

UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE MONTES CLAROS

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Perfil fenotípico, enzimático e antagônico de isolados de actinobactérias
endofíticas do Cerrado

Montes Claros
2017

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Cerrado

Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-graduação
em Ciências em Saúde - PPGCS, da Universidade
Estadual de Montes Claros – Unimontes, como parte das
exigências para obtenção do título de Mestre em Ciências
da Saúde.

Área de Concentração: Saúde Coletiva.

Orientadores: Prof^a. Dra. Ana Cristina de C. Botelho
Prof. Dr. Sérgio Avelino Mota Nobre

Montes Claros
2017

F224p	<p>Faria, Ronize Viviane Jorge de. Perfil fenotípico, enzimático e antagônico de isolados de actinobactérias endofíticas do Cerrado [manuscrito] / Ronize Viviane Jorge de Faria. – 2017. 55 f. : il.</p> <p>Inclui Bibliografia. Dissertação (mestrado) - Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros - Unimontes, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde/PPGCS, 2017.</p> <p>Orientadora: Profa. Dra. Ana Cristina de Carvalho Botelho. Coorientador: Prof. Dr. Sérgio Avelino Mota Nobre.</p> <p>1. <i>Candida</i> spp. 2. Actinobactérias. 3. Endofíticos. 4. Antibiose. 5. Enzimas. I. Botelho, Ana Cristina de Carvalho. II. Nobre, Sérgio Avelino Mota. III. Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros. IV. Título.</p>
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Catalogação: Biblioteca Central Professor Antônio Jorge.

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TÍTULO DO TRABALHO: "Perfil fenotípico, enzimático e antagônico de isolados de actinobactérias endofíticas do cerrado".

ÁREA DE CONCENTRAÇÃO: Saúde Coletiva.

LINHA DE PESQUISA: Epidemiologia Populacional e Molecular.

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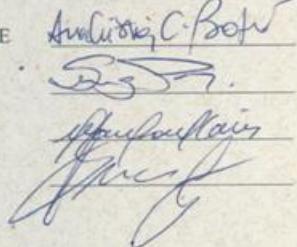
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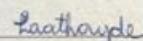


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AGRADECIMENTOS

Agradeço a Deus por me fazer persistir e lutar por meus sonhos.

Aos meus pais, que sempre foram exemplo de bondade, dignidade, honestidade.

Aos meus irmão, representantes de grandes apoios na minha vida.

Ao meu amor, amigo e companheiro Edmilson Faria por ser meu grande incentivador desde o princípio, por sempre acreditar em mim, pelo apoio, pela amizade pela convivência e pelo amor e carinho que sempre me dedicou.

Aos meus filhos, João Pedro e Marcos Philipe, responsáveis pelas minhas maiores alegrias, “Por vocês e com vocês luto pelo futuro”.

Aos meus orientadores Prof^a. Dra. Ana Cristina de Carvalho Botelho e Prof. Dr. Sérgio Avelino Mota Nobre, mestres e amigos. Agradeço pelas oportunidades, pela convivência e pelo apoio.

À equipe do Laboratório de Epidemiologia e Biocontrole de Microrganismos (LEBM), pela valorosa contribuição na elaboração deste trabalho.

À secretaria da pós-graduação Du Carmo, pela solicitude sempre presente.

A todos que direta ou indiretamente, apoiaram a realização deste estudo. Muito obrigada!

