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RESISTANCE OF POTATO GENOTYPES TO *Meloidogyne javanica*¹

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ABSTRACT - The objective of this study was to evaluate the resistance of a group of clones and cultivars from the potato breeding program of Embrapa to *Meloidogyne javanica*. The experiment was conducted at Embrapa Temperate Climate, Pelotas / RS, under greenhouse conditions at temperatures of $25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$. Individual potato plants of different genotypes [BRSIPR Bel, BRS F63 (Camila), CL02-05, F23-11-06, F32-02-06, F38-03-07, F189-09-06, F23-24-06 and F22-01-08], kept in pots with sterilized soil were inoculated with 5,000 eggs and J2 of *M. javanica*, using six replicates per treatment. The susceptible control, potato cultivar BRS Ana was inoculated with the same level of inoculum. Fifty-five days after inoculation, the number of galls on the roots of each plant was determined as well as the number of protuberances caused by nematodes in the different treatments. Then, the roots of each plant were processed for counting the number of eggs and J2, as well as determining the nematode reproduction factor (FR: final population / initial population). All genotypes were susceptible (FR > 1.00) to *M. javanica*. However, there were different levels of susceptibility among the cultivars tested.

Keywords: Root-knot nematode. Susceptibility. *Solanum tuberosum*.

REAÇÃO DE GENÓTIPOS DE BATATA A *Meloidogyne javanica*

RESUMO – Objetivou-se com esse trabalho, avaliar a reação de um conjunto de clones e cultivares de batata do programa de melhoramento genético da Embrapa a *Meloidogyne javanica*. O experimento foi desenvolvido na Embrapa Clima Temperado, Pelotas/RS, em casa-de-vegetação sob temperaturas de $25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$. Plantas individuais de batata dos diferentes genótipos [BRSIPR Bel, BRS F63 (Camila), CL02-05, F23-11-06, F32-02-06, F38-03-07, F189-09-06, F23-24-06 e F22-01-08], mantidas em vasos com solo esterilizado, foram inoculadas com 5.000 ovos + J2 de *M. javanica*, utilizando-se seis repetições por tratamento. Como testemunha suscetível, plantas de batata da cultivar BRS Ana foram inoculadas com o mesmo nível de inóculo. Decorridos 55 dias da inoculação, avaliou-se o número de galhas nas raízes de cada planta e determinou-se o número protuberâncias (pipocas) causadas pelo nematoide/tubérculo nos diferentes tratamentos. Em seguida, as raízes de cada planta foram processadas para contagem do número de ovos + J2 e determinação do fator de reprodução do nematoide (FR: população final/população inicial). Todos os genótipos comportaram-se como suscetíveis (FR > 1,00) à *M. javanica*. No entanto, verificaram-se diferentes níveis de suscetibilidade entre os materiais avaliados.

Palavras-chave: Nematode-das-galhas. Suscetibilidade. *Solanum tuberosum*.

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INTRODUCTION

Potato culture (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is affected by various phytosanitary problems which cause losses in production or influence the quality of tubers (ZAMBOLIM, 2011). Among these, nematodes pose serious problems to the crop in most growing regions (ESTEVES; MALEITA; ABRATES, 2015), the main cause of potato damage are root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.), lesions (*Pratylenchus* spp.) and cyst-forming (*Globodera* spp.) (YOUSSEF, 2013).

In Brazil, different species of the *Meloidogyne* genus are widely distributed in the various potato producing regions. *Meloidogyne javanica* (Treub) Chitwood and *M. incognita* (Kofoid & White) are the most common species in culture (CHARCHAR, 1997; SILVA, 2009), and the most common in southern Brazil (SILVA, 2009; LIMA-MEDINA, 2013) and worldwide (VOVLAS et al., 2005).

Losses caused by root-knot nematode can reach 100% in potato producing areas. Also, variable losses occur as a result of the planting season and the level of soil infestation (GOMES; SOUZA, 2003). The external symptoms of tuber infection become visible in the form of protuberances (galls) of different sizes, commonly known as "popping" (GOMES; SOUZA, 2003). In a single potato crop with low initial population levels, the nematodes undergo at least three cycles, during which the invasion of tubers by newly hatched juveniles is continuous and can cause severe damage (BROWN et al., 2006).

