

Sensitivity of micromycetes of the genus *Fusarium* Link, causative agents of rot of the core of apple fruits, to the active substances of modern fungicides

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Abstract. As a result of the studies, species-specific reactions of strains of the genus *Fusarium* Link of relative sensitivity to the active substances of chemical fungicides, *in vitro*, were noted. The drugs showed both very high biological effectiveness (BE) (100%) and very low (0 %). In suppressing the species *F. sporotrichioides*, the best result was shown by a mixed preparation based on fluopyram and pyrimethanil, as well as single-component - mefentrifluconazole and cyprodinil, for the species *F. oxysporum* - all three mixed preparations: fluopyram + pyrimethanil; tebuconazole + fluopyram and thiram + difenoconazole. It can be preliminarily concluded that the same active substances and their mixtures exhibit unequal activity against different strains of the same species from the genus *Fusarium*, the causative agent of apple core rot.

1 Introduction

In the conditions of modern horticulture, plant protection from diseases and pests is one of the important elements of fruit production technology. More than 30 dangerous pathogens develop on an apple tree, which annually under favorable conditions can lead to a loss of yield or a significant decrease in its quality [1-3].

Changing weather conditions increase the harmfulness of the dominant diseases, and also lead to the emergence of new harmful species. The epiphytotic development of diseases such as scab and powdery mildew is observed almost every year in the gardens of the Krasnodar Region. In the last 15 years, the prevalence of pathogens of the genus *Fusarium* Link has increased in the region; they are found both in the root rot pathocomplex and in the apple fruit core rot pathocomplex, and their harmfulness increases every year [4-9].

As you know, the main method of protecting an apple tree from mycopathogens is chemical, however, the constant use of fungicides of chemical origin leads to a decrease in the effectiveness of drugs, the appearance of resistance in pathogens and a violation of the ecological balance in the agrocenosis of an apple orchard. To develop protective measures,

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it is necessary to identify the most dangerous and new harmful objects, as well as to select drugs with high efficiency and, preferably, low consumption rates. It is not always possible to assess the effectiveness of chemical inhibition of a particular fungus species; in addition, as mentioned above, many phytopathogens can acquire a certain level of resistance to fungicides. For this reason, it becomes necessary to study the effectiveness of drugs in relation to certain species using laboratory methods and fungi pure cultures. The *in vitro* method allows in a fairly short time to assess the effectiveness of chemicals against pathogens [10-11].

Purpose of the study: to determine the effectiveness of fungicides of chemical origin *in vitro* against strains of some species of the genus *Fusarium* isolated in 2021, causative agents of rot of the core of apple fruits.

2 Materials and methods

The studies were carried out in 2021 in the laboratory of biotechnological control of phytopathogens and phytophages of the Federal State Budgetary Scientific Institution SKFNTSSVV. The objects of the study were the active substances of modern fungicides, consisting of one or two components, under the numbers:

- 1) 125 g / l fluopyram + 375 g / l pyrimethanil;
- 2) 200 g / l tebuconazole + 200 g / l fluopyram;
- 3) 400 g / l of thiram + 30 g / l of difenoconazole;
- 4) 800 g / kg of thiram;
- 5) 75 g / l of mefentrifluconazole.

Their biological effectiveness was assessed in the work. Control - distilled, autoclaved water, standard - active ingredient cyprodinil containing 750 g / kg in the preparation. Solutions of active substances of fungicides were prepared from the calculation of the concentrations recommended by the manufacturer for use, according to the method of Chekmarev V.V. [12]. Aqueous solutions of the preparations were prepared on the day of the experiment and used fresh. In each Petri dish, 300 µl of an aqueous solution of the drug or water was applied, evenly distributed with a sterile glass spatula over the surface of nutrient agar.

In the experiment, we used monoconidial strains of *Fusarium sporotrichioides* and *Fusarium oxysporum*, pathogens of apple core rot, isolated from industrial garden plantations of the Krasnodar Region in 2021 from symptomatic fruits. The strains were inoculated with a small piece of air mycelium injected into the center of a Petri dish on a PGA medium (potato-glucose agar) in triplicate. The obtained crops were placed in a thermostat for 7 days and incubated at 25 ° C. All procedures related to manipulation with pure cultures were performed under sterile conditions. The criterion for evaluating the biological effectiveness (BE) of the preparations was the average growth rate (cm) of the fungal colony (aerial mycelium), which was analyzed according to the generally accepted method [12].

