. Microparasitic biocontrol is quantified as the physical scatter of the fungal cell wall under the influence of a hydrolytic enzyme produced by the biocontrol agent (Satheja and Jebakumar, 2011; Pissowotzki *et al.*, 1991).

The genes encoding proteins that are responsible for synthesis and regulation of secondary metabolites which confer antibiotic resistance are occasionally present as groups (Egan *et al.*, 1998). Secondary metabolite genes are sometimes available in plasmids and participate in horizontal gene transfer in the soil as well (Omura *et al.*, 2001; Williams *et al.*, 1984).

Numerous nonselective media have been used in the past for isolation of *Streptomyces* bacteria that were known to have high activity and significant presence in the soil (Labeda and Lyons, 1991). However, selective media are currently used to eliminate undesirable microorganisms and therefore, it is important that antibiotics be added to the medium (Da Rosa *et al.*, 2013; Williams *et al.*, 1983b).

Molecular systematic methods were used by Williams *et al.* (1983a) and Crameri *et al.* (1983) to

characterize some taxa of *Streptomyces* species. Some nucleic acid fingerprinting studies have been performed in order to differentiate similar genera and species. Crameri *et al.* (1983) and Beyazova and Lechevalier (1993) digested genomic DNA with restriction enzymes to separate *Streptomyces* species thereby producing many more short segmented bands. Based on the results of their analysis in terms of distinguishing species from one another, it was found that these methods are not sensitive enough.

Beyazova and Lechevalier (1993), Labeda (1992) and (Doering-Saad *et al.*, 1992) applied Low-Frequency Restriction fragment Analysis (LFRA) in order to show the relationship among the strains of eight species which included *S. albus*, *S. ipomoea* and *S. somaliensis* that cause infections in plants and humans. Based on their results, *S. ipomoea* was divided into two subgroups. However, other test organisms were not sufficiently classified. Doering-Saad *et al.* (1992) and Kim *et al.* (1999) performed ribotyping on 40 *Streptomyces* strains which both caused and inhibited *Synchytrium endobioticum* growth. Although, the results demonstrated the variability among pathogenic strains at the high level, the results were concordant with Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) numeric and phenotypic data. In conclusion, it was reported that genes responsible for pathogenicity are scattered in mobile elements among the different *Streptomyces* strains.

It was also reported that ribotyping data are useful for differentiating between isolates such as those in the *S. thermodiasius* group (Kim *et al.*, 1998). This result is concordant with Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA PCR (RAPD-PCR) data (Clarke *et al.*, 1993). Clarke *et al.* (1993) and Steingrube *et al.* (1997) showed that 14 *Streptomyces* strains demonstrated rather strong variation by an RFLP analysis on *rDNA* genes and reported that these genes were present in all or some bands during the gel analysis, thereby showing that the analysis of *rDNA* genes by RFLP techniques are accurate as well as rapid. Fifteen clinical *Streptomyces* isolates were subjected to PCR-RFLP analysis of a gene (439 bp) that encodes a 65 kDa heat shock protein (Reed and Cummings, 1945). Test organisms were divided into five groups and a group was established with reference bacteria accurately. Therefore, it is apparent that RFLP analysis is a rapid method for identification of the clinical *Streptomyces* bacteria as well.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Soil samples were collected from the roots and peripheral regions of the plants such as such as sainfoin, bean, malus, wheat and sugar beet grown in the seeding areas of Central County, Ercig, Ahlat, Edremit, Ozalp,

Gevag, Tatvan and Muradiye over a month as representative samples from the Van Lake basin (Fig. 1). Moisture, organic matter and pH values were determined and compared between the different localities (Sveshnikova *et al.*, 1976).

For isolation of *Streptomyces* bacteria, starch-casein (Vickers *et al.*, 1984) and raffinose-histidine (Wellington and Williams, 1978) agar were used with the addition of 50 µg mL⁻¹ cycloheximide and 50 µg mL⁻¹ nystatin. Petri dishes were incubated for 14 days at 25°C and the colonies were subsequently examined both with the naked eye and under a stereoscope microscope. On each petri dish, *Streptomyces* and total Actinomycetes colonies and were counted and colony numbers in 1 g of dried soil (g/dried soil) were expressed as colony-forming units (cfu).

