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## Nano-particles from *Cheatomium brasiliense* against brown spot of rice

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**Abstract** *Chaetomium brasiliense* was used in this study to control rice brown spot disease pathogen, *Drechslera oryzae*. The result of bi-culture test showed that *Ch. brasiliense* gave the highest percentage of growth inhibition at 26.38% and had the highest spore inhibition at 23.81%. In crude extracts test, it was found that crude methanol extract obtained from *Ch. brasiliense* at 1000 ppm showed the highest inhibitory effect on colony growth and spore production. *Ch. brasiliense* gave a growth inhibition and spore inhibition rates at 83.50 and 99.78% respectively. The effective dose (ED<sub>50</sub>) on growth and spore inhibition of *Ch. brasiliense* was 80.54 and 0.35 µg/ml, respectively. It was also found that Nano-particles obtained from crude methanol extract of *Ch. brasiliense* (nano CBM) at 10 ppm had the best inhibitory effect in terms of growth and spore inhibition. Nano CBM can inhibit the growth at 70.00% and spore production at 79.92%. The ED<sub>50</sub> values for spore inhibition of *Ch. brasiliense* was 2.86 µg/ml.

**Keywords:** *Chaetomium brasiliense*, biological control, rice disease

### Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L) is the most widely consumed staple food for a large part of the world's human population, especially in Asia and the West Indies. It is the grain with the third-highest worldwide production (FAOSTAT, 2017). *Drechslera oryzae* is a fungus that reports to cause brown leaf spot of rice. This is one of the important plant pathogen causing a widespread disease leading to yield losses. Brown spot of rice can infect the seedlings and mature plants. The symptom appeared as blight on seedling where grown from infected seeds (Rice Department, 2018).

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This objective was to investigate the morphology of *Chaetomium brasiliense* and *Drechslera oryzae*, pathogenicity test. Testing crude extracts and nano-particles from *Chaetomium brasiliense* to control brown leaf spot of rice var RD47 were also conducted.

## **Materials and methods**

### ***Isolation of pathogen and pathogenicity test***

*Drechslera oryzae* causing brown leaf spot of rice were isolated from seed rice var. RD47. Rice seeds were soaked in sterilized water and then in 1% clorax for 3 min and then sterilized water. All seeds were moved to water agar and sub-cultured to PDA until get pure culture. Morphology was observed under compound microscope.

### **Morphology study of the *Drechslera oryzae***

Isolate of *Drechslera oryzae* was morphological identified. The characters of *D. oryzae* were determined under compound microscope.

### **Pathogenicity test**

The experimental design was done by Completely Randomization with four repeated times. The pathogen isolate was proved for pathogenicity followed Koch's Postulate. The conidia suspension of  $5 \times 10^6$  conidia/ml. was used for inoculation. The 15 days of rice seedlings var. RD47 were inoculated sprayed onto the wounded leaves (3 leaves/seedling). The inoculated leaves were covered with plastic sheets, then observed the infected leaves. The leaves with spraying sterilize distilled water were done to serve as controls.

### ***Biological control of Drechslera oryzae***

#### **Strain of antagonist used for experiments**

*Chaetomium brasiliense* was kindly provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kasem Soyong.

#### **Dual culture test**

*Ch. brasiliense* was tested to control *D. oryzae*. Each fungus was separately cultured on PDA at room temperature for seven days. A 0.5 cm diameter sterilized cork borer was used to transferred agar plugs from peripheral colony of each fungus to 9-cm diameter PDA plates, and put in the opposite site to each other. Control plates were transferred each fungus alone to PDA plates.

The tested plates were incubated at room temperature for 30 days. Abnormal spores were observed under compound microscope and took photograph. Colony diameter, number of conidia of pathogenic fungus were collected. The growth or conidia inhibition of pathogen was calculated using formula below:

$$\text{Inhibition (\%)} = \frac{A-B}{A} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

A = colony diameter or conidia number of pathogen in control

B = colony diameter or conidia number of pathogen in control in dual culture plate

The data were statistically computed and means were compared by using Duncan's New Multiple Range Test at P=0.01 and P=0.05.

### ***Biological activity of antagonist against pathogen (crude extract test)***

Crude extracts from *Ch. brasiliense* was tested against *D. oryzae*. The fungus was cultured in potato dextrose broth at room temperature for one month. The biomass was collected, ground with the electrical blender and dissolved with solvents. The solvents were then separately evaporated *in vacuo* to yield crude hexane, crude ethyl acetate, and crude methanol extracts, respectively.