Among the control measures employed, the use of nematicides is one of the most common in the management of root-knot nematodes in potato (PINHEIRO; SILVA; PEREIRA, 2015), especially in large areas. The use of resistant cultivars is one of the most used management practices as a result of its low cost and efficiency. However, among the potato cultivars planted in Brazil, most are of European origin and those developed in different climatic conditions, do not exhibit resistance to *M. javanica*. Thus, the use of resistant or less susceptible cultivars is an important practice in the management of root-knot nematode, and reduces the use of chemicals in areas infested by these pathogens (GRECO, 1993).

Considering the limitations above mentioned, the objective of this study was to evaluate the resistance of different potato cultivars and clones to *M. javanica* and estimate the nematode damage to the tubers, under greenhouse conditions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two cultivars [BRSIPR Bel and BRS F63 (Camila)] seven potato clones (CL02-05, F23-11-06,

F32-02-06, F38-03-07, F189-09-06, F22-01-08 and F23-24-06) from the breeding program of Embrapa, were evaluated for genetic resistance and damage caused by *M. javanica* under greenhouse conditions ($25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$), at Embrapa Temperate Climate, Pelotas-RS.

As the nematode inoculum, we used an aggressive population of *M. javanica* (Est J3) from potato (LIMA-Medina, 2013), which was grown and maintained on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* Mill.) Cv. "Rutgers" in a greenhouse ($25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$).

Individual plants of different genotypes, kept in pots with 4.5 kg of soil sterilized in an autoclave, were inoculated with an aqueous suspension containing 5,000 eggs + second stage juveniles (J2) of *M. javanica* (HUSSEY; BARKER, 1973 modified by Boneti; FERRAZ, 1981). As a control, potato plants of the susceptible cultivar BRS Ana (LIMA-MEDINA, 2013) were inoculated with the same level of pathogen inoculum. The experiment was conducted in a completely randomized design with six replications.

Fifty-five days after inoculation, the roots of each plant were separated from the shoot and the number of galls were evaluated. Subsequently, the extraction of eggs + J2 nematode from the roots of each plant (final population) was carried out (HUSSEY; BARKER, 1973 modified by Boneti; FERRAZ, 1981) to quantify and determine the reproduction factor ($\text{FR} = \text{final population} / \text{initial population}$) of *M. javanica* (OOSTENBRINK, 1966) in each repetition. Tubers were also evaluated for the number of protuberances present in a predetermined area $1,76 \text{ cm}^2$ / tuber, using three tubers for each repetition (LIMA-MEDINA, 2013).

Later, the number of galls, reproduction factors and number of protuberances were assessed by ANOVA and the averages of each treatment grouped together by the Scott-Knott test at 5% error probability, through the software SAS- Agri (CANTERI et al., 2001). In addition, the values of variables, number of protrusions and reproduction factor were correlated by Pearson correlation analysis, using the statistical software SAS® (SAS 9.3, SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina, USA). The resistances of potato genotypes were classified according to the FR values, considering as tough those whose nematode presented $\text{FR} < 1.00$ and susceptible, those with $\text{FR} > 1.00$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the results obtained in this study, all potato genotypes were susceptible ($\text{FR} > 1.00$) to *M. javanica* in comparison to the control, BRS Ana (Table 1). This confirms the pathogenicity of this species to potato crop (SILVA, 2009; LIMA-MEDINA, 2013).

Table 1. Average number of galls on the roots, number of protuberances in the tubers, reproduction factor and resistance of potato genotypes to *Meloidogyne javanica*.