Streptomyces colonies were transferred to Bennet's agar petri plates and pure colonies were isolated. In total, 139 *Streptomyces* colonies were purified. These isolates were resuspended in 2 mL of glycerol (20% v/v) (Kuster, 1959) and stored at -20°C. All these colonies were injected onto the surface of oatmeal (Shirling and Gottlieb, 1966) and peptone iron agar and they were incubated at 25°C for 14 days (Jones, 1949). Next, they were examined for the color of airy and substrate mycelia, diffused

pigment production and melanin pigmentation. Based on these results, color-grouping was performed and sample strains were selected for identification studies; L-Diaminopimelic Acid (L-DAP) presence was tested to see whether the 20 *Streptomyces* isolates belonged to that genus and all strains were confirmed to be *Streptomyces* bacteria (Jones, 1949). Additionally, five reference strains of bacteria were selected (50366, 52331, 51291, N7363 and 51311A) and all isolates were tested for 45 diagnostic characteristics as described previously by Williams *et al.* (1983a).

Morphological and pigmentation properties were tested based on the medium and according to the method described by Shirling and Gottlieb (1966) which has been used for separation of test strains. Spore chain morphology and pigmentation characterization were performed in the medium containing inorganic salt starch agar (ISP4; International Streptomyces Project 4; Difco). The isolates examined were added to the ISP4 medium and were incubated for 14 days at 25°C. After determination of the airy spore and substrate mycelium color, red/orange and yellow/brown pigments were separated from the isolates and glycerol-asparagine was added into the agar medium (ISP5; Difco) and it was incubated for 7 days at 25°C.



Fig. 1: Region surrounding the Lake Van basin from where the soil samples were collected

pH-sensitive pigmentation analysis was performed as described previously by Shirling and Gottlieb (1966). For melanin production, peptone-yeast extract iron (ISP6; Difco) and tyrosine agar (ISP7; Difco) were added to the medium and the mixture was incubated for 7 days at 25°C the microbes showing brownish black coloring were identified as positive. The spore chains examined were categorized into four groups: flat, spindle, knot, spiral and opened spiral. Researchers analyzed the use of carbon sources such as L-cysteine, L-valine, L-rhamnose, D-meliositosis, sucrosis, mannitol, adonitol, xylitol, raffinose and D-melibiose. The use of nitrogenous sources such as aminobutyric acid, L-phenylalanine, L-histidine, L-hydroxyproline, threonine and L-asparagine and degradation of substances such as phenol (0.1%), sodium azide (0.01%), crystal violet (0.0001%), xanthine (0.4%), guanine (0.05% w/v), sodium chloride (7%), arbutin, elastin, guanine, pectin, xanthine and xylan was also analyzed. Moreover, the resistance of the bacteria to antibiotics such as oleandomycin (100 µg mL⁻¹), penicillin G (50 µg mL⁻¹), rifampicin (50 µg mL⁻¹) and neomycin (50 µg mL⁻¹) was also determined.

All the test results were analyzed in TAXON Software and the identification of species was performed in the software MVSP 3.1, researchers performed the Unweighted Pair-Group Method with an Arithmetic average (UPGMA) cluster analysis of similarity dendrograms as described by Sneath (1980).

For genomic DNA isolation from *Streptomyces* bacteria, the method developed by Ausubel *et al.* (1994) was used with some modifications. DNA samples were visualized using a UV transilluminator, after 20 min of agarose gel electrophoresis at 80 V. The concentrations of DNA were measured at 260 nm spectrophotometrically. The bacterial genomic DNA samples were used as a template in PCR with the 27F (5'AAGGAGGTGA TCCATCC3') and R1492 (5'TACGGCTACCTTGTTA GCACTT3') primers and 16S *rDNA* gene site was amplified (on a Perkin Elmer DNA Thermal Cycler). The amplification was carried out in a 50 µL volume. The thermal cycling conditions were as follows: initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min; 30 cycles at 95°C for 30 sec, 55°C for 90 sec and 72°C for 120 sec; final extension at 72°C for 5 min. The amplified products were examined using 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. The PCR products were purified on Nucleotrap columns and those products were incubated with Bsp143I, HaeIII, MnlI and SphI (Fermentas) enzymes at 37°C for 2 h. DNA bands were excised out and resolved further at 100 V for 20 min via horizontal electrophoresis in a 4% NuSieve agarose gel (FMC Bioproducts, Rockland, ME, USA). The bands

