



# Metaboliti fungini: non solo antibiotici...

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**8 Novembre 2023**



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FEDERICO II



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**Medicina Veterinaria**  
Produzioni Animali



# Indice

- Breve biografia
- Il metabolismo secondario dei funghi
- Il ruolo dei metaboliti secondari fungini nelle interazioni  
pianta/patogeno/microrganismi benefici
- Formulazioni per l'agricoltura a base di metaboliti secondari  
fungini
- Prospettive future

# BREVE BIOGRAFIA



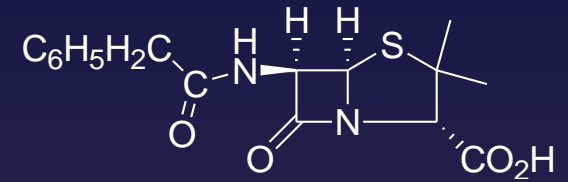
- 
- AA 1995-96      **Laurea**
- AA 1997-98      **Specializzazione in Biotecnologie Agroalimentari**
- 2003              **PhD in Patologia Vegetale**
- 2003–2005      **Assegno di ricerca (UNINA)**
- 2006-2008
- 2009              *Endeavour Research Fellowship Award (UWA)*
- 2010              **Ricercatore CNR - IPSP**
- 2019              **RTD B in Patologia Vegetale AGR/12 DMVPA UNINA**
- 2022              **PA in Patologia Vegetale AGR/12 DMVPA UNINA**
- 
- 1998–1999      *Visiting scientist* presso l'Università di Monaco di Baviera
- 2005              *Visiting scientist* presso la UWA
- 2008              *Short Mobility* UNINA presso la UWA
- 2013              *Visiting scientist* presso *University of Stellenbosch (SA)*

# Il metabolismo secondario dei funghi

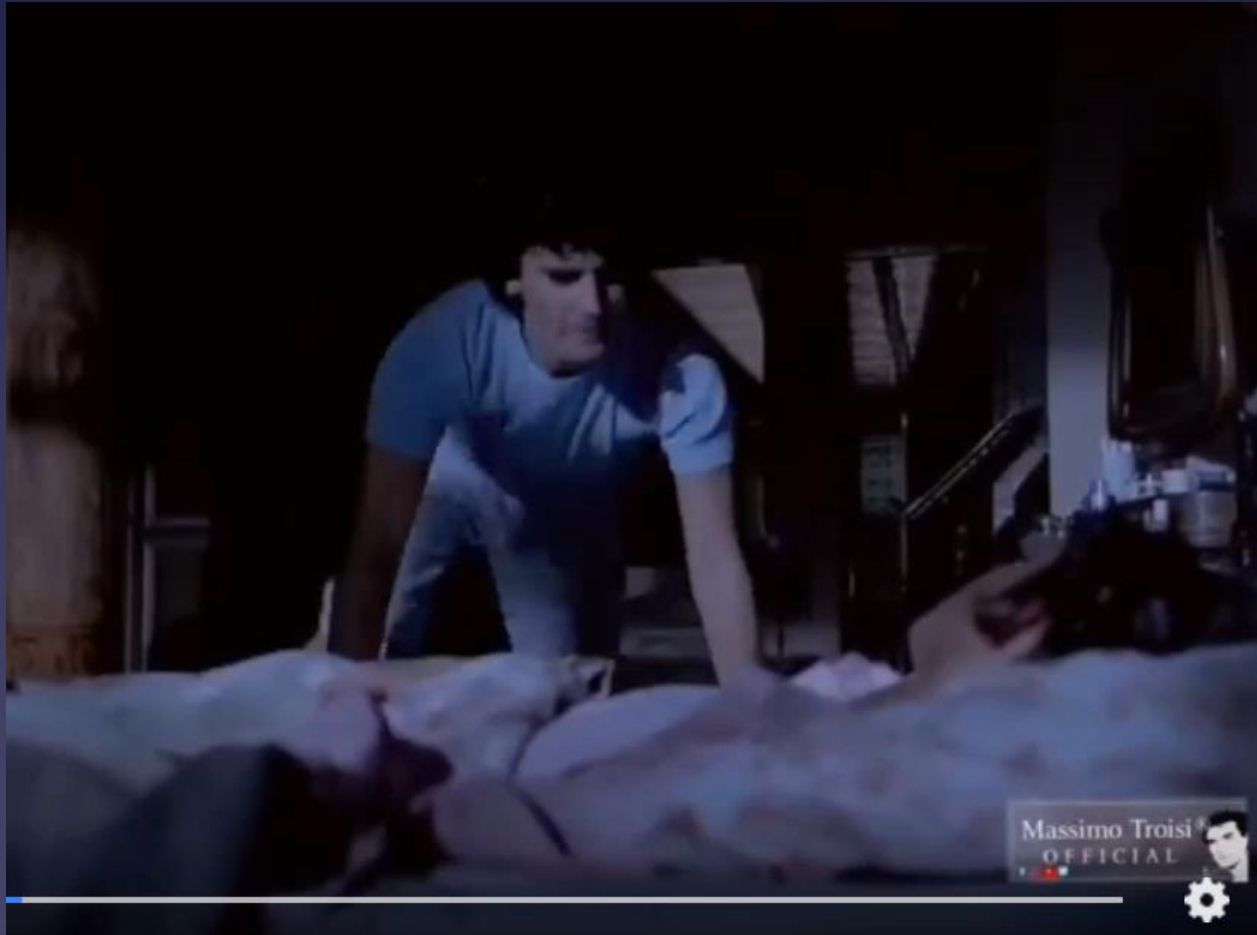
non solo antibiotici...

Penicillina G

Antibiotico prodotto da *Penicillium notatum*



La sua scoperta nel 1932, che segna l'inizio dell'era degli antibiotici, spetta a ???????????



Da: *Ricomincio da tre*  
1981

# Il metabolismo secondario dei funghi

I funghi sono una miniera ancora in parte inesplorata di sostanze naturali attive (compresi gli antibiotici)



Pergamon

*Tetrahedron*, Vol. 53, No. 9, pp. 3135-3144, 1997

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0040-4020/97 \$17.00 + 0.00

PII: S0040-4020(97)00024-0

## A New Fungal Growth Inhibitor from *Trichoderma viride*

**Luisa Mannina\***, Anna Laura Segre

Istituto di Strutturistica Chimica and NMR Service, C.P. 10,  
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**Alberto Ritieni, Vincenzo Fogliano, Francesco Vinale, Giacomino Randazzo**

Dipartimento di Scienza degli Alimenti, Università di Napoli "Federico II".

**Lucia Maddau, Antonio Bottalico**

Istituto di Patologia Vegetale, Università di Sassari.

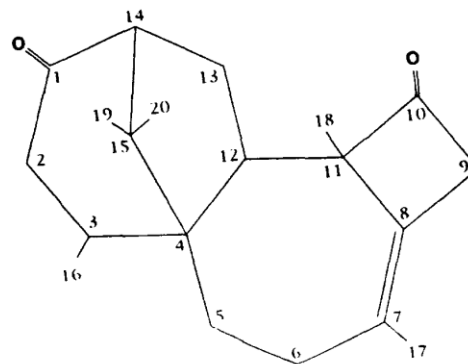
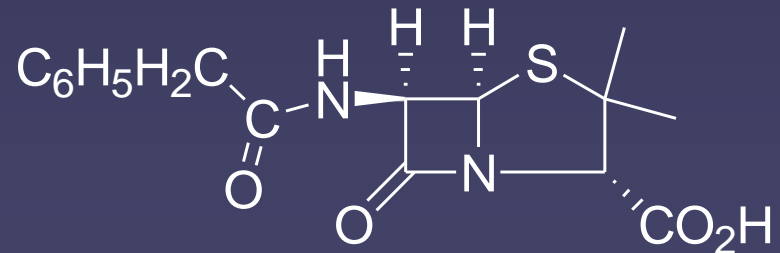


Fig.7. Sketch of structure of isoharzandione. Notation was kept according to the biosynthetic rule.

# Secondary metabolites

- Substances produced mainly by microorganisms and plants.
- Characteristic of a limited range of species.
- Heterogeneous group of chemically different natural products,
- Exhibit a wide range of biological activities,  
i.e.: i) competitive weapons used against bacteria, fungi, plants, insects and animals; ii) metal transporting agents; iii) agents of symbiosis between microbes and plants, nematodes, insects; iv) sexual hormones.

