



Table of Contents

IN PRESS

CJGPB 2014

CJGPB 2013

CJGPB 2012

CJGPB 2011

CJGPB 2010

CJGPB 2009

CJGPB 2008

CJGPB 2007

CJGPB 2006

CJGPB 2005

CJGPB 2004

CJGPB 2003

CJGPB 2002

CJGPB

Home

Editorial Board

For Authors

- **Authors
Declaration**
- **Instruction
to Authors**
- **Guide for
Authors**
- **Copyright
Statement**
- **Submission**

For Reviewers

- **Guide for
Reviewers**
- **Reviewers
Login**

Subscription

**Czech J. Genet.
Plant Breed.**

The effects of silver on microbial contamination of agar medium and on interactions between mildew and barley leaf segments with and without the *mlo* gene

Czech J. Genet. Plant Breed., 38 (2002): 82-86

Segments of primary leaves of several barley varieties with and without the *mlo* gene were placed in Petri dishes on an agar medium containing benzimidazole, mineral nutrients and 0, 0.1, 0.3, 1 and 3 ppm of AgNO₃. Three Petri dishes were prepared of each concentration. The segments were uniformly inoculated with 10³ conidia/cm² of the partially *mlo*-virulent powdery mildew culture PV-32. Subsequently, one open Petri dish of each Ag-concentration was exposed for 1 hour to a different potential con-

tamination environment: one in the laboratory (low load), one in a humid cellar close to stored vegetables (medium load) and one on the top of a compost heap of decaying garbage (heavy load). Germination of mildew spores on the medium surface declined slightly with increasing concentration of AgNO₃. Mildew infection was evaluated 7 days after inoculation. The number of mildew colonies per leaf segment and the differential interaction of the *Mlo*- and *mlo*-varieties with the mildew culture was apparently not affected by the AgNO₃ concentration. Contamination of the medium by airborne micro-organisms was evaluated 12 days after exposure both microscopically and by eye. The contamination of the medium increased with environmental load and with decreasing AgNO₃ concentration. 0.1 ppm AgNO₃ markedly retarded the growth of contaminant colonies from all three environments, but did not prevent contamination. At 1 ppm AgNO₃, no contamination was observed on the media exposed to low and medium load, but several dozen small contaminant colonies developed on the medium

exposed to heavy load. At 1 ppm AgNO₃, only three small contaminant colonies developed on the medium exposed to heavy load, while the media exposed to medium and low load remained clean. It can be concluded that adding 1 ppm AgNO₃ to a mineral-agar medium efficiently suppresses its contamination under low and medium load, without apparently affecting the growth of mildew or the interaction between mildew and *mlo*-barley on leaf segments placed on the medium.

Keywords:

contamination; silver; AgNO₃; barley; leaf segments; powdery mildew; *mlo*

[[fulltext](#)]

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