were visualized using a Gel BIO-PRINT 0028A imaging system and the band patterns were analyzed using BioRad quantity one software and the results were presented as a dendrogram using UPGMA coefficients (Kim *et al.*, 1996; Rintala *et al.*, 2002; Lanoot *et al.*, 2005; Guo *et al.*, 2008).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The pH of soil samples acquired from roots and peripheral regions of plants ranged between 7.6-8.55 indicating neutral soil type. Moisture ratios varied between 1.31 and 20.9% and most samples had low moisture content. Organic matter content had very low ratios in all soil samples and generally varied between 0.1 and 4.4%.

The quantities of *Streptomyces* and *Actinomycetes* bacteria isolated from all soil samples are summarized in Table 1. *Streptomyces* colonies growing on starch-casein agar and raffinose-histidine agar were isolated from the others based on the characteristic micelle and pigment patterns (Fig. 2). In soil samples collected from the root section of the malus plant, the highest count of *Streptomyces* bacteria was found to be 48×10⁵ cfu g⁻¹ of dried soil in the starch-casein agar medium.

On starch-casein agar, the total bacterial count was found to be 80.19×10⁷ and 70.3×10⁷ cfu g/dried soil from the soil sample that was acquired from the root and periphery of wheat and beet, respectively. The lowest bacterial count was found to be 0.032×10⁷ cfu g/dried soil in soil sample number 38. The highest count of *Streptomyces* colonies was 77.5×10⁵ cfu g/dried soil in the soil sample collected from the root of the malus tree and cultured in raffinose-histidine agar medium. The total microorganism count for the soil sample collected from the peripheral regions of wheat was determined to be 9.62×10⁷ cfu g⁻¹ dried soil.

Based on the morphological and culture characteristics, the 139 isolated *Streptomyces* bacteria were divided into 39 color groups. Some groups consisted of more than five test organisms and the others contained less than five. In the 1st color group, there were a total of 16 isolates while in the other groups there were fewer. Those isolates were obtained from various habitat types and in different periods when they were isolated these isolates were generally present in different groups.

Using the phenotypic and chemical test results, the identification of isolates was performed in the TAXON Software (Table 2). In order to perform the diagnosis, researchers used the characteristics described in the study by Williams *et al.* (1983b) and in the 4th volume of

Table 1: The results of the total Actinomycetes and Streptomyces bacterial counts isolated from the soil (cfu: colony-forming units)

Isolates	Starch-casein agar (cfu g ⁻¹)		Raffinose-histidine agar (cfu g ⁻¹)	
	Streptomyces (×10 ⁵)	Total Actinomycetes (×10 ⁵)	Streptomyces (×10 ⁵)	Total Actinomycetes (×10 ⁵)
AA	3.04	15.700	-	114.485
AB	2.02	3.500	-	695.051
BA	1.01	3.900	2.148	305.048
BB	2.02	7.660	-	696.035
DA	1.00	10.490	-	625.393
DB	2.01	13.420	-	548.523
B1B	4.04	6.830	-	868.391
B2B	4.03	3.820	-	335.164
B2A	1.00	4.430	1.046	27.196
B4B	1.02	3.710	-	399.092
C1	2.03	80.190	-	912.887
C2	2.01	1.720	3.282	707.877
C3	2.01	7.930	4.255	897.872
C4	3.04	4.440	1.191	331.346
C5	2.01	70.300	6.593	316.483
C6	2.02	8.330	2.301	163.406
C7	3.02	2.850	1.086	852.173
C8	2.01	4.100	1.081	800.010
C9	6.06	1.940	2.244	20.202
C10	2.01	6.000	5.500	853.685
C11	1.01	5.750	1.106	977.876
C12	1.00	4.670	1.062	845.908
C13	1.01	12.190	3.671	621.787
C14	1.00	11.220	-	153.508
C15	1.01	10.650	1.114	178.372
C16	5.05	11.830	2.265	348.810
C17	20.24	8.490	2.155	281.250
C18	-	8.900	-	131.090
C19	2.02	3.630	-	141.906
C20	30.30	4.890	3.325	360.801
C21	-	1.940	2.214	236.987
C22	2.02	4.950	-	527.027
C23	2.02	7.290	1.140	342.075
C24	1.01	2.180	77.448	583.143
C25	1.01	13.300	3.412	286.689
D1	2.02	0.470	3.325	47.671
D2	3.04	0.820	2.159	56.155
D3	1.01	0.032	1.094	107.221
D4	4.04	0.620	1.096	154.605
D5	1.02	1.560	2.173	81.521