**Include antibiotics = natural products capable of inhibiting or killing microbial competitors**



*$\beta$  - Lactame structure of Penicillin G*

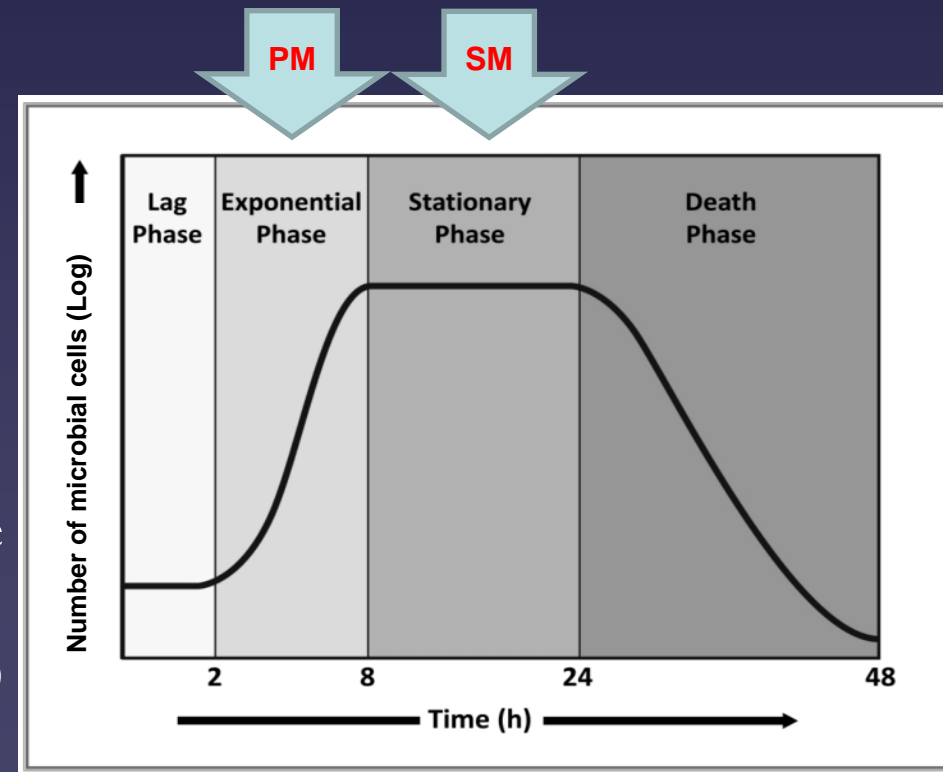
# Primary vs Secondary metabolism

**Primary metabolism** = biochemical reactions that lead to metabolites which are required for the growth and maintenance of cellular functions.

**Nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids.**

Vital primary metabolism is related with the phase of rapid microbial growth (logarithmic, log or **exponential phase**).

**Stationary phase:** the metabolites derived from primary metabolism may be further transformed to other products including **secondary metabolites (SMs)**



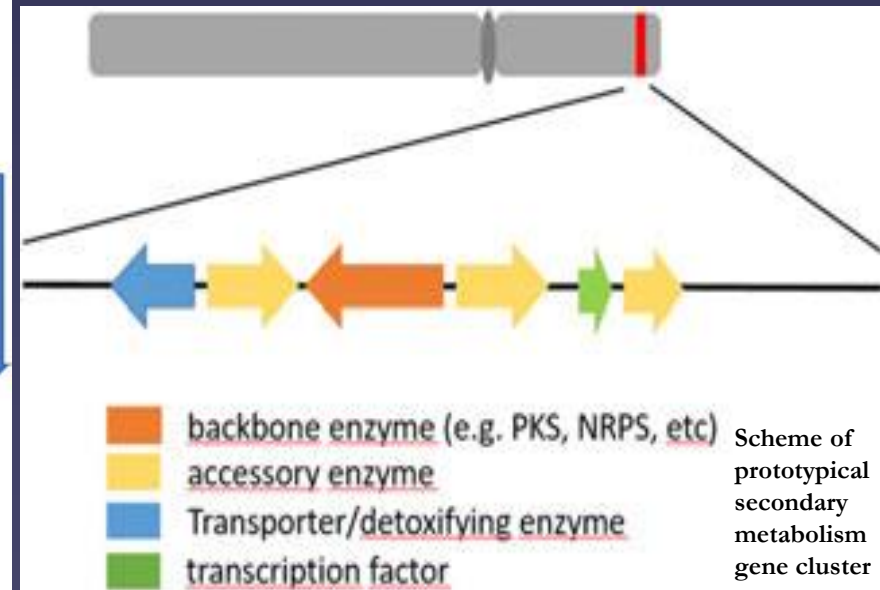
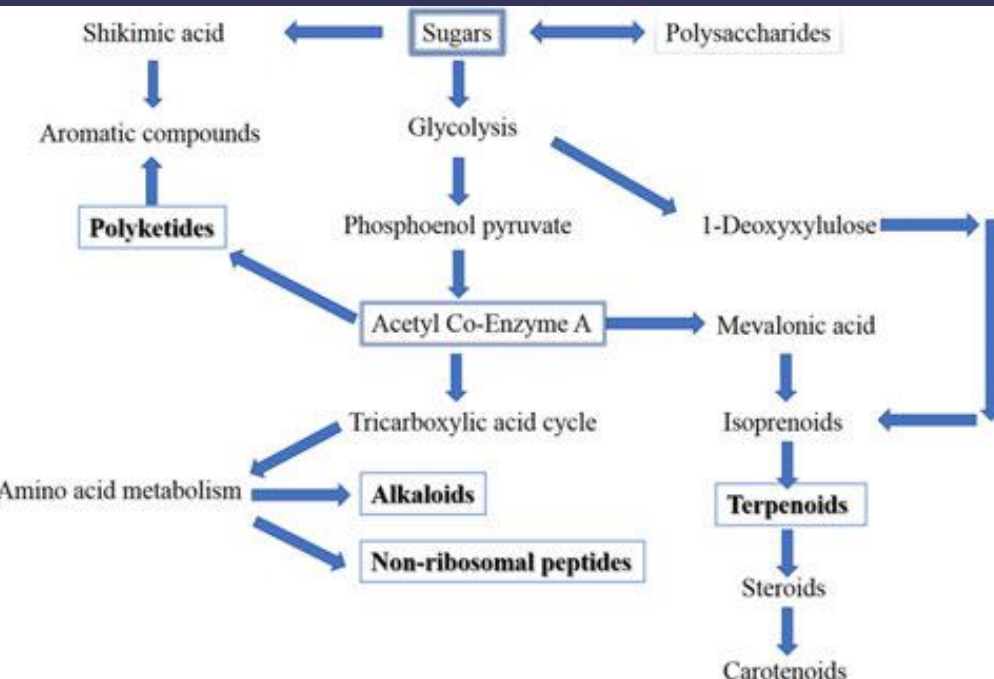


# Primary vs Secondary metabolism

**Fungal Secondary Metabolism** = is not essential for vegetative growth but is often related to differentiation and sporulation.

Batch rather than continuous culture usually favors SM production.

These natural compounds show an enormous variety of biosynthetic origins (genes are often clustered), and there have been many examples of novel SMs (previously unreported).



# Primary vs Secondary metabolism

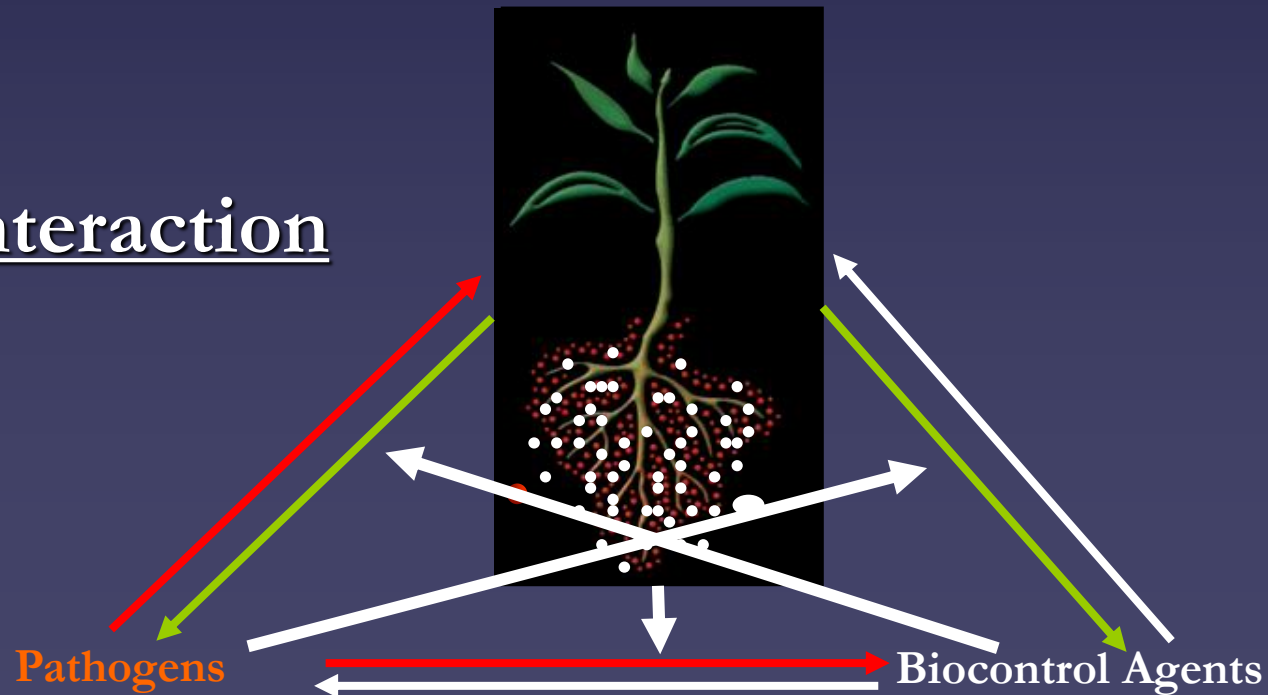
- Secondary metabolism is a rich and important source of chemical compounds with potential applications in several fields
- With beneficial or not-beneficial effects = from antibiotics to mycotoxins or phyto toxins (virulence factors).