The crude extracts were assayed to inhibit the tested pathogen, *D. oryzae*. The experimental design was conducted by using two factors factorial experiment in Completely Randomization with four repeated times. Factor A1 was crude hexane, A2 crude ethyl acetate and A3 crude methanol. Factor B1 was 0 µg/ml (control), B2 = 10 µg/ml, B3 = 50 µg/ml, B4 = 100 µg/ml, B5 = 500 µg/ml and B6 = 1,000 µg/ml. Each crude extract was dissolved in 2% dimethyl sulfoxide and added to PDA before autoclaved at 121 °C (15 psi) for 20 minutes. A sterilized 3-mm diameter cork borer was used to remove agar plugs from peripheral colony to the center of 5 cm dia Petri dishes of PDA containing crude extract at each concentration. Incubation was done until grown full plates. The number of spore was collected and calculated the inhibition. The effective dose (ED<sub>50</sub>) was calculated using Probit analysis.

### ***Testing nano-particles from Chaetomium brasiliense to control brown leaf spot***

Nano-particles were performed using the method of Dar and Soyong (2014) to get Nano-CBH, Nano-CBE and Nano-CBM. Two factors factorial experiment in Completely Randomized Design was conducted with four

replications . Factor A was Nano-CBH, Nano-CBE and Nano-CBM and factor B was 0, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 $\mu$ g/ml. Each Nano-particle was dissolved in 2% dimethyl sulfoxide, mixed into PDA medium, and autoclaved at 121 $^{\circ}$ C, 15 lbs/inch $^2$  for 30 min. The colony of *D. oryzae* was cut at the peripheral colony with sterilized cock borer (3mm), transferred to the middle of PDA incorporated with nano-particles. The plates were incubated at room temperature until the pathogen in control growing full plate. Abnormal spores were observed under compound microscope. Colony diameter and the number of spores were recorded. Inhibition was computed and the effective dose (ED $_{50}$ ) was calculated using Probit analysis.

## Results

### *Isolation of pathogen and pathogenicity test*

Rice pathogen was isolated from rice seeds of RD 47. It was found *Drechslera oryzae*. Pure culture showed brown color when mature, septate mycelia, and conidia with many septates or cells on one conidia (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** *Drechslera oryzae* on PDA medium after 7 days (A), *Drechslera oryzae* conidiophore (B) and *Drechslera oryzae* conidium (C)



**Figure 2.** Pathogenicity test of *Drechslera oryzae* on rice. The inoculated control (left) and inoculated leaves (right) after 7 days

The pathogenicity of the isolate was confirmed; the symptoms appear in form of minute light brown or brownish red spots and these leaf spots become dark brown with a surrounding halo region (Figure 2).

**Biological control of *Drechslera oryzae***

*Ch. brasiliense* resulted to inhibit mycelial growth of *D. oryzae* which averaged colony was 6.62 cm when compared to control plate (9.00 cm). It significantly inhibited the mycelia growth of 26.38%. *Ch. brasiliense* also expressed significant spore inhibition of *D. oryzae* 23.81% as seen in Figure 3, and Table 2].



**Figure 3.** Bi-culture antagonistic test between *Drechslera oryzae* and *Chaetomium brasiliense*

**Table 1.** *Chaetomium brasiliense* against *Drechslera oryzae* in bi-culture tests

	<i>Chaetomium brasiliense</i>		Growth Inhibition percent	C.V. (%)
	Control	Bi-culture		
Colony growth(cm)	9.00 <sup>a1</sup>	6.62 <sup>b</sup>	26.38	0.55
Spore number (10 <sup>7</sup> /ml)	22.2 <sup>a</sup>	16.90 <sup>b</sup>	23.81	7.24

1/: Means four repeated experiments and followed by the same letter are not significantly differed by DMRT at P=0.01.