3 Results and discussion

As a result of the research, it was found that the studied active substances of the fungicides showed different activity in relation to the analyzed species of the genus *Fusarium* (table 1).

On the 7th day of fungi growth, the diameter of the culture ranged from 0 cm to 7.8 cm. The *F. sporotrichioides* strain turned out to be the fastest growing culture in the experiment. It should be noted that the culture of the pathogen under the influence of drugs

in most cases did not change its morphological and cultural characteristics, with the exception of the standard (№ 6), mixed preparation № 3 and mefentrifluconazole (№ 5).

Under the influence of cyprodinil, the color of the aerial mycelium changed, instead of pink it was white. On a mixed preparation, the strain released a brown pigment into the medium; Mefentrifluconazole led to the development of a denser mycelium, and also changed the color of the edge of the culture to dark red, in contrast to light pink or beige in the control (Figure 1).

Table 1. Influence of fungicides on the growth of fungi of the genus *Fusarium in vitro*, 7th day after sowing.

№	Experience Option	<i>Fusarium sporotrichioides</i>		<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	
		Culture diameter, cm	BE,%	Culture diameter, cm	BE,%
	Control	7.6	-	5.5	-
1	125 g / l fluopyram + 375 g / l pyrimethanil	0.0	100	1.6	70.9
2	200 g / l tebuconazole + 200 g / l fluopyram	4.5	40.7	1.2	78.1
3	400 g / l thiram + 30 g / l difenoconazole	3.2	57.8	1.3	76.3
4	800 g / kg thiram	7.8	0	3.7	32.7
5	75 g / l mefentrifluconazole	2.0	73.6	2.0	63.6
6	750 g / kg cyprodinil (standard)	2.2	71.0	2.2	60.0

The most effective against this fungus was shown by a mixed preparation based on fluopyram and pyrimethanil, which suppressed its growth by 100 %, which turned out to be higher than the efficiency of the standard represented by cyprodinil. Analyzing the effectiveness of the mixed preparation, it can be assumed that the greatest contribution to it is made by the component - pyrimethanil, belonging to the same chemical class as the active substance of the standard - anilinopyrimidines. In addition, the second component of the mixture, fluopyram, was present in the composition of another formulation (№ 2), together with tebuconazole, which showed a biological effectiveness below 50 %. The third formulation containing thiram and difenoconazole was slightly more effective than the second formulation. It can be assumed that its activity was determined exclusively by the triazole component, since thiram, in one-component preparation № 4, had no effect on the growth of the *F. sporotrichioides* isolate. Efficiency slightly higher than the control was also shown by a new promising active ingredient from the class of triazoles - mefentrifluconazole.

In relation to the *F. oxysporum* isolate, all three mixed preparations showed the highest efficiency, while the efficiency of the standard fungicide was higher. The lowest activity was noted for the variant with the active ingredient thiram, as well as for the previous isolate of the genus *Fusarium*.

