

Original Research Article

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Integrated Disease Management of Storage Rot of Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) caused by *Fusarium* sp. in Himachal Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

The over use of chemical pesticides causes environmental and health problems have been the matter of concern so integrated disease management can be an alternative good source. Storage rot of ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is caused by destructive and versatile pathogen *Fusarium* species. The integrated management of storage rot of ginger was done by using fungicides, biocontrol and hot water treatment. In present investigation, the samples were collected different region of Himachal Pradesh, A total of six fungi were isolated from stored diseased rhizomes and identified using ITS gene sequencing as *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Penicillium digitatum*, *Pythium ultimum*, *Rhizopus oryzae* and *Verticillium chlamyosporium*. The relative frequency distributions of fungi causing storage rot of ginger have been studied. Among different fungi causing storage rot of ginger in storage pits and heaps, the frequency occurrence of *Fusarium oxysporum* was found maximum (51%) followed by *Pythium ultimum*. In integrated management studies, the minimum incidence of storage rot was recorded in treatments when used in combination, Carbendazim + HWT (Hot water treatment) + *Trichoderma harzianum* (7.20%) and HWT + Mancozeb + *T. harzianum* (12.23%) after 30 days of storage as compared to control (39.30%). Similarly, highest rhizome recovery (86.53%) was obtained in treatment Carbendazim + HWT + *T. harzianum* in comparison to control. Since, there are no single effective management practices against the storage rot disease so far, a well-coordinated effort is required to develop an integrated disease management program that will help to minimize the damage caused by the disease.

Keywords

Curing, *Fusarium*;
Ginger, Integrated
disease
management, Rot.

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Introduction

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) is an important cash crop of Himachal Pradesh fetching remunerative returns to the growers. At present, ginger is utilized as herbal remedy

against various conditions, including arthritis, rheumatism, sprains, muscular aches, pains, sore throats, cramps, constipation, indigestion, vomiting, hypertension, dementia, fever and infectious diseases (Ernst and Pittler 2000; Shukla and Singh 2007; Grzanna *et al.*, 2005). Research over the last decade has shown that ginger has the potential to be used in the prevention and treatment of a myriad of diseases through modulation of biological activities (Rahmani 2014). The main pharmacological actions of ginger phytochemicals include immunomodulatory, antitumorigenic, anti-inflammatory, anti-apoptotic, antihyperglycaemic, antilipidemic and antifungal activities (Kim *et al.*, 2005; Hsiang *et al.*, 2013).

India is a leading producer of ginger in the world. The ginger is an important cash crop of mid and low hill areas covering an area of 3,495 hectare with annual production of 50,034 metric tones in Himachal Pradesh (Indian Horticulture Database, 2012). It is intensively cultivated in districts of Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una in Himachal Pradesh. Sirmour district alone contributes highest productivity and is having 3/4th of the area and production of the state. It is one of the most important cash crops for farmers. However, during in the last few years, the ginger crop was damaged by different diseases in field, storage and market.

Post-harvest losses in ginger is a serious concern as after putting hard labour for 7-8 months in production, the precious harvest is lost due to negligence in crop production and storage in underground pits and open heaps at various stages. The post-harvest losses are affected by various biotic and abiotic causes. During storage, the rhizomes soft was affected by fungal infection (50%) within 3 to 4 weeks. It have been reported that, storage rot of ginger was caused by *Pythium* sp.,

Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. *zingiberi* and *Sclerotium rolfsii* but the frequency occurrence of *Fusarium oxysporum* was maximum (50%) among fungi causing storage rot of ginger in storage pits and heaps. Though, a number of fungal pathogens have been reported to be associated with the disease from time to time (Mitra and Subramaniam 1928), but the species of *Pythium* and *Fusarium* are of common occurrence causing heavy damage to the crop.

Management of post-harvest diseases is a tedious task in ginger as use of chemicals results in accumulation of residues on the ginger. The residue of chemicals on the surface of ginger results in adverse effects on the health of consumers (Tripathi *et al.*, 2008). However, extensive use of chemicals as antifungal agents might lead to severe side effects such as carcinogenicity, teratogenicity and other genotoxic properties (Basilico and Basilico 1999). Further, uncontrolled use of such chemicals leads to biohazardous effects on ecosystem and lead to resistance in pathogens against these fungicides (Brent and Hollomon 1995). Thus alternative approaches should be preferred for management of post-harvest diseases in ginger and it should be eco-friendly for environments and human.