# Secondary metabolites (SMs)

SM are involved in several biological interaction important in agriculture:

- Plant/pathogen
- Biocontrol agent (BCA)/pathogen
- Beneficial microbe /plant
- Microbe / soil

## A three-way interaction



# Beneficial microbes: interaction with the pathogen mediated by secondary metabolites

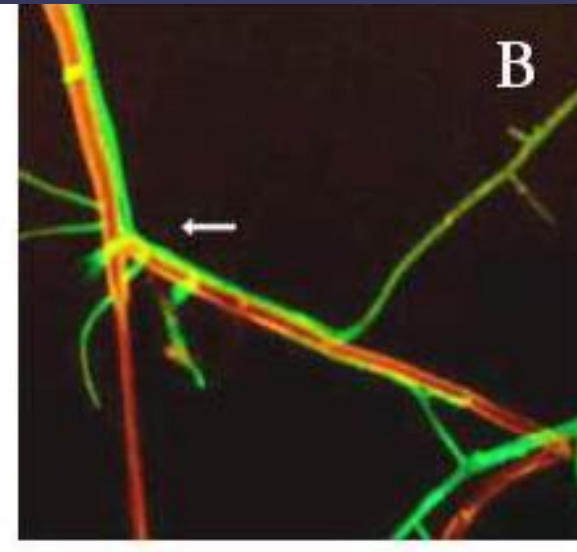
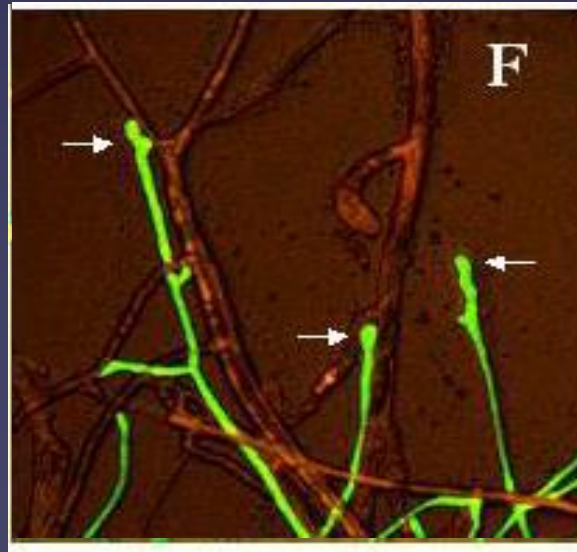
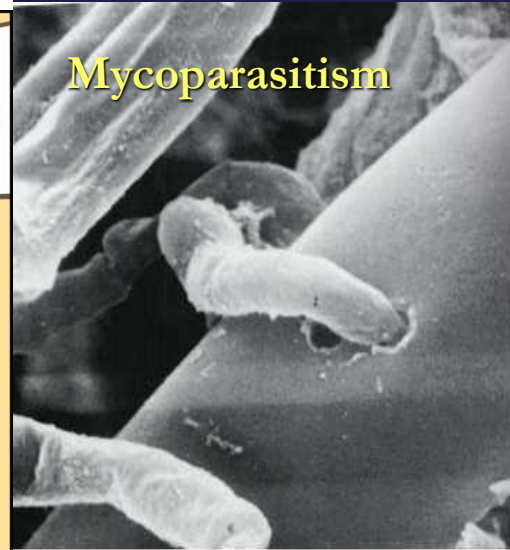
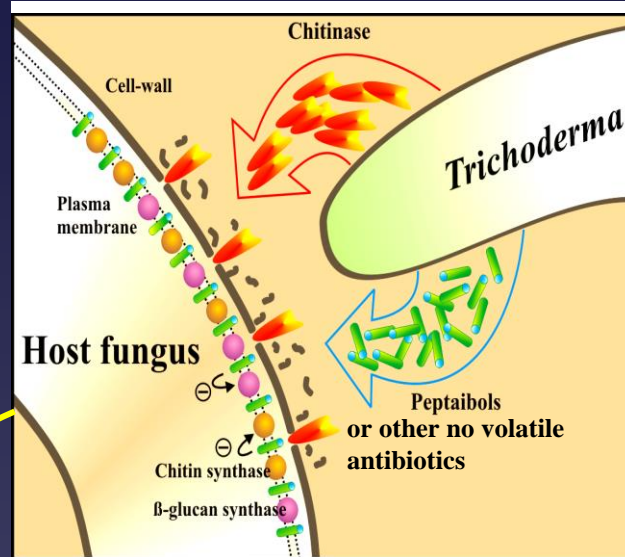
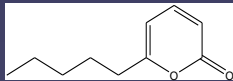
Antibiotic production is often correlated with disease control ability

Long distance

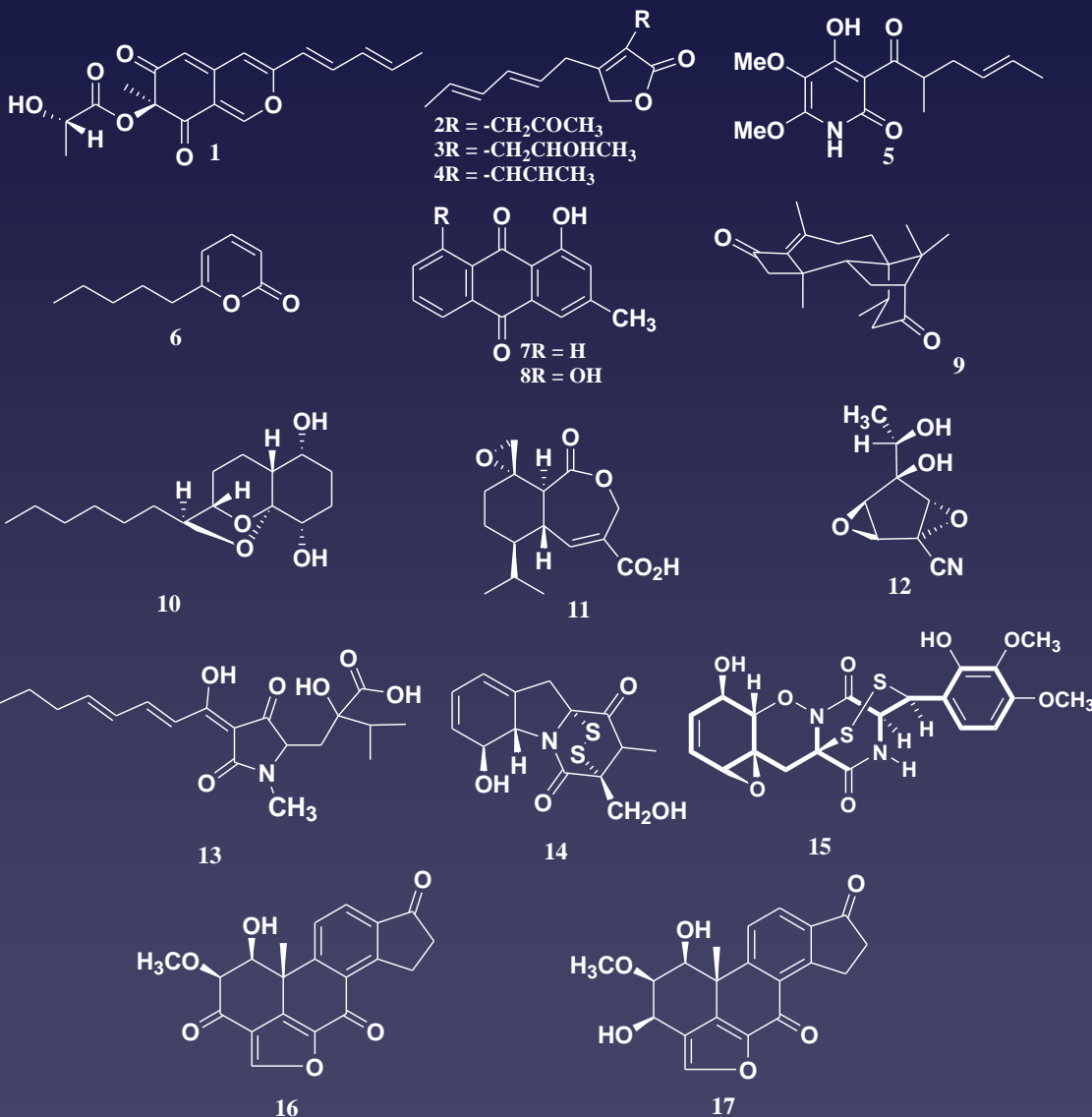
BCA

Host fungus


volatile antibiotics  
(i.e. 6PP)