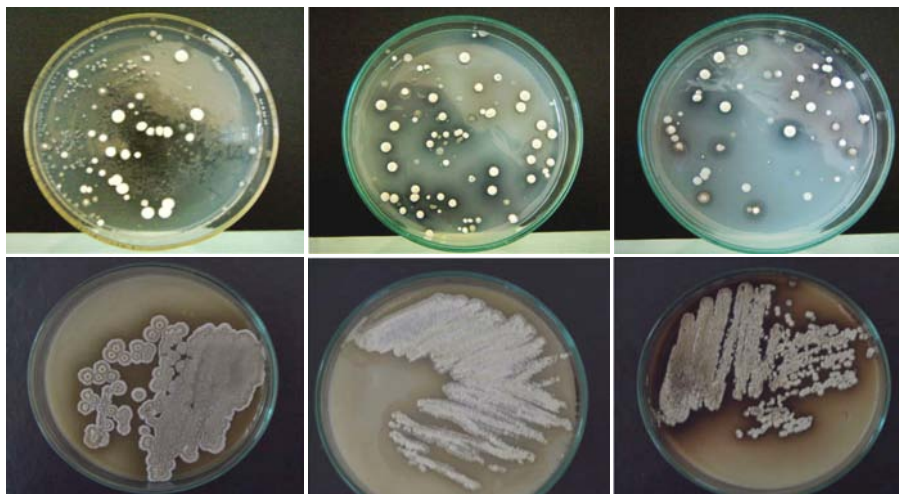


Fig. 2: Isolation and color group photos of Streptomyces

Table 2: Identification of Streptomyces isolates according to the frequency matrix

Isolates No.	Taxa	Willcox probability	Range of taxa	Diameter of taxa	Taxa group	The most likely taxa, name of species	Result
*5131A 1A	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	0.997745	0.5715	0.4533	1A	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
*50366 42	<i>S. rimosus</i>	0.857452	0.5285	0.3993	42	<i>S. rimosus</i>	✓
*52331 1A	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	0.922476	0.5294	0.3442	1A	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
*51291 12	<i>S. rochei</i>	0.883699	0.6047	0.4533	12	<i>S. rochei</i>	✓
*N7363 32	<i>S. violaceusniger</i>	0.999918	0.5074	0.3442	32	<i>S. violaceusniger</i>	✓
A2B3C	New	0.997424	0.5529	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
A1A4C	New	0.838470	0.6329	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
E1505	New	0.942642	0.6070	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F1705	New	0.991716	0.4952	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
E1205	New	0.999790	0.5401	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F1105	New	0.925791	0.5529	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
B2A5B	New	0.984550	0.5226	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F145B	New	0.999506	0.5296	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
A1A3F	New	0.975026	0.5226	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C904H	New	0.999608	0.5775	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C204C	New	0.871774	0.5653	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
D155C	New	0.998395	0.5049	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F1805	New	0.963340	0.5136	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C204B	New	0.975939	0.4952	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C904I	New	0.995725	0.5649	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C804I	New	0.995984	0.5503	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C164I	New	0.987070	0.5244	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
D905C	New	0.919288	0.5524	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
B2B5C	New	0.970809	0.5181	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F205A	New	0.946165	0.5444	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F705A	New	0.999676	0.5379	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
A2B3E	New	0.999140	0.4445	0.4044	37	<i>S. griseoflavus</i>	✓
D205D	New	0.954224	0.5086	0.4044	37	<i>S. griseoflavus</i>	✓
A2A3B	New	0.826566	0.5520	0.4044	37	<i>S. griseoflavus</i>	✓
E195A	New	0.999849	0.4695	0.4044	37	<i>S. griseoflavus</i>	✓
F405A	New	0.995939	0.5504	0.3993	1C	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
F205I	New	0.830739	0.5549	0.3993	1C	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
C1304	New	0.941998	0.4827	0.3919	3	<i>S. atroolivaceus</i>	✓
D1005	New	0.890337	0.6032	0.3919	3	<i>S. atroolivaceus</i>	✓
E3105	New	0.915418	0.5258	0.3919	3	<i>S. atroolivaceus</i>	✓
B2B4B	New	0.997783	0.5062	0.3919	3	<i>S. atroolivaceus</i>	✓
E105B	New	0.988081	0.4990	0.3742	10	<i>S. fulvissimus</i>	✓
C204A	New	0.957113	0.5138	0.3742	10	<i>S. fulvissimus</i>	✓
D3105	New	0.859470	0.4859	0.3742	10	<i>S. fulvissimus</i>	✓
A4B3G	New	0.964454	0.4899	0.4485	5	<i>S. exfoliatus</i>	✓
C804B	New	0.921145	0.5444	0.4533	19	<i>S. lavendulae</i>	✓
D155D	New	0.986255	0.5164	0.3919	3	<i>S. rochei</i>	✓
C204I	New	0.741117	0.5138	0.3742	10	<i>S. fulvissimus</i>	✓
D905I	New	0.617339	0.5181	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C804A	New	0.729232	0.5756	0.4143	1B	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
D165B	New	0.727986	0.5653	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C904A	New	0.566634	0.5378	0.4313	18	<i>S. cyaneus</i>	✓
E805A	New	0.792110	0.5322	0.3864	12	<i>S. rochei</i>	✓
D1705	New	0.531830	0.5405	0.4313	18	<i>S. cyaneus</i>	✓
D905D	New	0.694308	0.5113	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
E1105	New	0.349345	0.5801	0.3839	29	<i>S. iydicus</i>	✓
A1A3A	New	0.679325	0.5715	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
A104B	New	0.483349	0.5206	0.4485	5	<i>S. exfoliatus</i>	✓
D905B	New	0.664212	0.4923	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
F205B	New	0.730062	0.5385	0.3993	1C	<i>S. albidoflavus</i>	✓
C204D	New	0.502546	0.5591	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
C904B	New	0.457328	0.5568	0.3864	12	<i>S. rochei</i>	✓
C164B	New	0.553678	0.4904	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
B2B3A	New	0.486684	0.6218	0.4533	19	<i>S. diastaticus</i>	✓
B2B3L	New	0.759959	0.5336	0.3919	3	<i>S. atroolivaceus</i>	✓

