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Abstract

Non-host selective toxins are secondary metabolites with the capacity to cause some of the symptoms of a disease induced by a pathogen which produces them, and they are toxic to both host and non-host plants. The knowledge on mechanism of toxin action in plants must involve a complete description of the metabolic processes altered which derive in the manifestation of the characteristic symptoms of the disease. Evidences that have led to the knowledge of the mode of action of some non-host selective toxins, produced by plant pathogenic bacteria and fungi, are condensed in this paper. Also, it is mentioned the use of some of these toxins as biological herbicides, in the identification of plant pathogens or as selection factors to differentiate between resistant and susceptible plants to pathogens that produce them.

Keywords

bacterial phytotoxins, phytotoxins of fungal origin, potential uses of phytotoxins

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