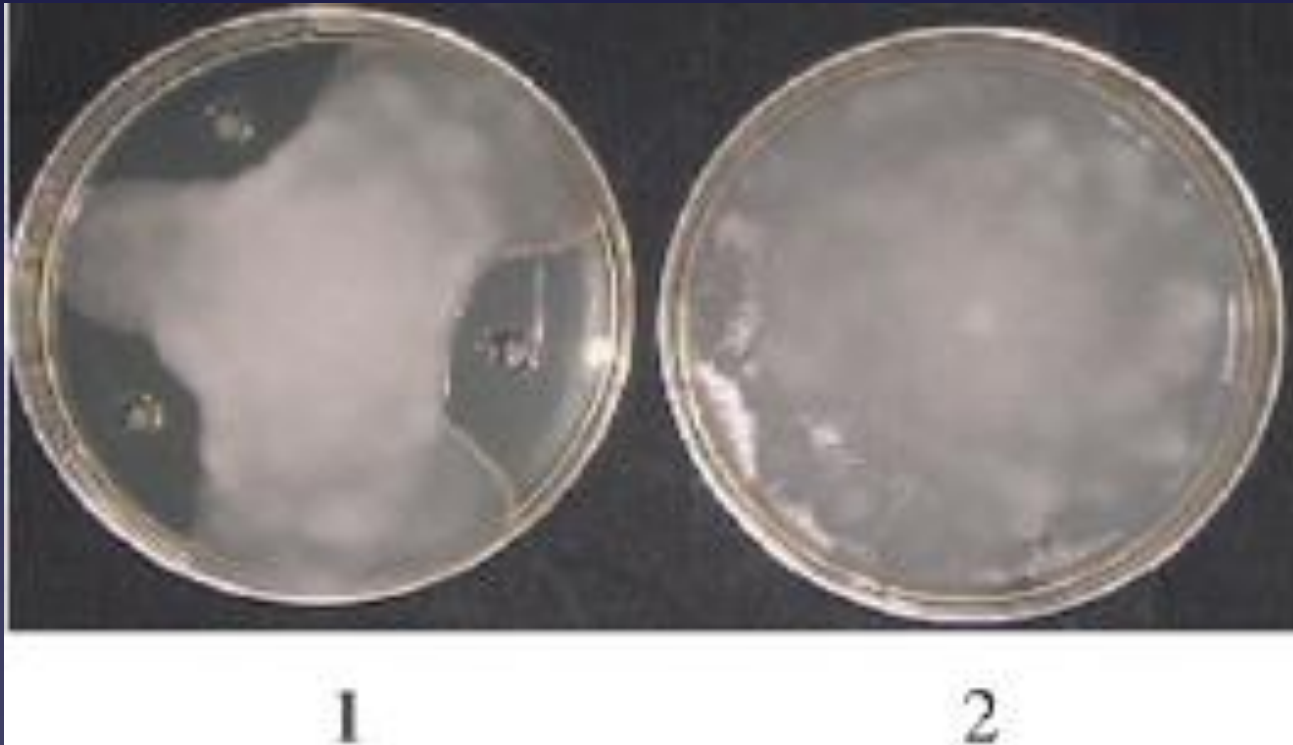
# Antibiosis



Antibiotics of fungi used in agriculture for disease control: *Trichoderma* spp.

- 
- 1: T22azaphilone;
  - 2: T39butenolide;
  - 3: harzianolide;
  - 4: dehydro harzianolide;
  - 5: harzianopyridone;
  - 6: 6-pentyl- $\alpha$ -pyrone (6PP);
  - 7: 1-hydroxy-3-methyl-antraquinone;
  - 8: 1,8-dihydroxy-3-methyl-antraquinone;
  - 9: harziandione;
  - 10: koniginin A;
  - 11: heptelidic acid;
  - 12: trichoviridin;
  - 13: harzianic acid;
  - 14: gliotoxin;
  - 15: gliovirin;
  - 16: viridin;
  - 17: viridiol;
  - 18: trichorzianines.

# Antibiosis



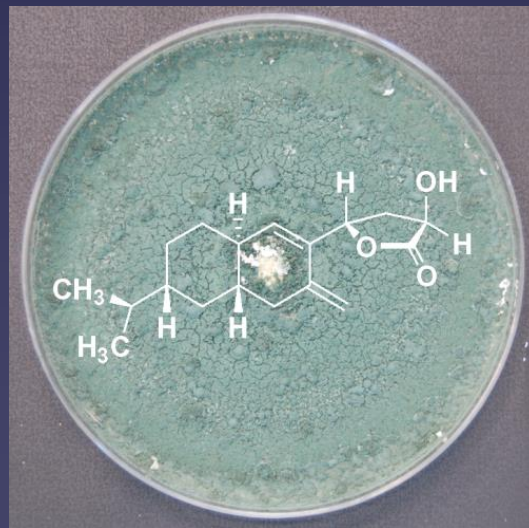
*P. ultimum* (1): with 6PP; (2): without 6PP

# Antibiosis

## Cerinolactone, a Hydroxy-Lactone Derivative from *Trichoderma cerinum*

Francesco Vinale,<sup>\*,†,‡</sup> Isabel Arjona Girona,<sup>§</sup> Marco Nigro,<sup>†,‡</sup> Pierluigi Mazzei,<sup>⊥</sup> Alessandro Piccolo,<sup>⊥</sup> Michelina Ruocco,<sup>†</sup> Sheridan Woo,<sup>†,‡</sup> David Ruano Rosa,<sup>§</sup> Carlos López Herrera,<sup>§</sup> and Matteo Lorito<sup>†,‡</sup>

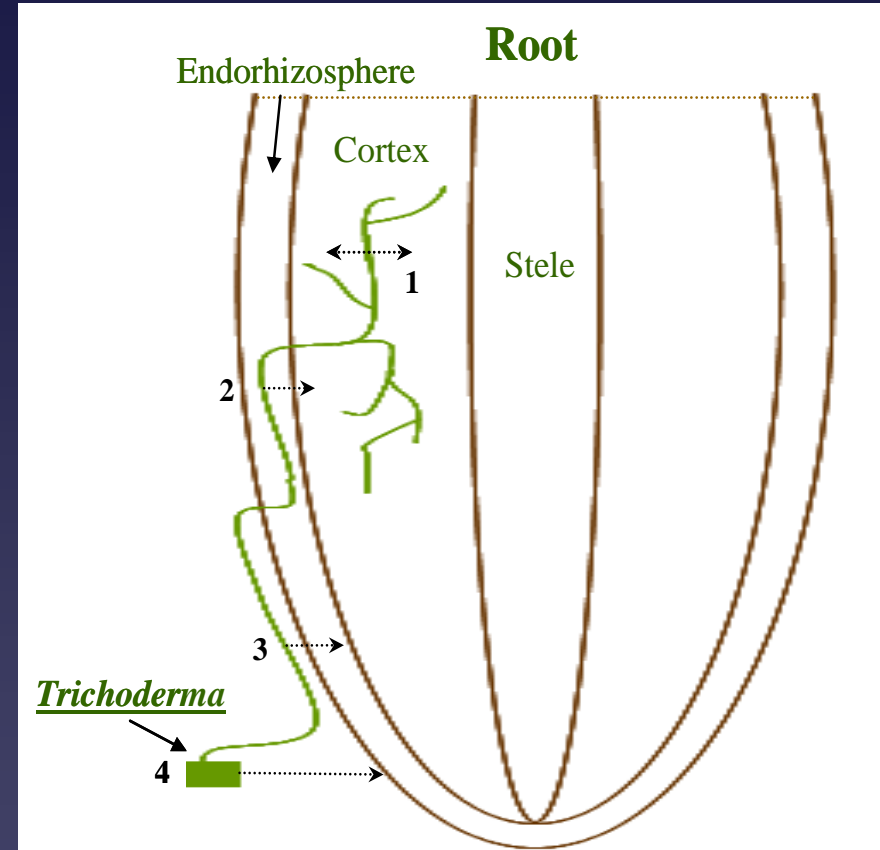
A novel metabolite named cerinolactone, has been isolated from culture filtrates of *T. cerinum*. Active against *Pythium ultimum*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, and *Botrytis cinerea*.