Bergey's manual. In the case of isolates with high Willcox probability, the low taxonomic interval value, taxon diameter and the diagnosis were determined. Furthermore, the data were analyzed in the MVSP 3.1 Software and

similarity dendrograms were constructed using cluster analysis (Fig. 3). The genomic DNA isolated from Streptomyces bacteria's 16S rDNA gene region was amplified and digested with the MnlI, HaeIII, BspI 43I

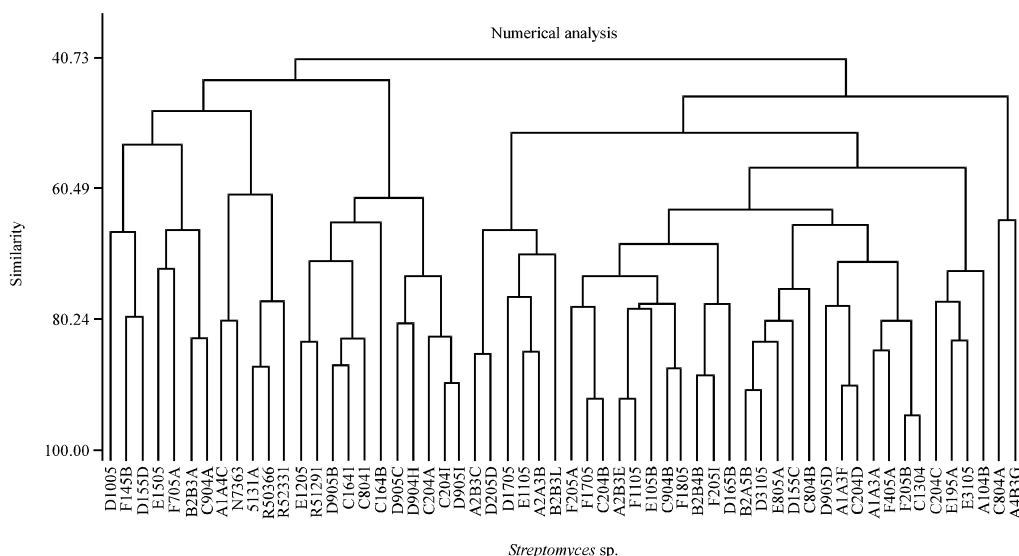


Fig. 3: The similarity dendrogram of phenotypic and chemical test results of *Streptomyces* bacteria. The data were analyzed in the Multi-Variate Statistical Package (MVSP) Software

