

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| INTRODUCTION. | 1 |
| REVIEW OF LITERATURE. | 3 |
| MATERIALS AND METHODS | 31 |
| RESULTS | 45 |
| 1. Isolation and identification of causal pathogen (s) | 45 |
| 2. Pathogenicity test. | 45 |
| i. On maize seedlings. | 45 |
| ii. On adult maize plants. | 47 |
| 3. Effect of inoculum density on infection. | 48 |
| 4. Varietal response to infection | 49 |
| 5. Factors affecting the fungal growth | 50 |
| 5.1. Effect of some antioxidants on fungal growth | 50 |
| 5.2. Effect of some culture filtrate components on fungal growth. | 51 |
| 5.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on fungal growth. | 53 |
| 6. Effect of some chemical inducers on disease development | 54 |
| 6.1. Effect of some antioxidants. | 54 |
| 6.2. Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components. | 55 |
| 6.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin. | 57 |
| 7. Physiological studies. | 58 |
| 7.1. Activity of oxidative enzyme <i>in vivo</i> | 58 |
| 7.1.1. Catalase activity. | 58 |
| 7.1.1.1. Effect of some antioxidants on catalase activity | 58 |
| .7.1.1.2. Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components on catalase | 60 |
| | |
| 7.1.1.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on catalase | 61 |
| 7.1.2. Peroxidase activity | 62 |
| 7.1.2.1. Effect of some antioxidants on peroxidase activity | 62 |
| 7.1.2.2 Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components on peroxida | 63 |
| 7.1.2.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on peroxidase | 65 |
| 7.1.3. Polyphenol oxidase activity | 66 |
| 7.1.3.1. Effect of some antioxidants on polyphenol oxidase | 66 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 7.1.3.2 Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components on polyphenol oxidase. | 67 |
| 7.1.3.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on polyphenol oxidase. | 68 |
| 7.2. Determination of total phenols | 70 |
| 7.2.1. Effect of some antioxidants on phenol contents. | 70 |
| 7.2.2. Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components on phenol content. | 71 |
| 7.2.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on phenol content. | 72 |
| 7.3. Determination of total flavonoids. | 74 |
| 7.3.1. Effect of some antioxidants on flavonoids content. | 74 |
| 7.3.2. Effect of some fungal culture filtrate components on Flavonoids content. | 75 |
| 7.3.3. Effect of xanthan and coumarin on flavonoids content. | 76 |
| DISCUSSION. | 78 |
| REFERENCES. | 96 |
| SUMMARY | 125 |
| ARABIC SUMMARY. | |

Summary

- Isolation process from naturally infected plants showing wilt symptoms revealed 5 isolates belong to *Cephalosporium maydis*. Maize plants cv. Nab-el-gamal grown in infested soil showed the typical late wilt symptoms. Isolate CM2 was the highest virulence among the tested *Cephalosporium* isolates.
- All the tested inoculum densities(1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 %) of *C. maydis* are able to cause late wilt disease in maize plants. Disease severity increased by increasing inoculum densities. The highest disease severity was detected at 5 % inoculum density.
- Maize cultivars responded variably to infection by *C. maydis*., Out of thirteen tested cultivars one cultivar (T.W.C.310) was partially resistant while, Nab-el-gamal was the highest susceptible one to fungus infection.
- All tested antioxidants i.e. salicylic acid, citric acid and propyl gallate at concentrations of 400 ppm had a clear inhibitory effect on growth parameters of the pathogen.
- The highest inhibitory effect of the dry weight and sporulation were obtained using citric acid while, the highest inhibition of the linear growth, germinated spores and germ tube length was obtained using propyl gallate.
- The effect of culture filtrate components (ethyl alcohol, ethyl acetate and acetone precipitate) on growth parameters of *C. maydis* were indicated that the highest inhibitory effect on fungal dry weight and sporulation was observed at 400 ppm of ethyl acetate precipitate was added to growth media. The most pronounced inhibitory effect on linear growth was detected as a result of using ethyl alcohol precipitate. Moreover, the highest inhibition on spore germination and germ tube length was obtained by using 100 ppm of ethyl alcohol precipitate.

- Regarding the dry weight, linear growth and sporulation the highest inhibitory effect was obtained using coumarin. Meanwhile, xanthan had an inhibitory effect on the germinated spores and germ tube length.
- Antioxidants have significantly effect on maize plants infected by pathogen. Propyl gallate significantly reduced the percentage of discolored leaves. Moreover, plants treated with 100 and 200 ppm of propyl gallate was taller than those treated with any other tested antioxidants.
- Ethyl acetate precipitate was observed significantly increase plant length and decreased the percentage of discolored leaves compared to all treatments or to control.
- Coumarin significantly decreased the percentage of discolored leaves caused by *C. maydis* and increased plant length compared with all treatments.
- Data showed that treatment of maize grains with antioxidants (salicylic acid, citric acid and propyl gallate) had variable effect on oxidative enzyme activity (catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase) in different plant organs infected with fungus. Additionally, the highest enzyme activity was detected after treatment with propyl gallate.
- Treatment of maize grains with fungal culture filtrate precipitates (ethyl alcohol, ethyl acetate and acetone precipitates) had variable effect on oxidative enzyme activity (catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase) in maize organs infected with fungus. The highest enzyme activity was detected after treatment with ethyl acetate precipitate.
- Treatment of maize grains with xanthan and coumarin had variable effect on oxidative enzyme activity (catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase) in maize organs previously infected with fungus. The highest enzyme activity was detected after treatment with coumarin.
- Treatment of maize grains with different tested substance (antioxidants, fungal culture filtrate precipitates and xanthan and coumarin) had variable effect on

total phenol contents in maize (root, stem and leaf) previously infected with fungus. The highest total phenol contents was recorded after treatment with propyl gallate, ethyl acetate precipitate and coumarin.

- Treatment of maize grains with different tested substance (antioxidants, fungal culture filtrate precipitates and xanthan and coumarin) had variable effect on flavonoid contents in maize organs infected with fungus. The highest flavonoid contents was detected after treatment with antioxidants (salicylic acid followed by propyl gallate), ethyl acetate precipitate and xanthan.