Genotypes	Number of galls		Reproduction factor		Number of protuberances
F23-11-06	414.8	a	28.8	a	**
F22-01-08	395.2	a	17.8	b	**
F189-09-06	369.7	a	30.0	a	**
F23-24-06	247.3	b	41.3	a	15.5 b
F38-03-07	245.8	b	31.4	a	22.3 a
CL02-05	228.3	b	11.3	b	7.5 d
F32-02-06	203.8	b	36.2	a	19.8 a
BRS Ana (susceptible)	192.2	b	20.3	b	7.9 d
BRSIPR Bel	156.5	b	23.8	b	12.9 c
BRS F63 (Camila)	131.8	b	13.3	b	7.2 d
CV (%)	49.41		37.25		37.25

* Means followed by the same letter in the column belong to the same group by Scott-Knott test at 5% probability of error; ** Genotypes with no produced tubers.

Considering the variable number of galls, the genotypes BRS F63 (Camila), BRSIPR Bel, F32-02-06, CL02-05, F38-03-07 and F23-24-06 showed a lower average damage caused by nematodes in the roots (popcorns, shown in Figure 1)

but did not differ from the control BRS Ana, forming a group of genotypes significantly less damaged by nematodes, a group consisting of clones F23-11-06, and F22 F189-09-06 -01-08 (Table 1).

**Figure 1.** Tubers of potato cv. Bel BRSIPR from plants inoculated with *M. javanica* presenting protuberances ("popcorn") on the pell surface.

As for the reproduction factor (FR), the CL02-05 genotypes BRS F63 (Camilla), F22-01-08 BRSIPR Bel besides the control BRS Ana, presented significantly lower FR averages comparing to the group formed by clones F23-11-06, F189-09-06, F38-03-07, F32-02-06 and F23-24-06.

The high *M. javanica* FR values observed in the genotypes demonstrate the susceptibility of potato to this species of root-knot nematode. Charchar and Moita (1997), in the field work conducted in Brasília-DF with 48 potato genotypes, observed that only Achat cultivar showed resistance (moderate) to *M. javanica*. Silva et al. (2010)

evaluated the resistance of seven potato genotypes to that species, under greenhouse conditions, and found good reproduction of the nematodes, with FR values ranging between 1.3 and 50.1. Pinheiro et al. (2013) evaluated the resistance of 14 advanced clones in a potato field naturally infested by the root-knot nematode verified that six genotypes showed resistance to infection by nematode. However these authors did not identified the species presenting in the area. However Lima-Medina (2013) verified the existence of cultivars resistant and moderately resistant to *M. javanica* by testing the reaction of 24 genotypes of wild potato (*Solanum* spp.) from the

Potato Active Germplasm Bank of Embrapa.

In this work, the fact that the tested genotypes were found to be susceptible to nematode galls, can be attributed in part, to the influence of the high temperature ($25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$) at which the test was performed. This temperature is optimal for the development of *M. javanica* (VAN GUNDY et al., 1985), but probably influenced the tuberization of clones F23-11-06 and F22-01-08. In potatoes, the optimum temperature for tuber initiation is approximately 17°C , and temperatures above 30°C inhibit this process (ARALDI et al., 2011). The inhibition of tuber initiation of F23-11-06 and F22-01-08 clones can also be associated with the high rate of multiplication of nematodes in infected roots. Such factors appear to be strongly associated with non-tuber initiation, since these same genotypes when inoculated a second time, had similar FR values and did not form tubers (data not shown).

The correlation between damage (number of protuberances) in the tubers and reproduction *M. javanica* (FR) for the group of evaluated genotypes was significantly positive ($r = 0.53$; $p < 0.01$). This result corroborates with the reports of a similar study carried out by Lima-Medina (2013), when evaluated the resistance of different potato cultivars to different populations of *M. javanica* and observed positive correlation between these parameters (0.81 to 0.89; $p < 0.01$).

Considering most potato cultivars in Brazil are susceptible to *M. javanica* and temperature is a critical factor for assessing resistance, more studies are required to determine the temperature condition that is at the same time favorable to the development of nematode and tuber of the potato plant, thereby enabling the detection of different levels of susceptibility / resistance in the potato germoplasm.

CONCLUSIONS

All evaluated potato genotypes are susceptible to *M. javanica* under greenhouse conditions ($25 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$).

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