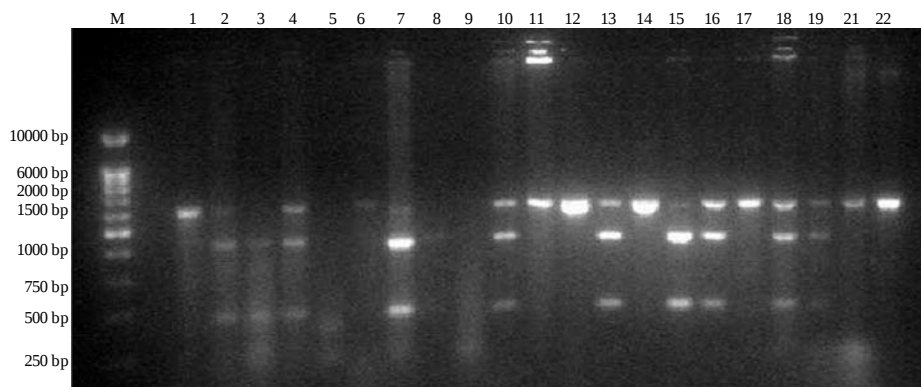


Fig. 4: Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) band profiles of the *16S rDNA* gene

and *SphI* enzymes individually and restriction maps were generated (Fig. 4) digesting the *16S rDNA* gene region generally resulted in two or three bands. Those bands contained 1000 and 500 bp DNA fragments. The results of UPGMA analyses were presented as a dendrogram and interspecies similarity ratios and RFLP profiles were determined.

Based on the dendrogram with the ratio of 75% similarity, D3105 and E105B were in the same group whereas C145B and E805A in the second group. Similarly, A1A3F, A2B3E and C904H test organisms formed another group and the rest of the test organisms all formed only one group (Fig. 5).

In this study, the biodiversity of *Streptomyces* bacteria isolated from the soil samples was determined following which an RFLP profile of *16S rDNA* gene was constructed. The 139 isolated *Streptomyces* bacteria were

divided into 39 color groups based on spore surface and melanin pigment production. Sixteen isolates formed a brown substrate mycelium and a white airy mycelium while others generally were assigned to the cream and yellow color group. The results demonstrated that various isolates exist in the soil samples collected from the roots and peripheral region of agricultural plant species.

Colony isolation was performed and the numbers of *Streptomyces* bacteria from different plant roots were determined. The largest count of Actinomycetes bacteria was found to be 977.876×10^7 cfu g/dried soil in the culture of the soil sample from root and periphery of *Phaseolus vulgaris* in raffinose-histidine agar medium. The bacterial count of *Streptomyces* sp. found to be 77.448×10^5 cfu g/dried soil in the soil sample taken from the root and periphery of the malus and cultured on the raffinose-histidine agar medium.

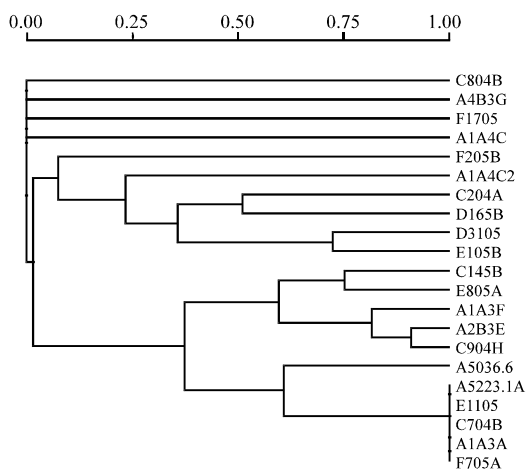


Fig. 5: An Unweighted Pair Group Method with an Arithmetic average (UPGMA) dendrogram. The data are based on Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) analysis of the *16S rRNA* gene

In general, Actinomycetes and Streptomyces bacterial counts were the highest in the raffinose-histidine agar medium. Raffinose-histidine agar was found to be especially suitable for Streptomyces isolation in the numerical taxonomic studies and the data are concordant with those previous studies (Vickers *et al.*, 1984). In the soil types collected from different plant roots and peripheral regions, no significant differences were detected.