The generally the microbial inoculants are eco-friendly application to inhibits growth to different groups of fungi causing serious problems in different crops (Verma *et al.*, 2014; 2015a; b; 2016b; 2017; Suman *et al.*, 2016). The present investigation is focus to use the integrated disease management of storage rot of ginger.

The present exploration was carried out to record the incidence of storage rot in major ginger growing areas of Himachal Pradesh and integration of fungicides and biological control practices against storage rot pathogen to evaluate their impact on disease and growth parameters.

Materials and Methods

Sampling sites

Survey was conducted in mid hills (Pits) in the month of April and in low hills (Heaps) during the month of May, 2014 in Himachal Pradesh to record incidence of storage rot and extent of loss in storage. The areas surveyed included: Charna, Shillai, Sangrah, Tikkar, Sohal, Dungi, Rajgarh, Timbi, Thor Niwar, Ghandoori and Harlu in district Sirmour; Ghanahatti, Shoghi, Panesh, Chamba Panesh, Ladevi Panesh, Chanog in Shimla district; Nauni, Kandaghat, Arki, Kunihar, Kasauli, Oachghat and kalaghat in Solan district; Namhol, kandraur, Ghumarwin, Chandpur, Chlehli and Panoh in district Bilaspur. The incidence of the disease was recorded as following:

$$\text{Disease incidence (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of diseased rhizomes}}{\text{Total number of rhizomes}} \times 100$$

The incidence of storage rot in ginger was recorded on the basis of % rhizomes infected. The diseased specimens collected either from pits or heaps were carried to laboratory in alkathene and paper bags. The diseased samples of ginger were properly labeled for date of collection, method of storage and location.

Isolation and characterization of fungi

Isolation of fungi has been done according to the method described by Rawlins (1933). The fungi were isolated from the affected rhizomes on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium under aseptic conditions. In case of isolation for external fungi, the affected rhizomes were washed with tap water in order to remove adhering soil. Small bits (2 to 3 mm) of diseased tissues were cut from the borders of the diseased and healthy tissues

with the help of a sterilized scalpel. The bits were surface sterilized by dipping in 1% sodium hypochloride solution for 15 sec and then washed thoroughly 2-3 times with sterilized distilled water. The bits were transferred to potato dextrose agar medium, under aseptic conditions. The inoculated test tubes and petri plates were incubated at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for fungal growth. The fungal growth thus obtained was further purified by hyphal tip method on PDA in slants and petriplates.

Morphological studies have been done for isolated fungi i.e. mycelia, sporangia and oospores in case of *Pythium ultimum*, size and shape of mycelium, microconidia and macroconidia, presence or absence of sporodochia in *Fusarium oxysporum*, mycelial characters, phialides and spores etc. in *Verticillium chlamydosporium* were recorded. The measurements were taken with the help of ocular micrometer. The data were recorded on various characters of these fungi and values tabulated.

For the molecular characterization, the genomic DNA was extracted and the amount of DNA extracted was electrophoresed on 0.8% agarose gel using methods describes earlier by Verma *et al.*, (2016a). PCR amplification of ITS gene and sequencing has been done as method described by Yadav *et al.*, (2016a). The partial ITS gene sequences of the isolated strains were compared with those available in the databases. Identification at the species level was determined using a ITS gene sequence similarity of $\geq 97\%$ with that of a prototype strain sequence in the GenBank (Yadav *et al.*, 2016b; Yadav *et al.*, 2017). The phylogenetic tree was constructed on the aligned datasets using the Maximum Likelihood method implemented in the program MEGA 4.0.2. The partial ITS gene sequences were submitted to NCBI GenBank and accession numbers assigned as KJ 847732 and KJ 847734-42.

Evaluation of integrated disease management for ginger rots

To study the effect of curing rhizomes were dried in shade for curing at different periods viz., 0, 12, 24, 36 and 40 hour to remove the excessive moisture in the ginger. Each treatment was replicated three times. The rhizomes were stored in the pits at vegetable farm of University after curing. The rhizomes were taken out from the pits at the planting time in the month of April, 2014. The % losses in weight and disease incidence were recorded. The % loss in weight was recorded as following:

Loss in weight (%) = $\frac{\text{Rhizome weight before storage} - \text{Rhizome weight after storage}}{\text{Rhizome weight before storage}} \times 100$

The integrated disease management study was carried out during 2014-15 by integrating best rhizome treatments obtained during earlier studies on physical, chemical, botanical and antagonist methods of evaluation. Different treatments used in integrated approach were Carbendazim (0.2%), Propineb (0.3%), Mancozeb (0.3%), Neemazal (4%), *T. harzianum* (0.5%), *T. viride* (0.5%), Cow urine (5%) and hot water treatment at 50 °C for 10 min. Different treatments were first dissolved in small quantity of water and then mixed in the desired quantity of water to make final volume 5 litres in each case. The healthy rhizomes (3 kg per treatment) were weighed and then dipped for 60 minutes in the prepared suspension.