**Biological activity of antagonist against pathogen**

Crude ethyl acetate extract of *Chaetomium brasiliense* gave significantly highest inhibition of *Drechslera oryzae* which the ED<sub>50</sub> of 0.24 µg/ml, and followed by crude hexane and methanol extracts which the ED<sub>50</sub> of 0.32 and

0.35 µg/ml, respectively. Crude methanol extract at 1,000 ppm showed significantly highest spore inhibition of 99.78 %, and followed by crude hexane (99.77 %) and ethyl acetate extracts (99.60 %). Crude methanol extract significantly inhibited colony growth by 83.50 %, and followed by the crude ethyl acetate (82 %) and hexane extracts (74.50 %) as seen in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Crude extracts of *Chaetomium brasiliense* testing to inhibit *Drechslera oryzae*

Crude extracts	Concentration (ppm)	Colony diameter (cm)	Growth inhibition (%)	ED <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)	Number of spore <sup>1/</sup>	Spore inhibition (%)	ED <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)
Crude hexane	0	5.00 <sup>al</sup>	-		185.06 <sup>a</sup>	-	
	10	3.50 <sup>c</sup>	30.00 <sup>k</sup>		22.78 <sup>bc</sup>	87.65 <sup>e</sup>	
	50	3.30 <sup>de</sup>	34.00 <sup>ij</sup>	93.09	20.35 <sup>bcd</sup>	88.99 <sup>de</sup>	0.32
	100	2.80 <sup>h</sup>	44.00 <sup>h</sup>		12.23 <sup>de</sup>	93.34 <sup>c</sup>	
	500	1.53 <sup>j</sup>	69.50 <sup>d</sup>		0.76 <sup>f</sup>	99.58 <sup>a</sup>	
Crude ethyl acetate	1000	1.27 <sup>k</sup>	74.50 <sup>c</sup>		0.40 <sup>f</sup>	99.77 <sup>a</sup>	
	0	5.00 <sup>a</sup>	-		185.06 <sup>a</sup>	-	
	10	3.22 <sup>e</sup>	35.50 <sup>i</sup>		20.56 <sup>bcd</sup>	88.81 <sup>e</sup>	
	50	2.47 <sup>g</sup>	50.50 <sup>g</sup>	85.77	18.13 <sup>cd</sup>	90.18 <sup>d</sup>	0.24
	100	2.12 <sup>i</sup>	57.50 <sup>e</sup>		12.76 <sup>de</sup>	93.09 <sup>c</sup>	
Crude methanol	500	1.05 <sup>l</sup>	79.00 <sup>b</sup>		1.16 <sup>f</sup>	99.36 <sup>a</sup>	
	1000	0.90 <sup>m</sup>	82.00 <sup>a</sup>		0.73 <sup>f</sup>	99.60 <sup>a</sup>	
	0	5.00 <sup>a</sup>	-		185.06 <sup>a</sup>	-	
	10	4.07 <sup>b</sup>	18.50 <sup>l</sup>		29.32 <sup>b</sup>	84.13 <sup>f</sup>	
	50	3.38 <sup>cd</sup>	32.50 <sup>jk</sup>	80.5	21.43 <sup>bcd</sup>	88.38 <sup>e</sup>	0.35
	100	2.32 <sup>h</sup>	53.50 <sup>f</sup>		8.02 <sup>ef</sup>	95.66 <sup>b</sup>	
	500	1.27 <sup>k</sup>	74.50 <sup>c</sup>		2.18 <sup>f</sup>	98.79 <sup>a</sup>	
	1000	0.83 <sup>m</sup>	83.50 <sup>a</sup>		0.38 <sup>f</sup>	99.78 <sup>a</sup>	
C.V. (%)		3.25			14.92		

1/: Means four repeated experiments and followed by the same letter are not significantly differed by DMRT at P=0.01.

### ***Testing nano-particles from Chaetomium brasiliense to control brown leaf spot***

The nano-CBH, nano-CBE, and nano-CBM at the concentration of 10 ppm inhibited spore production by 85.25%, 77.86%, and 79.92%, respectively. These nanoparticles expressed antifungal activity against *Drechslera oryzae* with ED<sub>50</sub> values of 5.86, 4.92, and 2.86 µg/ml, respectively (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Nano-particles of *Chaetomium brasiliense* testing to inhibit *Drechslera oryzae*