RESUMO

A savana brasileira, denominada Cerrado, é caracterizada por apresentar tipologia diversificada de vegetação, sendo muitas delas utilizadas na medicina popular como uma forma alternativa de cuidados com a saúde, entretanto, pouco estudadas cientificamente. As plantas podem servir como reservatório para diversos microrganismos, que classificados como endófitos podem produzir uma infinidade de metabólitos, tanto primários quanto secundários. As actinobactérias endofíticas fazem parte de um grupo alvo de estudos que buscam novos produtos de interesse industrial como antibióticos, enzimas, antifúngicos, e outras substâncias bioativas. Este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar o perfil fenotípico dos isolados de actinobactérias endofíticas do Cerrado, a capacidade de sintetizar enzimas extracelulares e metabólitos ativos contra espécies de *Candida albicans*, *C. krusei*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. glabrata* e *C. parapsilosis* isoladas da cavidade oral de pacientes irradiados, portadores de neoplasias malignas de cabeça e pescoço com histórico de resistência ou dose de tolerância aos antifúngicos comerciais. Os isolados da bacterioteca do Laboratório de Epidemiologia e Biocontrole de Microrganismos (LEBM) da Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros foram identificados através de microbiologia clássica utilizando análises micromorfológicas das estruturas reprodutivas. A caracterização enzimática foi avaliada através das expressões amilolítica, celulolítica, esterásica, proteolítica, lipolítica e pectinolítica. Doze gêneros de actinobactérias foram reconhecidos: *Actinopolyspora*, *Micromonospora*, *Terrabacter*, *Nocardia*, *Saccharopolyspora*, *Streptosporangium*, *Thermoactinomyces*, *Streptoalloteichus*, *Streptoverticillium*, *Streptomyces*, *Nocardioides*, *Nocardiopsis*. Os extratos metabólicos de 88% destas actinobactérias apresentaram ação inibitória superior a 70% frente a alguma das espécies de *Candida* spp. utilizadas. Foi observado que o caldo de cultivo Starch-Nitrate-caseína (SCN) mostrou ser um substrato estimulador no processo biossíntese de substâncias antibióticas produzidas por actinobactérias. Cinco isolados de actinobactérias foram superiores ás demais, contudo com intensidades de inibição dependente da espécie de *Candida* desafiada. Relacionada à atividade enzimática, 94% expressaram amilases, 88% lipases e gelatinases, 71% esterases, 59% celulases, 24% caseinases e 6% expressaram pectinases.

Palavras-chave: *Candida* spp, Actinobactérias, Endofíticos, Antibiose, Enzimas.

ABSTRACT

The Brazilian savanna, denominated Cerrado is characterized by diverse typology of vegetation, with many of them used in folk medicine as an alternative form of health care, however, little studied scientifically. Plants can serve as a reservoir for various microorganisms that classified as endophytes can produce a multitude of metabolites, both primary and secondary. The entophytic actinobacteria are part of a target group of studies that seek new products of industrial interest as antibiotics, enzymes, antifungals, and other bioactive compounds. This work aimed to evaluate the phenotypic profile of actinobacteria isolated entophytic from the Cerrado, the ability to synthesize extracellular enzymes and active metabolites against species of *Candida albicans*, *C. krusei*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. glabrata* and *C. parapsilosis* isolated from the oral cavity of irradiated patients, with head and neck malignancies with a history of resistance or tolerance dose to commercials antifungals. Actinobacteria collection from Epidemiology and Biocontrol of Microorganisms Lab, Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros, were morphotyping regarding reproductive structures. The enzymatic characterization was evaluated through the amylolytic, cellulolytic, sterolytic, lipolytic, proteolytic and pectinolytic expressions. Twelve genera of actinobacteria were recognized *Actinopolyspora*, *Micromonospora*, *Terrabacter*, *Nocardia*, *Saccharopolyspora*, *Streptosporangium*, *Thermoactinomyces*, *Streptoalloteichus*, *Streptomyces*, *Streptoverticillium*, *Nocardioides*, and *Nocardiopsis*. The metabolic extracts of 88% of actinobacteria strains presented more than 70% inhibitory action against at least one of the species of *Candida* spp. challenged. It was observed that the Starch-Nitrate-casein broth (SCN) showed to be better stimulating substrate in the biosynthesis process of antibiotic substances produced by actinobacteria. Five actinobacteria isolated were superior to the others, however with inhibition intensities dependent on the *Candida* species challenged. Related to the enzymatic activity, 94% expressed amylase, 88% lipase and gelatinase, 71% esterase, 59% cellulase, 24% caseinase and 6% pectinase.

Key words: *Candida* spp., Actinobacteria, Endophytes, Antibiosis, Enzymes.

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1 INTRODUÇÃO

1.1 Biodiversidade do Cerrado

O Brasil está entre o grupo de países com os mais altos níveis de diversidade biológica, em decorrência dos diferentes biomas e ecossistemas que o caracterizam. Possui a mais rica diversidade genética vegetal do mundo distribuída em seis biomas terrestres. Detém dois *hotspots* de biodiversidade globalmente reconhecidos, a Mata Atlântica e o Cerrado (1). Contudo, esta grande biodiversidade é ainda desconhecida e poucos estudos exploram o potencial de uso dos recursos genéticos dos biomas brasileiros (2). Dessa forma, as plantas constituem ainda uma fonte importante para a descoberta de novas substâncias biologicamente ativas.

O Cerrado é um termo comumente utilizado para designar o conjunto de ecossistemas como: savanas, matas, campos e matas de galeria que ocorrem no Brasil Central (3). Este é considerado o segundo maior bioma do país, sendo superado em área apenas pela Amazônia (Figura 1) (4).