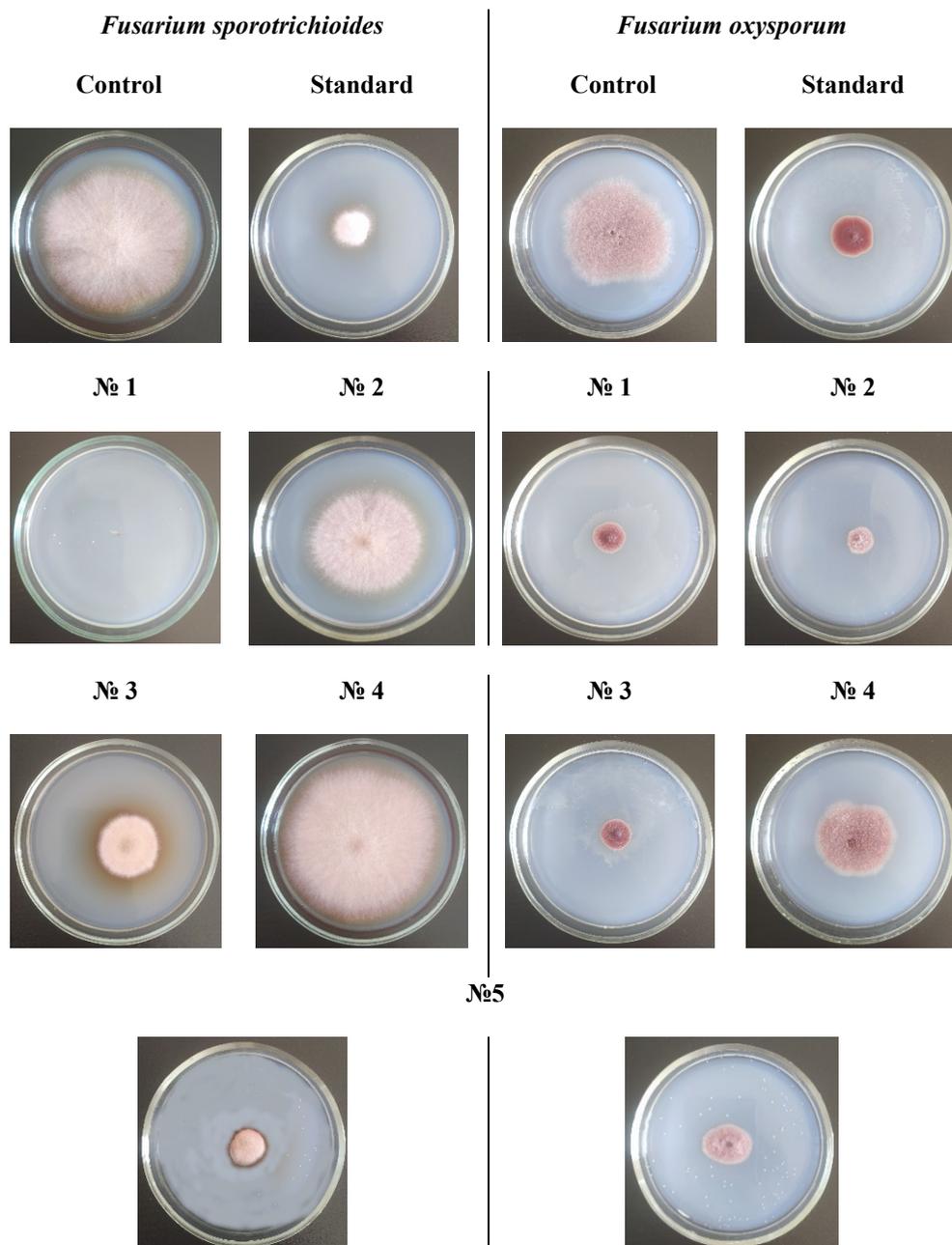


Fig. 1. Influence of active ingredients of fungicides on the growth of fungi of the genus *Fusarium* *in vitro*, 7th day after sowing

However, the effectiveness of suppressing the growth of *F. oxysporum* culture of all formulations was insufficient.

The *F. oxysporum* culture under the influence of almost all drugs changed its morphological and cultural characteristics. Variants of formulations № 1, 2, 3 and 6 were characterized by a change in the color of the aerial mycelium from pink to dark red and its

denser texture. Under the influence of thiram, the morphological and cultural characteristics of this isolate were indistinguishable from the control (Figure 1).

It should be noted that we have already noted species-specific reactions regarding the sensitivity to chemical fungicides of other strains of the genus *Fusarium*, causative agents of apple core rot, isolated in 2019-2020. Fungicide Cidely-Top, DC (125 g / l difenoconazole + 15 g / l ciflufenamide) inhibited the growth of strains *F. sporotrichioides*, *F. semitectum* and 83 % *F. oxysporum* by 95-96 %. Fungicide Luna Tranquility, SC (125 g / l fluopyram + 375 g / l pyrimethanil) showed 100% antifungal activity against strains of the species *F. avenacium*, *F. oxysporum* and medium against *F. solani*. The drug Tirada, CE (400 g / l of thiram + 30 g / l of difenoconazole) suppressed the growth of strains of all the listed micromycetes by 98-100 %. A higher efficiency against a greater number of species of causative agents of rot of the core of apple fruits was noted in preparations containing a compound from the group of triazoles as one of the active substances [10].

4 Conclusion

As a result of the studies, species-specific reactions were noted regarding the sensitivity to the active substances of fungicides of chemical genesis of strains of the genus *Fusarium in vitro*. The active substances showed both very high biological effectiveness (100 %) and low, or its complete absence (0 %).

In suppressing the species *F. sporotrichioides*, the best result was shown by a mixed fungicide based on fluopyram and pyrimethanil, as well as single-component preparations based on the active ingredients mefentrifluconazole and cyprodinil, for the species *F. oxysporum* - all three mixtures containing: fluopyram + pyrimethanil; tebuconazole + fluopyram; thiram + difenoconazole. It can be preliminarily concluded that the same active substances and their mixtures exhibit unequal activity against different strains of the same species from the genus *Fusarium*, the causative agent of apple core rot.

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