The treated rhizomes were dried in shade for 24 h to remove excess of moisture from their surface. A separate control was also maintained in which all operations were carried out in the same manner except the treatment. Each treatment was replicated three times. The rhizomes were stored in pits during 2014-15 in first week of December at

vegetable farm of the University. The rhizomes were taken out from the pits before the planting time in the month of June, 2015. The data were recorded on % disease incidence, healthy rhizome recovery, sprouting, shriveling, bud length and bud colour. The presence (+) or absence (-) of mould was also recorded. The surface shriveling and sprouting status was recorded by visual observation as - (none, 0%), + (slight, < 30%), ++ (moderate, 30-70%) and +++ (severe, 70-100%) (Dohroo 1995).

Results and Discussion

Major growing areas of ginger in Himachal Pradesh are Sirmour, Shimla, Solan and Bilaspur. The survey and sampling has been done during the month of May, 2014 to record incidence of storage rot of ginger under pits and heaps. It is evident from the data Table 1 that the maximum incidence (47.0%) under heaps and (25.0%) under pits at Rajgarh locality of Sirmour district followed by Kasauli (17.0%) under pits and (21.0%) in heaps of Solan district. In Shimla district, maximum incidence (17.0%) was observed in Ghanahatti under pits and minimum incidence was in Chanog (3.2%) under heaps conditions of storage.

The maximum incidence of storage rot in Bilaspur district was recorded in Namhol (14.0%) in pits and minimum in Panoh (3.0%) under heaps condition. During the year 1991, the survey report of different ginger growing areas in four districts of Himachal Pradesh i.e., Sirmour, Solan, Shimla and Bilaspur revealed that maximum disease incidence of 87% in Solan. Earlier, Dohroo (1993) also reported 50% losses in storage by rhizome rot of ginger caused by *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *zingiberi*. Ravindran and Babu (2005), observed infestation of ginger in store to an extent of 4.0-22.5%, when stored for 4-6 months. Two seasonal surveys were carried

out in March/April and June/July, 2009 to identify fungi associated with stored ginger in Nigeria. The results showed high frequency of *Aspergillus flavus*, *A. niger*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Rhizopus* sp. in the dried ginger samples with *A. flavus* having maximum predominance.

Fungi were isolated from diseased rhizomes and their frequency distribution was studied. It is clear from the data (Fig. 1) that frequency occurrence of *Fusarium oxysporum* was maximum (51%) among fungi causing storage rot of ginger in storage pits and heaps. It was followed by *Pythium ultimum* (19.0%) and *Verticillium chlamydosporium* (12%).

The minimum frequency distribution was recorded in case of *Rhizopus oryzae* (3.0%) followed by *Aspergillus niger* (8.0%) and *Penicillium digitatum* (7.0%). Sharma and Jain (1977) observed that out of 29 fungi associated with ginger externally or internally, four fungi viz., *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Pythium deliense*, *P. myriotylum* and *Pseudopapulaspora kendrickii* were present internally in rhizomes and were responsible for deterioration of the rhizomes in storage. The frequency of *F. oxysporum* was however, maximum in ginger rhizomes as compared to others.

Ram and Thakur (2010), reported association of *Alternaria alternata*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium solani*, *Macrophomina phaseolina*, *Pythium aphanidermatum*, *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Rhizopus stolonifer* under traditional storage structures of ginger rhizomes. Out of these, *P. aphanidermatum* and *F. solani* were found in more frequency of association with storage rot of ginger. In morphological studies, three different fungi were sub-cultured from stock culture on freshly prepared potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium and were incubated at 25±1 °C. The morphological characters of the fungi were

studied in fresh culture (7 days old). Various characters *i.e.* diameter of hyphae, micro and macroconidia, septation of conidia, phialides, sporangia, oospores of the isolated fungi were recorded and are presented in Table 2.

