## **CONTENTS**

Subject		Page No.
Abstract		i-ii
Declaration by	the Candidate	
Certificate of t	he Supervisor	
Certificate of t	he External Examiner and ODEC	
Acknowledgen	nent	iii-iv
Contents		v-ix
List of Tables		X
List of Figures		xi-xvi
List of Abbrev	iations and Symbols	xvii-xviii
CHAPTER 1	Introduction and Review of Literature	1-22
1.1 Introduct	ion	1-7
1.2 Objective	es	7-8
1.3 Review o	f Literature	8-14
1.3.1 R. so	lanacearum pathogenicity study in host plants	8
	pees: susceptible plants evading the bacterial wilt symptom <i>R. solanacearum</i> inoculation	10
1.3.3 Poly	phosphate metabolism	11
References		14-22
CHAPTER 2	Comparative Pathogenicity Study of Ralstonia solanacearum F1C1 between Eggplant and Tomato Seedlings by The Leaf Clip Inoculation Method	23-57
2.1 Abstract		23
2.2 Introduction		23-25
2.3 Material and Methods		25-37
2.3.1 Media, chemicals and lab wares		25
2.3.2 Bacterial strains and growth conditions		25
2.3.3 Germination process of eggplant seeds		27
2.3.4 Preparation of bacterial inoculums		28

Ph. D Thesis

	Contents
2.3.5 Pathogenicity studies by the leaf clip method	28
2.3.5.1 Pathogenicity Assay	
2.3.5.2 Inoculation of different of eggplant cultivars	29
2.3.5.3 Inoculation of non pathogenic bacteria	29
2.3.6 GUS staining of eggplant seedlings	30
2.3.7 Inoculation of eggplant and tomato seedlings within a single microfuge tube	30
2.3.8 Inoculation of eggplant seedlings with different concentration of <i>R. solanacearum</i> inoculums	31
2.3.9 Transformation in R. solanacearum F1C1	31
2.3.10 Creation of hrpB and phcA mutant of R. solanacearum F1C1	31
2.3.11 Creation of <i>hrpG</i> insertion mutant of <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1	32
2.3.12 Confirmation of <i>hrpB</i> and <i>phcA</i> mutant of <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1	33
2.3.12.1 Hypersensitive response (HR) assay of <i>hrpB</i> and <i>hrpG</i> mutants of F1C1	33
2.3.12.2 Swimming motility assay of phcA mutant of F1C1	34
2.3.13 Creation of mCherry tagged <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1, <i>hrpB</i> and <i>phcA</i> mutant of F1C1 and their colonization study in eggplant and tomato seedlings	35
2.3.14 Isolation of bacteria from the inoculated seedlings at different DPI	36
2.4 Results	37-50
2.4.1. R. solanacearum F1C1 causes wilt in eggplant seedlings inoculated by the leaf clip method	37
2.4.2 <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1 is more aggressive in eggplant seedlings than tomato seedlings inoculated by the leaf clip method	
2.5 Discussion	
References	53-57
CHAPTER 3 A Comparative Study of the Pathogen Load in Wilted and Healthy looking Tomato Seedlings Inoculated by the Leaf Clip Method	58-76

Ph. D Thesis vi

3.1 Abstract		
3.2 Introduction		
3.3 Material and Methods		
3.3.1 Bacterial strains and growth conditions	60	
3.3.2 <i>R. solanacearum</i> pathogenicity study in tomato seedlings by the leaf clip method		
3.3.3 R. solanacearum colonization study in tomato seedlings		
3.3.4 Bacterial population count in inoculated tomato seedlings		
3.4 Results	64-71	
3.4.1 Inoculation of <i>R. solanacearum</i> in two cotyledon leaves has a higher chance of wilting occurrence than inoculation in one cotyledon leaf of a tomato seedling	64	
3.4.2 Pathogen occurrence in the escapees like the wilted plants	67	
3.4.3 Similar bacterial load in wilted and healthy looking seedlings	69	
3.5 Discussion	71-74	
References	74-76	
CHAPTER 4 Characterization of Polyphosphate Metabolism Homologues of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> F1C1 with regard to their role in Virulence	77-139	
4.1 Abstract	77	
4.2 Introduction	77-79	
4.3 Material and methods	79-115	
4.3.1 Media and chemicals		
4.3.2 Bacterial strains, growth media and culture conditions	80	
4.3.3 Competent cell preparation and transformation		
4.3.4 Identification of polyphosphate metabolism homologues in <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1strain		
4.3.5 Creation of insertion mutagenesis in polyphosphate metabolism homologues of <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1		
4.3.5.1 Creation of <i>ppk1</i> insertion mutant	85	
4.3.5.2 Creation of <i>ppk2</i> insertion mutant	88	

