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INDUCTION OF RESISTANCE IN AUBERGENES (SOLANUM MELONGENA L.), AGAINST INFECTION BY COLLETOTRICHUM CAPSICI, USING A WEAK PATHOGEN

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Fusarium moniliformae, is a weak pathogen and causes postharvest rots in aubergene only in the presence of a wound, whereas C. capsici, can cause anthracnose in aubergene without wounding, much faster than F. moniliformae. Conidia of C. capsici applied onto the sights which were pre-inoculated with F. moniliformae do not develop into anthracnose rotting. Inability of C. capsici to develop rotting was not due to any antagonistic effect of F. moniliformae. The experiments have shown that the inoculation of tissues with F. moniliformae resulted in the accumulation of at least two phytoalexins. Although C. capsici also induces phytoalexins in aubergene, the concentration of phytoalexins appears to be lower than that accumulated in response to F. moniliformae. One phytoalexin was separated from diseased tissues and obtained in pure form. In a previous study, two phytoalexins have been isolated (lubimin and a biogenetically related bicyclic enone) from aubergene inoculated with Monilinia fructicola. The results of this study indicated that F. moniliformae is more effective in eliciting phytoalexin response in aubergene than C. capsici and that F. moniliformae could be used in the induction of resistance against C. capsici.