Figura 1 - Área de abrangência do Bioma Cerrado no território brasileiro, 2011

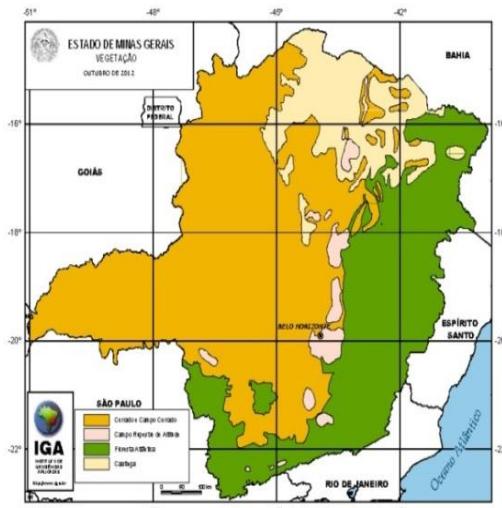


Fonte: BRASIL, 2011 (4)

O Cerrado ocupa 24% do território nacional, isto é, aproximadamente um quarto do território brasileiro; cerca de dois milhões de hectares abrigando um rico patrimônio de recursos naturais renováveis, adaptados às duras condições climáticas, edáficas e hídricas (5). Abrange o Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Tocantins, Maranhão, Bahia, Piauí, Minas Gerais, São Paulo e Paraná (6).

Em Minas Gerais, o Cerrado cobre o correspondente a 57% do território estadual, exibindo fases de transição de difícil caracterização. É o maior bioma do Estado que aparecem especialmente nas bacias dos rios São Francisco e Jequitinhonha. Neste bioma, normalmente o clima é quente e as estações, seca e chuvosa são bem definidas (Figura 2) (7).

Figura 2 - Área de abrangência do Bioma Cerrado no território mineiro, 2012



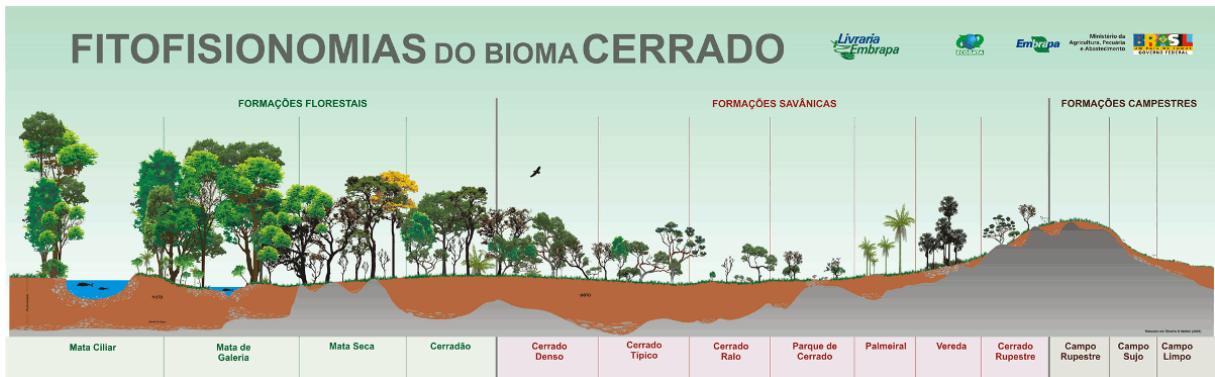
Fonte: IGA, 2012 (8)

A vegetação do bioma do Cerrado, em decorrência de sua extensão e diversidade de solo e clima, não possui uma fisionomia única. Ao contrário, ela é bastante diversificada, apresentando desde formas campestres bem abertas, como os campos limpos de Cerrado, até formas relativamente densas, florestais, como os cerradões (*Cerrado Lato sensu*). Entre esta dualidade fisionômica, encontra-se toda uma gama de formas intermediárias, com fisionomia de savana, às vezes de carrasco, como os campos sujos, os campos Cerrados, (*Cerrado Stricto sensu*) (9).

As formações florestais compreendem as fitofisionomias Mata Ciliar, Mata de Galeria, Mata Seca e o Cerradão. As formações savânicas são compostas pelo Cerrado Denso, Cerrado

Típico, Cerrado Ralo, Cerrado Rupestre, Veredas, Parque Cerrado e Palmeiral. As formações campestras englobam as fitofisionomias de Campo Sujo, Campo Limpo e o Campo Rupestre (Figura 3) (9).