Crude extracts	Concentration (ppm)	Colony diameter (cm)	Growth inhibition (%) <sup>2</sup>	ED <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)	Number of spore	Spore inhibition (%)	ED <sub>50</sub> (µg/ml)
Nano-CBH	0	5.00 <sup>al</sup>	-	-	5.45 <sup>a</sup>	-	-
	1	1.91 <sup>de</sup>	61.75 <sup>b</sup>	-	2.37 <sup>cde</sup>	55.67 <sup>efg</sup>	-
	3	2.09 <sup>c</sup>	58.25 <sup>c</sup>	-	1.62 <sup>efg</sup>	69.50 <sup>bcd</sup>	5.86
	5	2.31 <sup>b</sup>	53.75 <sup>f</sup>	-	1.28 <sup>fgh</sup>	76.35 <sup>abcd</sup>	-
	7	2.10 <sup>c</sup>	58.00 <sup>f</sup>	-	0.99 <sup>gh</sup>	81.73 <sup>ab</sup>	-
	10	1.80 <sup>ef</sup>	64.00 <sup>h</sup>	-	0.77 <sup>h</sup>	85.25 <sup>a</sup>	-
Nano-CBE	0	5.00 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	5.45 <sup>a</sup>	-	-
	1	2.07 <sup>c</sup>	58.50 <sup>b</sup>	-	2.89 <sup>c</sup>	46.71 <sup>g</sup>	-
	3	2.05 <sup>cd</sup>	59.00 <sup>d</sup>	168.00	2.57 <sup>cd</sup>	52.36 <sup>fg</sup>	4.92
	5	1.95 <sup>cd</sup>	61.00 <sup>e</sup>	-	2.03 <sup>def</sup>	62.50 <sup>def</sup>	-
	7	1.97 <sup>cd</sup>	60.50 <sup>g</sup>	-	1.99 <sup>def</sup>	62.80 <sup>def</sup>	-
	10	1.53 <sup>g</sup>	69.50 <sup>h</sup>	-	1.20 <sup>gh</sup>	77.86 <sup>ab</sup>	-
Nano-CBM	0	5.00 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	5.45 <sup>a</sup>	-	-
	1	2.02 <sup>cd</sup>	59.50 <sup>b</sup>	-	3.96 <sup>b</sup>	25.60 <sup>h</sup>	-
	3	2.00 <sup>cd</sup>	60.00 <sup>cd</sup>	237.00	2.35 <sup>cde</sup>	56.84 <sup>efg</sup>	2.86
	5	1.68 <sup>f</sup>	66.50 <sup>f</sup>	-	2.01 <sup>def</sup>	63.32 <sup>def</sup>	-
	7	1.53 <sup>g</sup>	69.50 <sup>f</sup>	-	1.26 <sup>fgh</sup>	77.13 <sup>def</sup>	-
	10	1.50 <sup>g</sup>	70.00 <sup>h</sup>	-	1.12 <sup>gh</sup>	79.92 <sup>ab</sup>	-
C.V. (%)		4.10			19.39		

1/: Means four repeated experiments and followed by the same letter are not significantly differed by DMRT at P=0.01.

## Discussion

The brown spot of rice caused by *Drechslera oryzae* was isolated and proved pathogenicity as similar report of Tan and Soyong (2016b). *Ch. brasiliense* proved to be antagonised the tested pathogen in bi-culture test was also similar result of Tan and Soyong (2016a). As a result, the crude hexane and methanol extracts from *Ch. brasiliense* actively against *D. oryzae* causing brown spot of rice var RD 47 which the ED<sub>50</sub> values of 0.32 and 0.35 µg/ml, respectively. Tan and Soyong (2017) reported that bioformulation including crude extracts from *Chaetomium cupreum* CC3003 gave a good control leaf spot of rice var. Sen Pidao in Cambodia. Each crude extract of *Ch. brasiliense* was performed to be nano-particles as nano-CBH, nano-CBE, and nano-CBM and tested to inhibit *D. oryzae* causing brown leaf spot of rice var RD47. As results, it showed that nanoparticles, nano-CBH, nano-CBE, and nano-CBM gave significantly inhibited expressed *D. oryzae* at the ED<sub>50</sub> values of 5.86, 4.92, and 2.86 µg/ml, respectively. It concluded that nanoparticles from *Ch. brasiliense* gave successfully inhibited the tested pathogen. Further study would be applied the the fields and also tested to control the other plant pathogens. As reports of Vilavong and Soyong (2017) stated that the

application of bio-formulation including nano-elicitor of *Ch. cupreum* could control *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* causing Coffee Anthracnose on Arabica Variety in Laos.

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