***Fusarium oxysporum* Schlecht**

The colonies of the fungus were floccose with mycelia and pinnotal type of linear growth. The hyphae were 2.1-4.2 µm and branched. Microconidia were oval to fusiform, aseptate and measured 4.2-6.3×2.4µm. Chlamydospores were smooth to rough walled and both intercalary and terminal on short lateral branches in mycelium. Peach yellow to bluish pigmentation was found to be produced by the fungus in medium.

The fungus were identified as FOU(1) as *Fusarium equiseti*; FOU(B), FOU(G), FOU(11), FOU(3), FOU(8) and FOU(M) as *Fusarium oxysporum*; FOU(10) as *Fusarium proliferatum* and FOU(A), FOU(f) as *Fusarium* sp. ITS gene sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of selected fungus show that all the isolates having >97 to 100% similarity with the sequences within the GenBank. The phylogenetic tree of identified species of fungi was constructed to determine their affiliations (Fig. 2).

Effect of curing on storage rot of ginger was studied and it was evident from the data Table 3 that minimum loss in weight (3.50%) occurred when rhizomes were given curing for 0 hours followed by 12 hours (8.37%), 24 hours (12.55%) and 36 hours (21.55%). The maximum loss in weight (28.50%) was recorded in curing at 40 hour. The minimum incidence of 7.86 and 19.49 % was observed at 40 and 36 hours of curing and were statistically at par with each other. It was followed by 24 (26.55%) and 12 hours (37.45%) of curing. The later two treatments were statistically at par with each other.

Table.1 Incidence of storage rot of ginger in Himachal Pradesh during 2014-15

District/Village	Pits	Heaps
Sirmour		
1. Sangrah	12.0	15.0
2. Tikkar	7.0	4.0
3. Sohal	5.0	3.0
4. Dungi	8.0	3.0
5. Timbi	5.0	6.0
6. Rajgarh	25.0	47.0
7. Ghandoori	7.0	5.0
8. Shillai	5.0	5.0
9. Harlu	10.0	11.0
10. Charna	17.0	12.0
Shimla		
11. Ghanahatti	17.0	8.0
12. Shoghi	7.0	14.0
13. Panesh	10.0	13.0
14. Chamba	6.0	7.0
15. Ladevi Panesh	4.0	6.5
16. Chanog	5.0	3.2
Solan		
17. Nauri	5.0	12.0
18. Kasauli	17.0	21.0
19. Kalaghat	15.0	8.0
20. Oachghat	6.0	11.0
21. Arki	7.0	9.0
22. Kunihar	8.0	10.0
23. Kandaghat	10.0	8.0
Bilaspur		
24. Namhol	14.0	9.0
25. Kandraur	3.0	15.0
26. Ghumarwin	6.0	12.0
27. Chandpur	8.0	6.0
28. Chlehli	4.0	7.0
29. Panoh	7.0	3.0

Table.2 Morphological characteristics of fungi associated with storage rot of ginger

Fungi	Morphological characters					
	Hyphae (µm)	Microconidia (µm)	Macroconidia (µm)	No. of Septa	Linear growth	Pigmentation
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> Schlecht	2.1-4.2	4.2-6.3×2.4	10-27×2-4	1-4	Pinnotal type	Peach yellow to bluish

Table.3 Effect of curing of rhizomes on disease incidence and weight loss

Curing duration (hrs)	Loss in weight	Disease incidence (%)	Mean
0	3.50 (12.94)	41.57 (40.15)	41.0 (39.83)
12	8.37 (17.27)	37.45 (37.73)	33.0 (35.01)
24	12.55 (22.30)	26.55 (31.02)	24.05 (29.34)
36	21.55 (27.66)	19.49 (26.19)	16.93 (24.23)
40	28.50 (39.52)	7.86 (16.27)	8.08 (19.10)
CD _(0.05)	0.81	0.51	

Table.4 Effect of integration of different rhizome treatments against storage rot of ginger