Annaliesa reported that in Brazil, researchers selected soy bean from two distinct localities and isolated microbes from the soil and Streptomyces bacteria were not associated directly with a plant type and some of them synthesized the streptomycin antibiotic (Huddleston *et al.*, 1997). It could be said that this plant had a negligible impact on the growth or development of Streptomyces bacteria. However, it was apparent that within various periods, small numerical differences were present.

The content ratio for the Actinomycetes count was found to be the highest in soil samples with an organic content of 3.1%. Moreover, in concordance with the study conducted by Hagedorn (1976), the results confirm that the largest numbers of microorganisms tend to live in the habitats that are rich in organic matter. In the other soil samples, the Actinomycetes bacterial count was generally found to be correlated with organic matter content. In summary, a higher bacterial count might be detected in soils with higher content of organic matter. The results suggest that the percentage of organic matter is an important environmental factor that determines the

variability and development of the bacteria. In addition, it is also known that Streptomyces bacteria are isolated in defined nutrient environments formulated to isolate nonselective and other bacterial types. Indeed, Streptomyces bacteria were detected in the highest numbers in the starch-casein agar medium to which the antibiotic novobiocin was added this formulation has also been suggested for isolation of Actinomadura bacteria (Satheer and Jebakumar, 2011; Kim *et al.*, 1998; Svishnikova *et al.*, 1976).

The isolates chosen for the final diagnosis were analyzed in the TAXON Software and it was found that five Streptomyces isolates selected as reference strains were identified accurately (Williams *et al.*, 1983b). The Streptomyces major group frequency matrix showed that 80% of Streptomyces were identified accurately (Atalan, 1994, 1995). In a diagnosis study, the Willcox probability should be analyzed by considering the standard error ratio criteria. In the present study, Willcox probability over 80% and use of TAXON diameter criteria were considered significant. Nevertheless as stated above, the criteria can be partially changed.

Using frequency matrixes, Williams *et al.* (1983a) performed the diagnosis of neutrophilic Streptomyces isolates that had been isolated from different habitats (Chronakova *et al.*, 2010; Goodfellow and O'Donnell, 1989; Stanton, 1984). Alkalotolerant and thermophilic Streptomyces isolates were successfully detected (Sardi *et al.*, 1992). In the study, the characterization of all Streptomyces isolates was performed in the same way. In addition, the data were analyzed in the MVSP 3.1 Software and similarity dendrograms were constructed using UPGMA cluster analysis.

It is estimated that only 0.001-15% of all microorganisms present in the natural habitats have been isolated and characterized. Although, Streptomyces bacteria are generally cultured easily, selectivity of the medium is important (Goodfellow and Simpson, 1987).

Streptomyces bacteria were isolated from soil samples collected from roots and peripheral regions of plants after their identification for phenotypic characterization, the results should be supported by genetic, serological and chemotaxonomic results. For this purpose, after amplification of the 16S rDNA region with appropriate primers from Streptomyces test isolates, RFLP analysis was performed. A major part of the *16S rDNA* gene is conserved but some parts are variable and RFLP is effective in the diagnosis of the species within Streptomyces (Metsä-Ketela *et al.*, 2002).

The use of macromolecules in the phylogenetic analysis has generated substantial amounts of reliable data for characterization of identified bacteria. It is known that rDNA (5S, 16S and 23S) is helpful, particularly for

demonstrating the phylogenetic relationships based on the rRNA of bacteria. Because in the structure of 16S rRNA is highly conserved, the results obtained are reliable for determining the phylogenetic relationships among species. Although, it has been established that the similarity between 16S rRNA genes is <97% (Stackebrandt and Embley, 2000; Stackebrandt and Goebel, 1994; Beffa *et al.*, 1996), researchers report a technique for RFLP analysis that produces the similar results.

CONCLUSION

In the study, based on a RFLP analysis some strains were found to be present in the isolated soil samples in different groups but others are detected only in the one group. Based upon the similarity ratio of the dendrogram constructed as a result of the RFLP analysis, four multi-member groups (two or more members) and six 1-member groups were compiled.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Grant Number TBAG-2344(103T156).

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