Characterization of small-spored Alternaria from Argentinean crops through a polyphasic approach

Small-spored Alternaria have been isolated from a wide variety of food crops, causing both economic losses and human health risk due to the metabolites produced. Their taxonomy has been discussed widely, but no scientific consensus has been established in this field to date. Argentina is a major exporter of agricultural products, so it is essential to thoroughly understand the physiological behaviour of this pathogen in a food safety context. Thus, the objective of this work was to characterize small-spored Alternaria spp. obtained from tomato fruits, pepper fruits, wheat grains and blueberries from Argentina by a polyphasic approach involving metabolomic and phylogenetic analyses based on molecular and morphological characters. Morphological analysis divided the population studied into three groups; A. arborescens sp.-grp., A. tenuissima sp.-grp., and A. alternata sp.-grp. However, when these characters were simultaneously analysed with molecular data, no clearly separated groups were obtained. Haplotype network and phylogenetic analysis (both Bayesian and maximum parsimony) of a conserved region yielded the same result, suggesting that all isolates belong to the same species. Furthermore, no correlation could be established between morphological species-groups and a metabolite or group of metabolites synthesized. Thus, the whole set of analyses carried out in the present work supports the hypothesis that these small-spored Alternaria isolates from food belong to the same species. Identification at species level through classical morphology or modern molecular techniques does not seem to be a useful tool to predict toxicological risk in food matrices. The detection of any small-spored Alternaria from Section Alternaria (D.P. Lawr., Gannibal, Peever & B.M. Pryor 2013) in food implies a potential toxicological risk.

General information

State: Published
Organisations: Department of Biotechnology and Biomedicine, DTU Metabolomics Core, Universidad de Buenos Aires, CONICET
Contributors: da Cruz Cabral, L., Rodriguero, M., Stenglein, S., Nielsen, K. F., Patriarca, A.
Pages: 206-215
Publication date: 2017
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information

Journal: International Journal of Food Microbiology
Volume: 257
ISSN (Print): 0168-1605
Ratings:
BFI (2018): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 3.76 SJR 1.366 SNIP 1.436
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 3.451
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 3.97 SJR 1.481 SNIP 1.553
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 4.02 SJR 1.614 SNIP 1.683
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 3.62 SJR 1.493 SNIP 1.695
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 3.082
Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes
BFI (2013): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 3.8 SJR 1.612 SNIP 1.841
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 3.155
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 3.7 SJR 1.603 SNIP 1.705