Figura 3 - Fitofisionomias que ocorrem no domínio do Bioma Cerrado



Fonte: Embrapa (10)

Por essas razões é considerado um dos biomas mais ricos, mas também um dos mais ameaçados do mundo (1). Apresenta rica biodiversidade, com milhares de espécies de plantas vasculares, sendo grande parte destas correspondentes a plantas endêmicas, que se encontram ameaçadas de extinção, devido, principalmente, a ações antrópicas (11).

Apesar da alta biodiversidade e os poucos estudos científicos voltados para as espécies vegetais nativas deste bioma, muitas delas são utilizadas na medicina popular e tem sido muito aceita como uma forma alternativa de cuidados com a saúde mesmo sem evidências em relação a sua eficácia (12).

1.2 Microrganismos endofíticos e Actinobactérias

Pesquisas mostram que as plantas podem servir como reservatório para diversos microrganismos. Estima-se que cada espécie vegetal possua microrganismos endofíticos ainda não classificados e com propriedades pouco conhecidas, mas potencialmente de interesse aplicado (13). Grande importância vem sendo dada a estes microrganismos endófitos que foram mencionados pela primeira vez no início do século XIX, porém, apenas no final dos anos 70 do século XX, começaram a serem tratados com maior ênfase em trabalhos

científicos. Esses microrganismos incluem principalmente bactérias e fungos que vivem no interior das plantas, habitando de modo geral suas partes aéreas, como folhas e caules, sem causar aparentemente nenhum dano a seus hospedeiros (14).

Levando em conta as estratégias de vida dos endófitos, estes podem ser classificados em obrigatórios ou facultativos, sendo que os obrigatórios são estritamente dependentes da planta hospedeira para seu crescimento e sobrevivência, enquanto que os facultativos possuem uma fase de seu ciclo vital no interior da planta hospedeira e outra fase da vida fora dela (15).

Por muitos anos, a prospecção de fármacos esteve voltada para extratos de plantas e microrganismos do ar e do solo, porém, a frequência em encontrar microrganismos que produzam tais compostos nesses ambientes tem decrescido havendo a necessidade de se explorar novos habitats como o interior de plantas superiores e com o objetivo de encontrar endófitos que possam produzir substâncias bioativas (16). Estes microrganismos desempenham funções importantes no processo de adaptação da planta e capacidade de produzir uma infinidade de metabólitos, tanto primários quanto secundários, os quais apresentam diferentes aplicações biotecnológicas, movimentando um mercado de dezenas de bilhões de dólares em todo o mundo (17).

Nesta perspectiva, pesquisas vêm demonstrando a importância da utilização de microrganismos endofíticos como fontes relativamente espontâneas e potenciais de produtos naturais modernos para exploração na medicina, agricultura e indústria; por se tratarem de sintetizadores químicos dentro da planta. Muitos deles são capazes de sintetizar compostos bioativos que podem ser usados pelas plantas para defesa contra patógenos, sendo algumas destas combinações de grande utilidade para a descoberta de drogas inovadoras de interesse farmacológico (18,19).

Uma das descobertas mais importantes com microrganismos endofíticos foi o isolamento do microrganismo *Taxomyces andreanae* produtor de taxol, um diterpenóide considerado uma droga anticancerígena potente, porém, a provisão desta droga esteve limitada pela exploração destrutiva da árvore (*Taxus brevifolia*) usada como a fonte principal do taxol. Sobretudo, com a descoberta do *Taxomyces andreanae* produtor da substância bioativa, este problema pode ser resolvido (19,20,21). Assim, com a utilização de microrganismos endofíticos na produção de determinadas drogas fitoquímicas, muitos problemas poderiam ser evitados, como o lento

crescimento das plantas produtoras destes compostos, ou até mesmo o impacto ambiental causado pela extração dos mesmos (18).

Outros endofíticos são relatados, como *Fusarium subglutinans* que produz subglutinol com função imunosupressiva, tendo como planta hospedeira *Tripterium wilfordii* (22); *Paenibacillus amyloyticus*, que produz e ativa a enzima pectinaliase, tendo como planta hospedeira *Coffea arábica* (23); *Pestalotiopsis microspora* presente nos tecidos de *Terminalia Morobensis*, que produz compostos antioxidantes (24).