# Beneficial microbes: interaction with the plant mediated by secondary metabolites??

Effects of SM on plant??

- Promotion of plant growth
- Increased nutrient availability
- Improved crop production
- Enhanced disease resistance



Potential sites of production of *Trichoderma* metabolites that can affect plant host metabolism.

- ① Metabolites produced within live cortical cells.
- ② Metabolites produced in the root surface and within dead cortical cells.
- ③ Metabolites produced in the rhizosphere.
- ④ Metabolites produced in soil organic matter





# Beneficial microbes: interaction with the plant mediated by secondary metabolites??

Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology 72 (2008) 80–85

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pmpp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pmpp)



A novel role for *Trichoderma* secondary metabolites in the interactions with plants

F. Vinale<sup>a,\*</sup>, K. Sivasithamparam<sup>b</sup>, E.L. Ghisalberti<sup>c</sup>, R. Marra<sup>a</sup>, M.J. Barbetti<sup>d</sup>, H. Li<sup>b</sup>, S.L. Woo<sup>a</sup>, M. Lorito<sup>a</sup>

JOURNAL OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
FOOD CHEMISTRY

Cite This: *J. Agric. Food Chem.* 2019, 67, 1814–1822

Article

[pubs.acs.org/JAFC](http://pubs.acs.org/JAFC)

## Application of *Trichoderma* Strains and Metabolites Enhances Soybean Productivity and Nutrient Content

Roberta Marra,<sup>\*,†,‡,§</sup> Nadia Lombardi,<sup>†,§</sup> Giada d'Errico,<sup>†,‡</sup> Jacopo Troisi,<sup>†,∇,⊕</sup> Giovanni Scala,<sup>∇,⊖</sup> Francesco Vinale,<sup>§</sup> Sheridan L. Woo,<sup>‡,§,#</sup> Giuliano Bonanomi,<sup>†,‡</sup> and Matteo Lorito<sup>†,‡,§</sup>

JOURNAL OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
FOOD CHEMISTRY

Article

[pubs.acs.org/JAFC](http://pubs.acs.org/JAFC)

## Metabolomics by Proton High-Resolution Magic-Angle-Spinning Nuclear Magnetic Resonance of Tomato Plants Treated with Two Secondary Metabolites Isolated from *Trichoderma*

Pierluigi Mazzei,<sup>\*,†</sup> Francesco Vinale,<sup>‡</sup> Sheridan Lois Woo,<sup>‡,§</sup> Alberto Pascale,<sup>§</sup> Matteo Lorito,<sup>‡,§</sup> and Alessandro Piccolo<sup>†,§</sup>



Crop Protection

Volume 92, February 2017, Pages 176–181



## *Trichoderma* and its secondary metabolites improve yield and quality of grapes

A. Pascale<sup>a</sup>, F. Vinale<sup>b</sup>, G. Manganiello<sup>a</sup>, M. Nigro<sup>a</sup>, S. Lanzuise<sup>a</sup>, M. Ruocco<sup>b</sup>, R. Marra<sup>a</sup>, N. Lombardi<sup>a</sup>, S.L. Woo<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Lorito<sup>a,b</sup>

NPC

Natural Product Communications

2012  
Vol. 7  
No. 11  
1545 - 1550

## *Trichoderma* Secondary Metabolites that Affect Plant Metabolism

Francesco Vinale<sup>a,\*</sup>, Krishnapillai Sivasithamparam<sup>b</sup>, Emilio L. Ghisalberti<sup>c</sup>, Michelina Ruocco<sup>a</sup>, Sheridan Woo<sup>d,a</sup> and Matteo Lorito<sup>d,a</sup>

JOURNAL OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
FOOD CHEMISTRY

ACS  
AUTHORCHOICE

Article

## Effect of *Trichoderma* Bioactive Metabolite Treatments on the Production, Quality, and Protein Profile of Strawberry Fruits

Nadia Lombardi,<sup>\*,¶</sup> Anna Maria Salzano,<sup>¶</sup> Antonio Dario Troise, Andrea Scaloni, Paola Vitaglione, Francesco Vinale, Roberta Marra, Simonetta Caira,<sup>\*</sup> Matteo Lorito, Giada d'Errico, Stefania Lanzuise, and Sheridan Lois Woo

Phytotherapy  
Research

REVIEW | Full Access

## Beneficial effects of *Trichoderma* secondary metabolites on crops

Francesco Vinale Krishnapillai Sivasithamparam

First published: 23 June 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.6728> | Citations: 55

# Promotion of plant growth

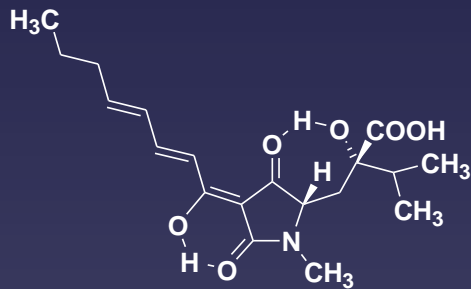
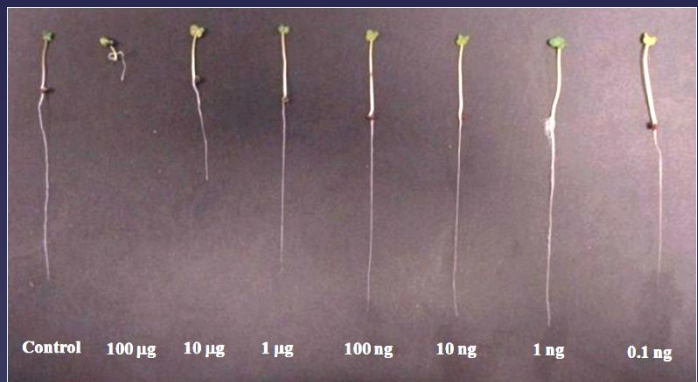
## Increased nutrient availability

Harzianic acid = a plant growth promoting metabolite fully characterized by x-ray studies

2032 *J. Nat. Prod.* 2009, 72, 2032–2035

### Harzianic Acid, an Antifungal and Plant Growth Promoting Metabolite from *Trichoderma harzianum*

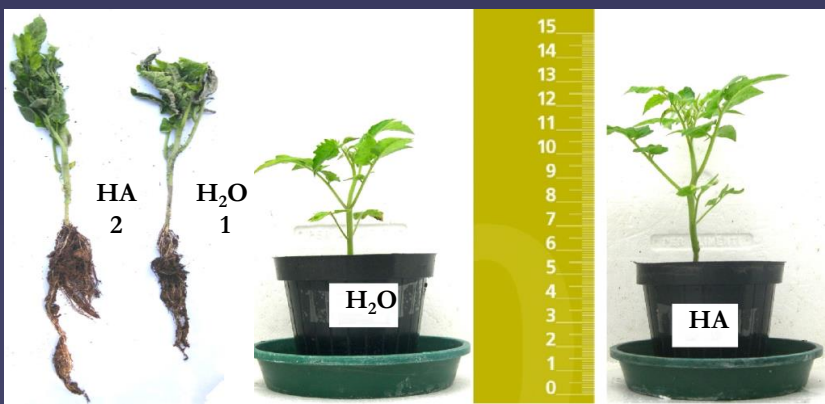
Francesco Vinale,<sup>\*,1,1</sup> Gavin Flematti,<sup>‡</sup> Krishnapillai Sivasithamparam,<sup>1,1</sup> Matteo Lorito,<sup>§</sup> Roberta Marra,<sup>§</sup> Brian W. Skelton,<sup>‡</sup> and Emilio L. Ghisalberti<sup>‡</sup>



RESEARCH LETTER

### Harzianic acid: a novel siderophore from *Trichoderma harzianum*

Francesco Vinale<sup>1</sup>, Marco Nigro<sup>1,2</sup>, Krishnapillai Sivasithamparam<sup>3</sup>, Gavin Flematti<sup>4</sup>, Emilio L. Ghisalberti<sup>4</sup>, Michelina Ruocco<sup>1</sup>, Rosaria Varlese<sup>2</sup>, Roberta Marra<sup>2</sup>, Stefania Lanzuse<sup>2</sup>, Ahmed Eid<sup>2</sup>, Sheridan L. Woo<sup>1,2</sup> & Matteo Lorito<sup>1,2</sup>