Treatment	Incidence (%) of storage rot at different intervals (days)				Mean
	30	60	90	120	
Bavistin (0.2%) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%) + Cow urine (5%)	17.47 (24.70)	19.40 (26.09)	21.37 (27.53)	23.47 (28.97)	20.45 (26.94)
HWT (50°C) + Dithane M-45 (0.2%) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%)	12.23 (20.46)	13.40 (21.46)	15.63 (23.28)	19.17 (25.96)	15.16 (23.07)
Bavistin (0.2%) + HWT (50°C) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%)	7.2 (15.62)	10.37 (18.77)	13.13 (21.24)	15.37 (23.07)	11.46 (19.33)
Neemazal (0.4%) + Antacol (0.3%) + HWT (50°C)	18.37 (25.37)	21.37 (27.53)	24.30 (29.55)	27.40 (31.56)	22.78 (28.31)
Antracol (0.3%) + Cow urine (5%) + <i>T. viride</i> (0.5%)	17.23 (24.52)	20.47 (26.89)	23.43 (28.95)	24.33 (29.55)	21.17 (26.82)
Control	39.30 (38.82)	43.33 (41.17)	57.63 (49.39)	64.10 (53.20)	50.00 (45.40)
Mean	18.64 (24.92)	21.39 (26.99)	25.92 (29.99)	28.97 (32.05)	23.46 (28.35)

Table.5 Effect of integration of different rhizome treatments on rhizome recovery and other parameters of seed ginger during 2014-15

Treatments	Rhizome recovery (%)	Rhizome health parameters				
		Bud length (mm)	Mould	Shriveling	Bud colour	Sprouting
Neemazal (0.4%) + Antacol (0.3%) + HWT (50°C)	75.53 (62.40)	3.3	-	-	Creemish to White	++
HWT (50°C) + Dithane M-45 (0.2%) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%)	84.27 (66.64)	3	-	-	Creemish to White	++
Bavistin (0.2%) + HWT (50°C) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%)	86.53 (68.49)	2.3	-	-	Creemish to White	++
Neemazal (0.4%) + Antacol (0.3%) + HWT (50°C)	76.53 (61.03)	3.3	-	-	Creemish to White	++
Bavistin (0.2%) + <i>T. harzianum</i> (0.5%) + Cow urine (5%)	80.43 (63.75)	2.3	-	-	Creemish to White	++
Control	38.47 (38.33)	5.3	++	++	Brown to Black	+
Mean	74.13 (60.11)					
CD (0.05)		0.17				

Fig.1 Frequency distribution of different fungi associated with storage rot of ginger

