Degradation of the benzoxazolinone class of phytoalexins is important for virulence of *Fusarium pseudograminearum* towards wheat

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Contextualização

Cevada, trigo e milho (família Poacea) produzem benzoxazolinone, classe de fitoalexinas, contra o ataque de pragas e patógenos. Alguns fungos possuem mecanismos de detoxificação desses compostos, mas isso não significa que este seja um fator de virulência.

Fusarium verticillioides X Milho

Grupo de genes FDB2

Codifica N-malonyltransferase

Envolvida na detoxificação de benzoxazolinones (fitoalexina da família Poaceae)

Fator de virulência

São insensíveis às fitoalexinas do trigo ou superam sua ação tóxica pela detoxificação?

Benzoxazolinones mais abundantes:
Benzoxazolin-2-one – **BOA**
6-methoxy-benzoxazolin-2-one - **MBOA**

Reação de detoxificação de BOA e MBOA no patossistema *F. verticillioides* X milho

(A)

F. pseudograminearum CS3096
F. verticillioides BRIP 149534

F. graminearum CS3179

F. culmorum CS7071

F. sp. FIESC5 CS3069

DMSO

MBOA

BOA

2-AP

Sensibilidade das espécies: 5 dias na presença de 0,5 mg mL⁻¹ de BOA e MBOA

Fig. 2 Relative growth of wheat-associated fusaria in the presence of benzoxazolin-2-one (BOA), 6-methoxy-benzoxazolin-2-one (MBOA) and 2-aminophenol (2-AP). (A) Example photographs of *Fusarium pseudograminearum* (CS3096), *F. culmorum* (CS7071), *F. verticillioides* (BRIP 149534), *F. graminearum* (CS3179) and *F. sp. FIESC5* (CS3069) grown on benzoxazolinones- and BOA detoxification intermediate (2-AP)-amended half-strength potato dextrose agar (PDA). Rings marked on the plates indicate the daily hyphal growth edge positions. *Fusarium graminearum* (CS3179) marked at 2 and 5 days post-inoculation (dpi) only. All compounds were tested at 0.5 mg/mL, with an equal percentage (v/v) of dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) used as a control. (B) Quantification of relative growth rates of five *Fusarium* spp. when grown for 5 days on half-strength PDA amended with BOA, MBOA, 2-AP or DMSO only. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean for five biological replicates.

Sensíveis a MBOA

Sensível a 2-AP

A gene cluster involved in benzoxazolinone detoxification is conserved in multiple (7) *Fusarium* species

- *FDB3*, encoding a GAL4-like Zn(II)₂Cys₆ transcription factor proposed to regulate the *FDB* cluster or other responses to a benzoxazolinone signal
- *FDB2*, encoding an *N*-malonyltransferase
- *FPSE_08124*, encoding a lactamase probably performing the function of Fdb1
- *FPSE_08125*, encoding an aldo–keto reductase possibly associated with a ketone component of **BOA and MBOA degradation**
- *FPSE_08126*, encoding an esterase
- *FPSE_08127*, encoding a transmembrane transporter proposed to shuttle metabolites of benzoxazolinone degradation

The *FDB* cluster genes show significant co-expression patterns after BOA treatment

To determine whether the genes in the putative *FDB* cluster are co-expressed, their expression was assessed by reverse transcriptase-quantitative polymerase chain reactions (RT-qPCRs) at multiple time points after application of BOA to *F. pseudograminearum*

(A)

CS3096 (WT)

 $\Delta fdb2$

DMSO

BOA

MBOA

2-AP

CS3096 (WT) – *F. pseudogramineum* $\Delta fdb2$ strain - *F. pseudogramineum* FDB cluster knock-out

FDB2 cluster é necessário como
fator de virulência

(B)

Conclusões

- FDB cluster contribui para virulência de *F. pseudograminearum* em trigo
- *F. verticillioides* possui genes de FDB cluster em diferentes loci
- *F. sp.* FIESC5: rota alternativa de detoxificação sem formação de intermediário 2-AP
- Incapacidade de *F. graminearum* para processar MBOA independe de FDB
- 3 genes exibem muita semelhança entre as espécies *F. pseudograminearum* e *F. verticillioides*