Ph. D Thesis

	Contents
4.3.5.3 Creation of <i>ppx</i> insertion mutant	91
4.3.5.4 Creation of <i>ppnk</i> insertion mutant	
4.3.5.5 Assay for <i>lacZ</i> gene insertion in polyphosphate homologue mutants	95
4.3.6 Expression study of polyphosphate metabolism homologues	96
4.3.6.1 lacZ expression assay:	96
4.3.6.2 Real time expression assay	97
4.3.7 Creation of a deletion mutation in <i>ppk1</i> homologue of <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1	99
4.3.8 Creation of a <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppk2</i> double mutant of <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1 strain	103
4.3.9 Characterization of virulence phenotypes in polyphosphate metabolism mutants	104
4.3.9.1 Swimming motility assay	104
4.3.9.2 Swarming motility assay	104
4.3.9.3 Twitching motility assay	104
4.3.9.4 Growth comparison of wild type and mutant strains	105
4.3.9.5 Hypersensitive Response (HR) assay	105
4.3.9.6 Cellulase assay	105
4.3.9.7 Oxidative stress assay	105
4.3.9.8 Virulence study in tomato seedlings	106
4.3.10 Detection of PolyP accumulation in wild type F1C1 and PolyP mutants	107
4.3.11 Creation of <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppnk</i> complemented strain	107
4.3.11.1 Confirmation of vector used for complemented study	107
4.3.11.2 Cloning of full length <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppnk</i> homologues in pNP267 vector	109
4.3.11.3 Insertion of Spectinomycin cassette (ΩSpc) into pNP267:: <i>ppk1</i> and pNP267:: <i>ppnk</i> construct	111
4.3.11.4 Transformation of pTP012 and pTP014 into <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppnk</i> insertion mutant strains of F1C1	112
4.4 Results	
4.4.1. Polyphosphate metabolism genes are conserved in <i>R. solanacearum</i> F1C1	115

Ph. D Thesis viii

Contents

4.4.2 Creation of ppk1, ppk2, ppx and ppnk insertion mutants		
4.4.3 Creation of <i>ppk1</i> deletion mutant		
4.4.4 Creation of <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppk2</i> double mutant		
4.4.5 Polyphosphate metabolism genes showed higher expression in minimal medium	117	
4.4.6 ppk1, ppk2, ppnk mutants were swimming motility deficient	118	
4.4.7 The <i>ppk1</i> mutant showed reduced swarming motility		
4.4.8 Polyphosphate mutants are twitching motility proficient	120	
4.4.9 Polyphosphate metabolism mutants were growth proficient like the wild type	121	
4.4.10 Polyphosphate metabolism mutants were proficient for Hypersensitive Response (HR)	121	
4.4.11 Polyphosphate metabolism mutants were cellulase proficient	122	
4.4.12 PolyP mutants exhibited tolerance to oxidative stress		
4.4.13 <i>ppk1</i> and <i>ppnk</i> mutants were virulence deficient in tomato seedlings	124	
4.4.14 PolyP accumulation was detected in ppx mutant of F1C1	130	
4.4.15 Complementation study of ppk1 and ppnk mutants	131	
4.5 Discussion	133-135	
References	135-139	
CHAPTER 5 Conclusion And Future Aspects	140-142	
Appendix I	143-147	
Appendix II	148-150	
Appendix III	151-153	
Appendix IV	154-159	
List of Publication		

Ph. D Thesis