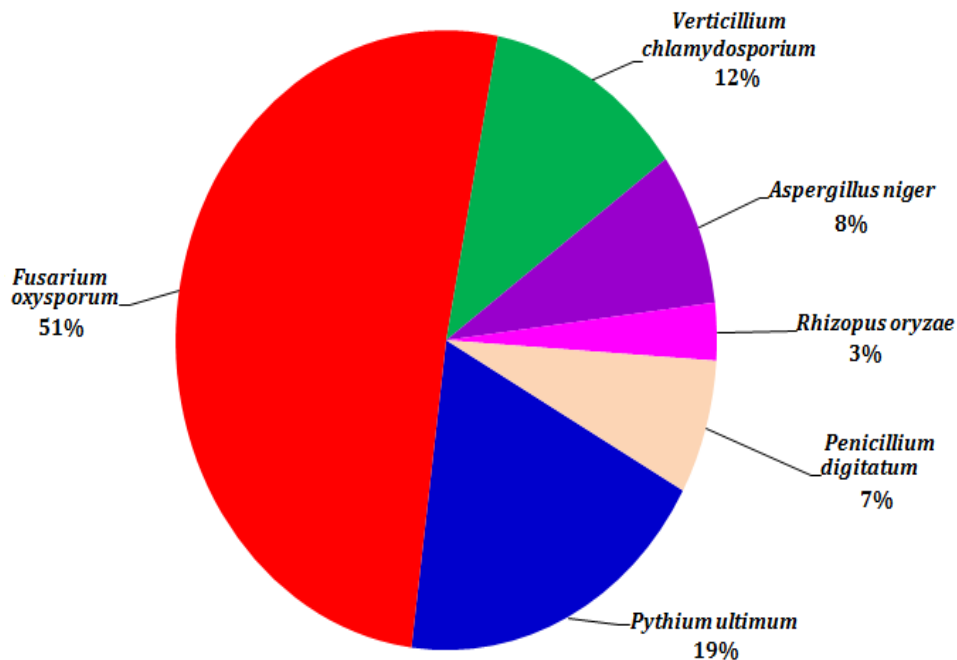
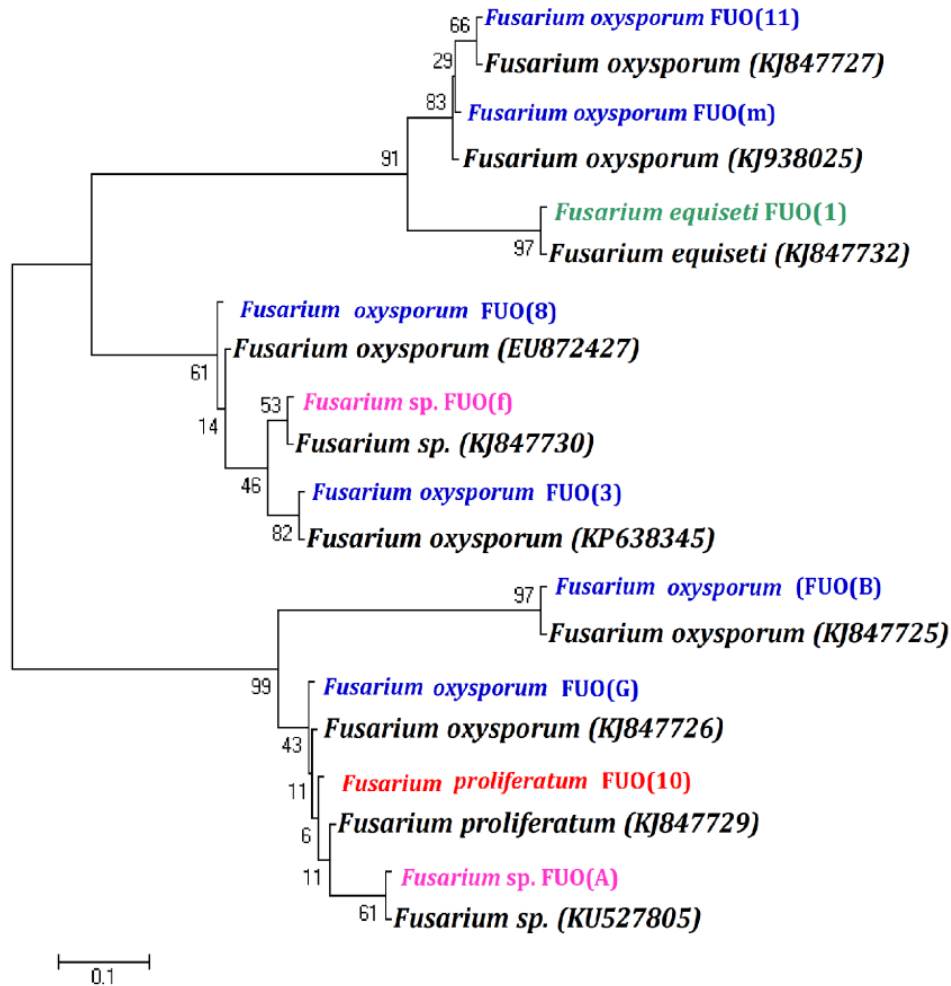


Fig.2 Phylogenetic tree showed the relationship among fungal isolated causing ginger rot, ITS gene sequences with reference sequences obtained through BLAST analysis. The sequence alignment was performed using the CLUSTAL W program and trees were constructed using maximum likelihood method with algorithm using MEGA4 software (Tamura *et al.*, 2007). One thousand bootstrap replicates were performed. Bootstrap values are indicated on the branches



The maximum disease incidence (41.57%) was however, found at 0 hour of curing. It was inferred from the data that the curing for 36 to 40 hours decreased disease incidence and increased rhizome recovery. The curing of rhizomes offered effective means of reducing post-harvest decay by way of water loss during the process of curing. Besides, it also strengthened the skin of rhizomes. The curing also involved suberization of outer tissues of rhizomes followed by the

development of wound periderm which acted as an effective barrier against infection and water loss (Proctor 1985). Field experiment was carried out in a Randomized Block Design under storage conditions in pits during 2014-15 in the first week of December at vegetable farm of the University. All the treatments significantly reduced the storage rot incidence over control. The data were recorded at 30, 60, 90 and 120 days interval. The data indicate that minimum incidence

was recorded in treatments, Carbendazim + HWT + *T. harzianum* (7.2%) and HWT + Mancozeb + *T. harzianum* (12.23%) after 30 days of storage as compared to control where incidence was 39.30% (Table 5). Thus both the treatments Carbendazim + HWT + *T. harzianum* and HWT + Mancozeb + *T. harzianum* were statistically different from each other. Minimum storage rot incidence was also recorded in treatments Carbendazim + HWT + *T. harzianum* (15.37%) and HWT + Mancozeb + *T. harzianum* (19.17%), after 120 days of storage. Incidence of rot was maximum (64.10 %) in control rhizomes after 120 days of storage. The interaction between treatment, storage interval and between the years was found to be significant. From the perusal of data it is evident that highest rhizome recovery (86.53%) was obtained in treatment Bavistin + HWT + *T. harzianum* during 2015 (Table 4).