Tomato plants treated with water (H<sub>2</sub>O) (1) and *Trichoderma* metabolite Harzianic acid (HA) [10<sup>-6</sup> M] (2)

**molecules** MDPI

Article  
**Bivalent Metal-Chelating Properties of Harzianic Acid Produced by *Trichoderma pleuroticola* Associated to the Gastropod *Melarhaphe neritoides***

Gaetano De Tommaso<sup>1</sup>, Maria Michela Salvatore<sup>1</sup>, Rosario Nicoletti<sup>2,3</sup>, Marina DellaGreca<sup>1</sup>, Francesco Vinale<sup>4,5</sup>, Assunta Bottiglieri<sup>3</sup>, Alessia Staropoli<sup>3,5</sup>, Francesco Salvatore<sup>1</sup>, Matteo Lorito<sup>3,5</sup>, Mauro Iuliano<sup>1,4</sup> and Anna Andolfi<sup>1,4</sup>

Harzianic acid = Fe<sup>3+</sup> binding

**Organic LETTERS** Letter  
pubs.acs.org/OrgLett

**Total Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of the Tetramic Acid Based Natural Product Harzianic Acid and Its Stereoisomers**

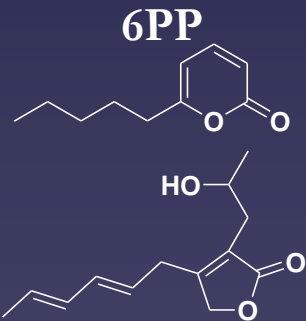
Alan R. Healy,<sup>†</sup> Francesco Vinale,<sup>‡</sup> Matteo Lorito,<sup>‡,§</sup> and Nicholas J. Westwood<sup>\*,†</sup>

# SMs and plant growth promotion

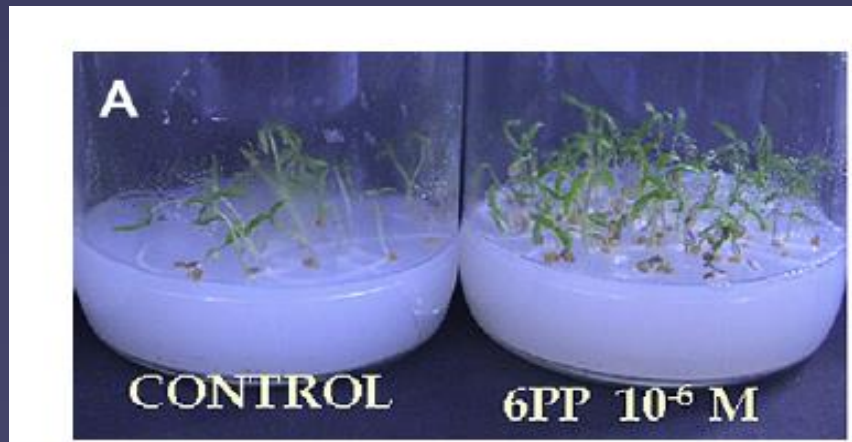
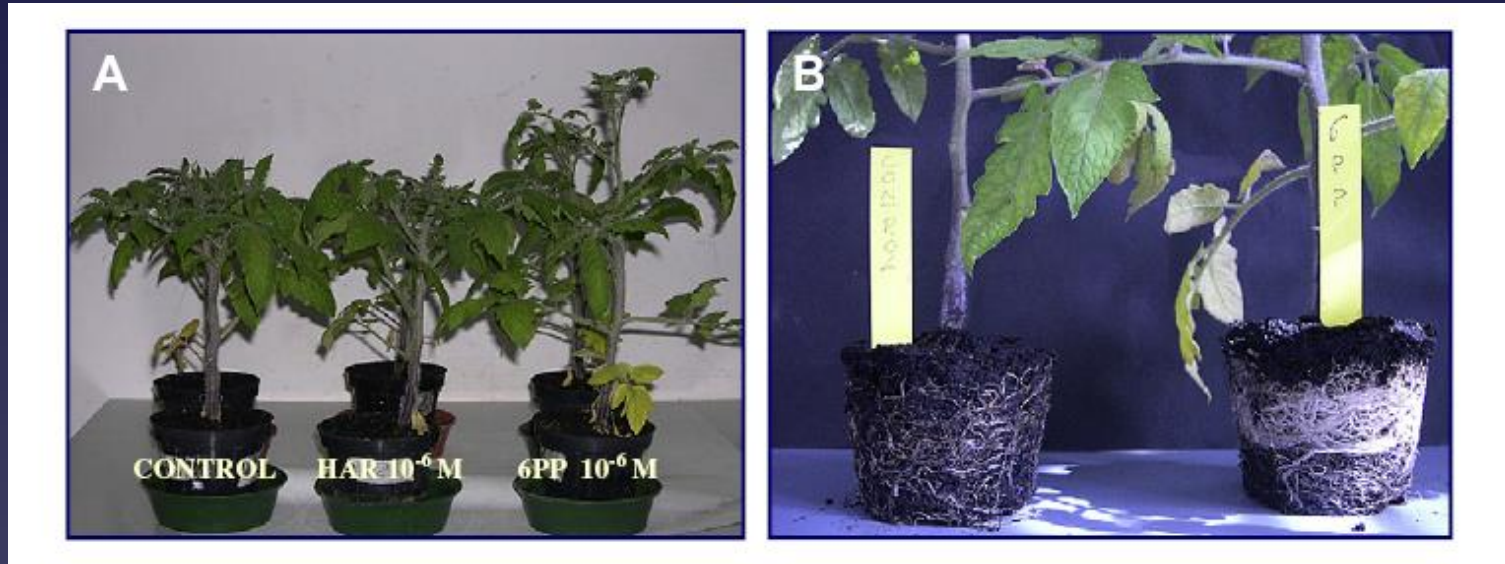
Some beneficial strains are able to produce indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), auxin analogues or other SM that act as plant growth regulators



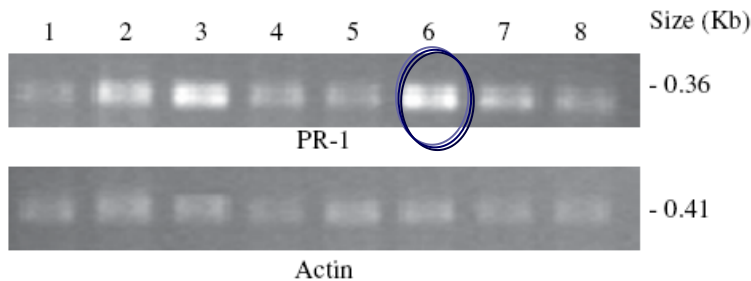
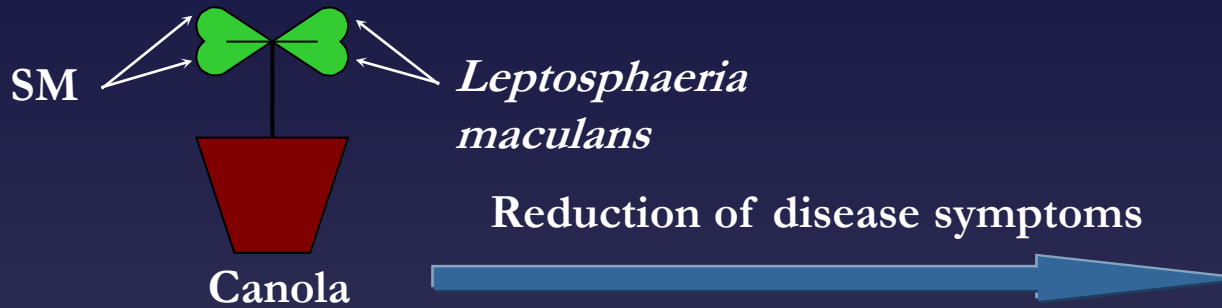
IAA



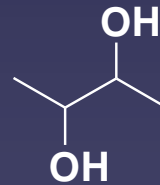
Harzianolide (HAR)



# SMs and induction of plant defence responses



RT-PCR analysis of *B. napus* defence genes of treated with *Trichoderma* metabolites using primers specific for a gene encoding a PR-1 protein (370 bp). Lanes = 1: harzianolide 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 2: anthraquinone 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 3: harzianopyridone 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 4: T22azaphilone 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 5: T39butenolide 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 6: 6PP 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>; 7: water control; 8: solvent control.

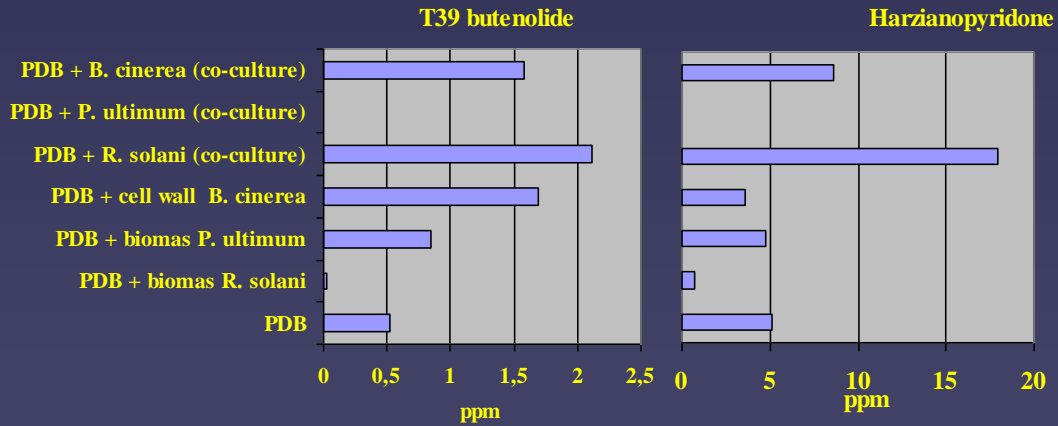
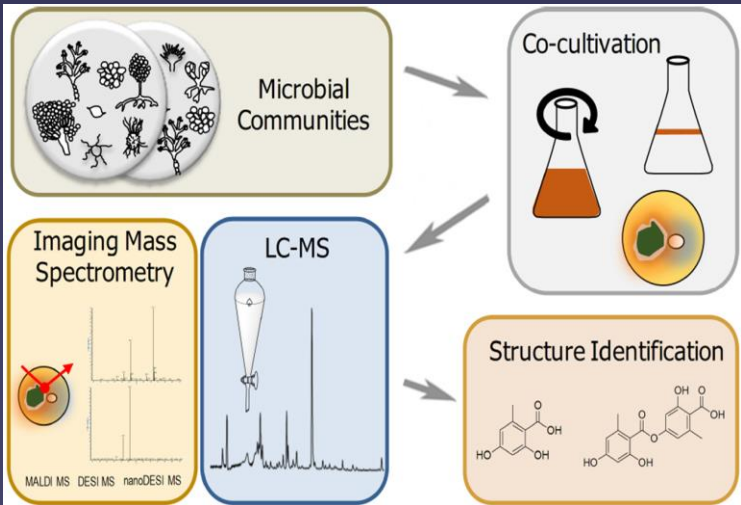


Peptaibols and other small peptides = plant defence elicitors.

# Co-culture of plant beneficial microbes as source of bioactive metabolites

- Re-isolation of known compounds is frequent
- Only some biosynthetic genes are transcribed in lab conditions
- Gene clusters coding for secondary metabolites can be activated

To overcome these limitations is possible to cultivate microorganisms by simulating naturally occurring conditions, where microbes co-exist within complex communities, generally referred as the “microbiome”

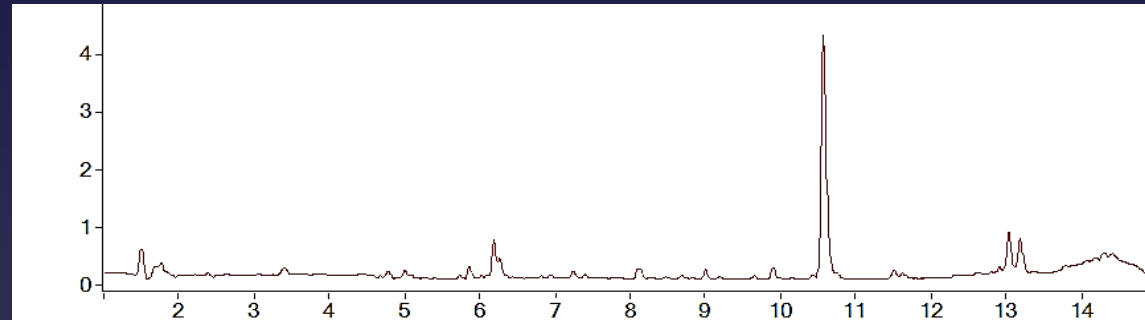


Netzer et al., 2015 (Front. Microbiol.)

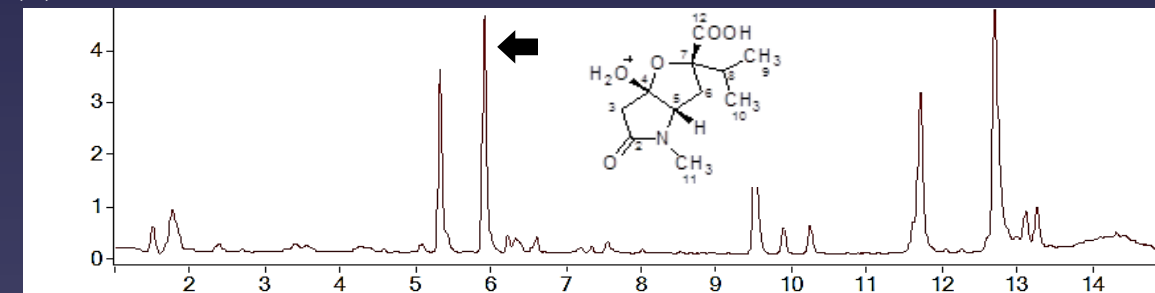
Letters in Applied Microbiology ISSN 0266-8254  
 ORIGINAL ARTICLE  
**Factors affecting the production of *Trichoderma harzianum* secondary metabolites during the interaction with different plant pathogens**  
 F. Vinale<sup>1</sup>, E.L. Ghisalberti<sup>2</sup>, K. Sivasithamparam<sup>3</sup>, R. Marra<sup>1</sup>, A. Ritieni<sup>4</sup>, R. Ferracane<sup>4</sup>, S. Woo<sup>1</sup> and M. Lorito<sup>1</sup>

# Co-culture of plant beneficial microbes as source of bioactive metabolites

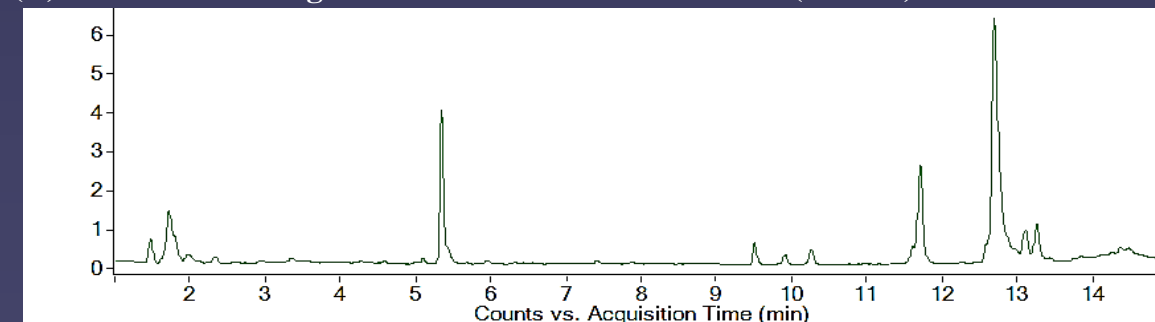
(A) Endophyte *Talaromyces pinophilus* F36CF (control)



(B) Co-culture



(C) Biocontrol agent *Trichoderma harzianum* M10 (control)



Co-culture = *T. harzianum* +  
endophyte *Talaromyces*  
*pinophilus*

Metabolomic analysis

New metabolite = harziaphilic  
acid

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN Co-Culture of Plant Beneficial  
Microbes as Source of Bioactive  
Metabolites

Received: 20 April 2017  
Accepted: 12 October 2017  
Published online: 30 October 2017

F. Vinale<sup>1,4</sup>, R. Nicoletti<sup>2,4</sup>, F. Borrelli<sup>1</sup>, A. Mangoni<sup>1</sup>, O. A. Parisi<sup>1</sup>, R. Marra<sup>4</sup>, N. Lombardi<sup>1</sup>,  
F. Lacatena<sup>4</sup>, L. Grauso<sup>4</sup>, S. Finizio<sup>1</sup>, M. Lorito<sup>1,5</sup> & S. L. Woo<sup>1,7</sup>

# Co-culture of plant beneficial microbes as source of bioactive metabolites

**OSMAC** (One Strain MAny Compounds) strategy based on application of a variety of growing environments on a selected fungal (or other microbial) strain to induce biosynthesis of SMs