The data further revealed that minimum rhizome recovery (38.47%) was obtained in a control treatment and all the treatments were statistically significant among each other (Table 5). It is obvious from the visual observations that there was presence of mould in the control treatment while no mould was observed in other treatments.

The data indicated that no surface shriveling was observed in all the treatments while it was moderate (30-70%) in control treatment. Similarly, moderate surface sprouting (30-70%) was observed in all the treatments except control treatment where slight (< 30%) surface sprouting was observed. Creemish to white bud colour was observed in all the treatments except control where bud colour was brown to black.

Though no information is available in literature on the combined effect of different combinations of fungicides, botanicals and biocontrol in management of storage rot of

ginger, yet soil application and amendments of *T. harzianum*, *T. viride*, neem cake and their combination have also been reported effective for the management of *Fusarium* wilt of gladiolus (Kavitha *et al.*, 2013).

Chandel and Sharma (2014), used botanicals, biofumigants and antagonists application in managing stem rot disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn in carnation. Studies on the effect of pre-storage treatments on storage rot of ginger revealed that the pre-storage treatment with Topsin-M and Bavistin each at 0.2% concentration for 60 min reduced incidence of storage rot, loss in rhizome weight, surface shriveling, sprouting of ginger and increased the recovery of the rhizomes (Dohroo, 2012).

Ramteke and Kamble (2011), studied the effect of carbon and nitrogen sources, temperature, pH levels and light spectra on mycelial growth of benomyl sensitive and resistant isolates of *Fusarium solani*. Singh *et al.*, (2007) reported that treatment of tomato seeds with combination of *Trichoderma harzianum* and Carbendazim resulted in highest disease control (84%) of *R. solani* at 60 days.

Tripathi *et al.*, (2008) used some essential oils as post-harvest botanical fungicides in the management of grey mould of grapes caused by *Botrytris cinerea*. Ristaino and Papavizas (2010) used two fungal antagonists viz., *T. viride* and *T. harzianum* along with fungicide Carbendazim as seed treatment and soil drench results in significant inhibition in growth of *Rhizoctonia solani* in cabbage. Dohroo *et al.*, (2012) reported that the effect of soil application of *T. harzianum* bioformulation and rhizome seed treatment with onion and garlic were most potent in limiting the soft rot of ginger. Ojaghian *et al.*, (2014) conducted *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments to evaluate antifungal activity of

crude extracts derived from neem and ginger rhizomes against carrot caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Gupta *et al.*, (2016), deciphered gentisyl alcohol from *Phoma herbarum* endophytic in *Curcuma Longa* L. and its antagonistic activity towards leaf spot pathogen *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. B. Devi and Thakur (2016) used bioagents, botanicals and fungicides under both *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions against banded leaf and sheath blight of maize. Rahman *et al.*, (2016), evaluated different plant extract as selective Pesticides for Integrated Pest Management of different plants. M. I. Devi and Devi (2017), described combination of fungicides, botanicals and bioagents under *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions to manage the Grey leaf spot of mango.

In conclusion, the frequency occurrence of *Fusarium* was most dominant in ginger rots. Among various diseases storage rot is a serious menace of ginger *Zingiber officinale* due to its worldwide occurrence. Storage rot of ginger caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *zingiberi* in storage is one of the major problems for successful ginger cultivation. Seven fungi were isolated from diseased rhizomes and frequency occurrence of *Fusarium oxysporum* was maximum (50%) among fungi causing storage rot of ginger in storage pits and heaps. Disease management practice alone is not sufficient until integrated with other components, as disease is a complex phenomenon governed by many factors. The integration of effective fungicides with plant oils, botanicals and antagonists were important for the successful management of plant diseases. Taking into consideration we use integrated disease management practice and results indicate that minimum incidence of disease was recorded when we used combination of treatments Bavistin + HWT + *T. harzianum* in a compatible manner.

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Competing interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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