Staropoli et al. *Chem. Biol. Technol. Agric.* (2023) 10:28  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40538-023-00383-x>

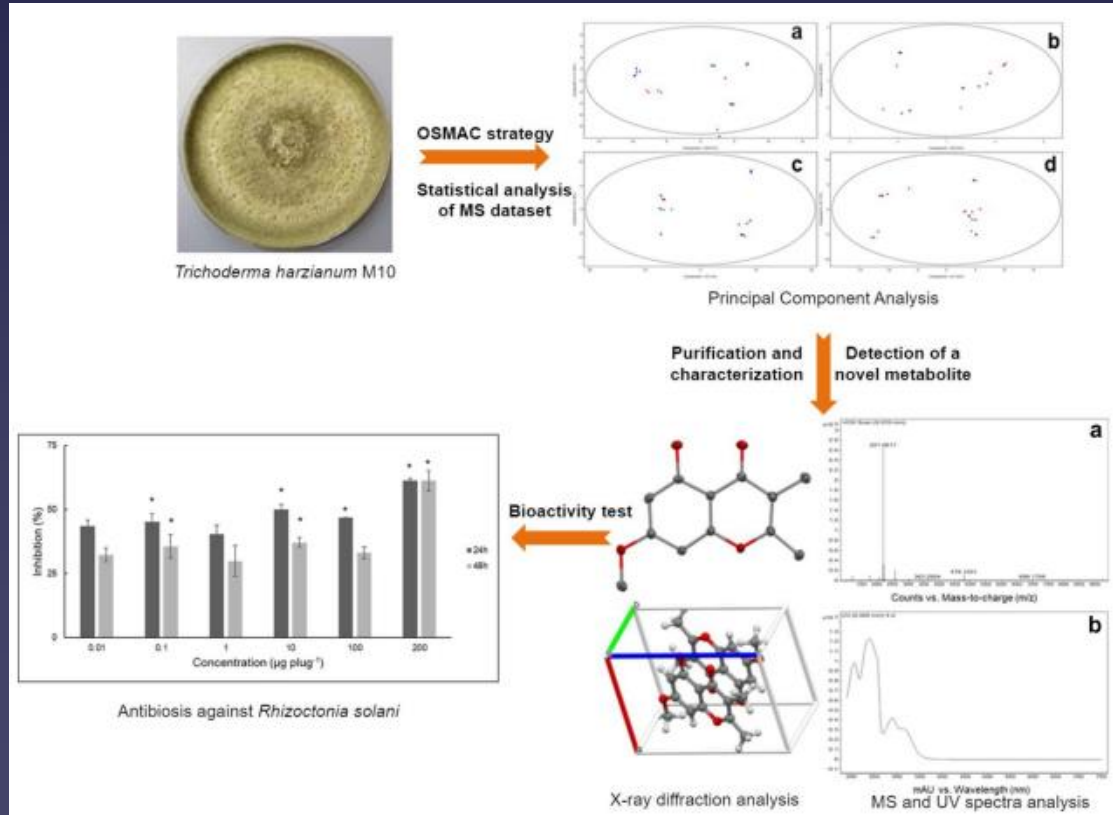
Chemical and Biological  
Technologies in Agriculture

RESEARCH

Open Access

## Induced secondary metabolites of the beneficial fungus *Trichoderma harzianum* M10 through OSMAC approach

Alessia Staropoli<sup>1,2</sup>, Giuseppina Iacomino<sup>1</sup>, Paola De Cicco<sup>3</sup>, Sheridan L. Woo<sup>3,5</sup>, Luigi Di Costanzo<sup>1</sup> and Francesco Vinale<sup>2,4,5\*</sup>

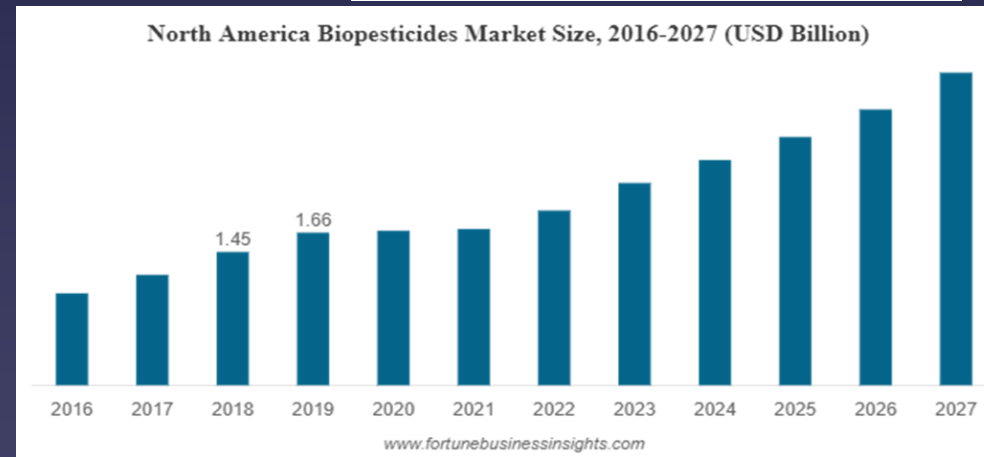
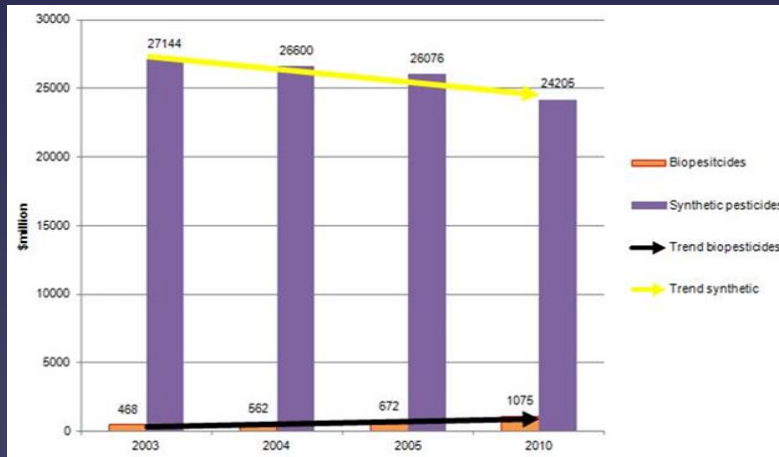
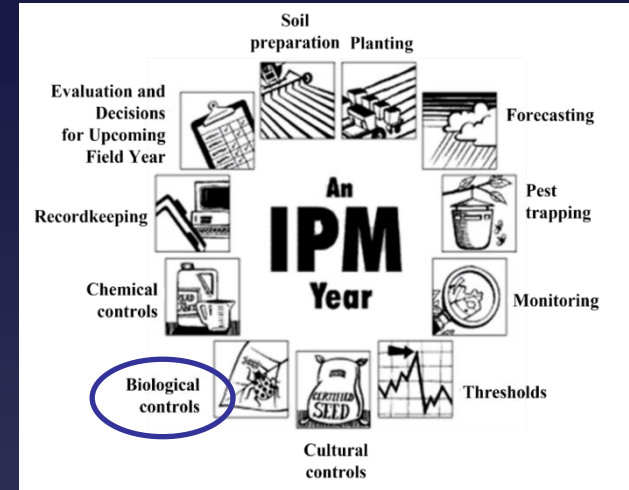


# Future perspective

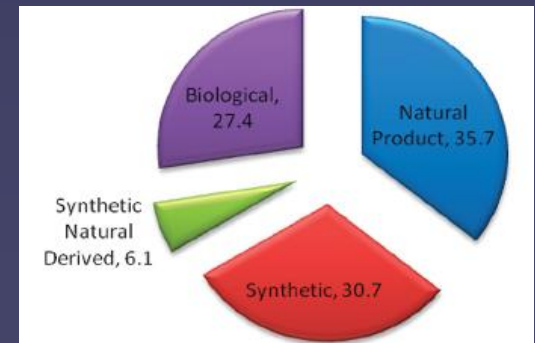
## Integrated Pest Management

Use of alternatives to pesticides and all methods available for crop, including:

- beneficial microbes and/or their products (SMs)



Certain beneficial properties are related with “effector metabolite” that beneficial microbes provide during the interaction with the plant and the other microbes.





# Future perspective

## New SMs - based products

- Produced cheaply in fermentor in selected inexpensive media
- Good shelf-life
- Antifungal, plant growth promotion and induced resistance
- Combined easily with chemicals, additives, other BCA, etc.



# Referenze

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# Prossimo incontro:

22 Novembre 2023

Francesco Serrapica

Qual è il futuro dei foraggi fuori suolo in  
alimentazione animale

Thank you for  
your attention