A produção de moléculas bioativas por microrganismos endofíticos, que eram somente encontradas em determinadas espécies vegetais, comprova a teoria de que durante a colonização da planta hospedeira, esses microrganismos se adaptam ao microambiente vegetal e assimilam parte do DNA vegetal em seu genoma, constituindo um processo de co-evolução, no qual os endófitos adquirem de seus hospedeiros a capacidade de biossíntese de compostos bioativos (25).

Um grupo de microrganismos que tem recebido especial atenção e está inserido na classe de microrganismos endofíticos são as actinobactérias. As actinobactérias compreendem um grupo heterogêneo de bactérias filamentosas, que filogeneticamente pertencem ao ramo das bactérias Gram-positivas com alto teor de guanina e citosina em seu DNA. Sua característica principal é a formação de filamentos ramificados ou hifas em algum ponto do ciclo de vida em diversas taxas, persistindo como um micélio estável ou fragmentando-se em bacilos ou cocos (26). Esses microrganismos estão taxonomicamente classificados dentro do domínio Eubactéria, na divisão Actinobactéria, classe Actinobactéria e ordem *Actinomycetales* (27).

Este grupo de bactérias tem sido muito explorado devido à sua aplicação biotecnológica, sendo alvo de diversos estudos que buscam novos produtos de interesse industrial como enzimas, antibióticos, antifúngicos, anticancerígenos e outras substâncias bioativas (28). As actinobactérias constituem uma grande capacidade quanto à produção de metabólitos secundários, isto é, compostos gerados no decorrer do seu desenvolvimento. Na maioria das vezes, essas biomoléculas exibem interessantes atividades biológicas, sendo as antibióticas a mais explorada e conhecida, proporcionando um versátil emprego das mesmas na medicina, indústria e agricultura (29,30).

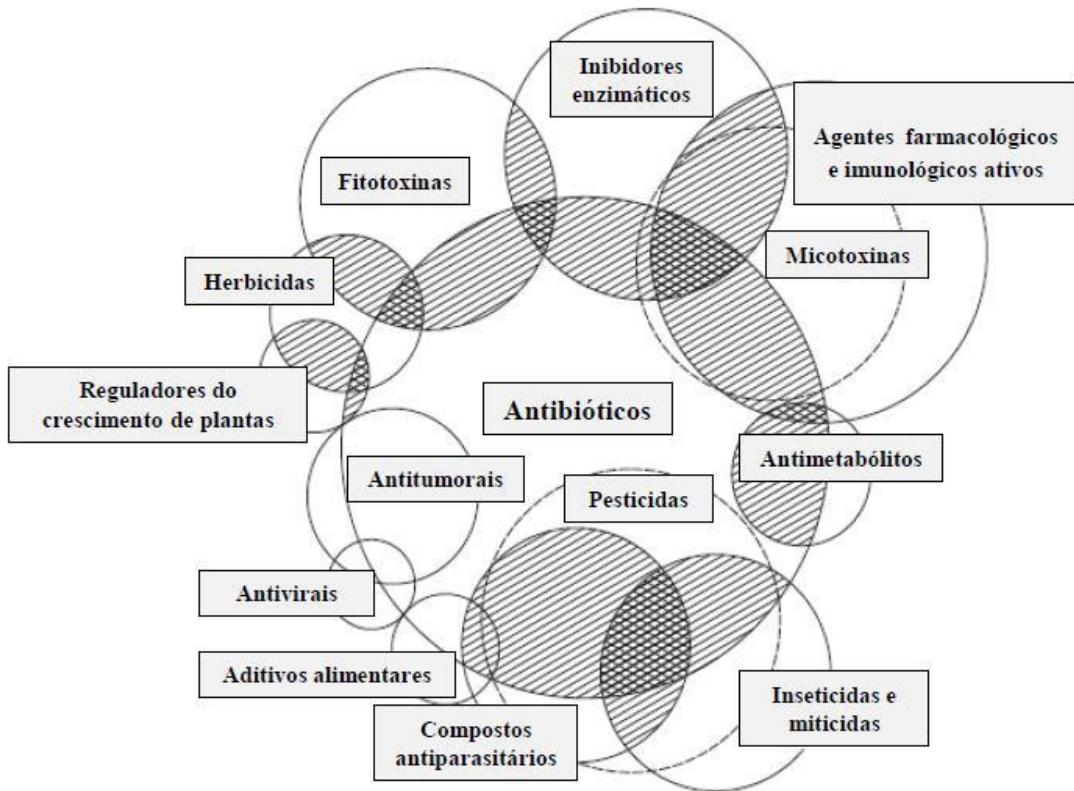
Entre os maiores produtores de antibióticos estão os fungos e as actinobactérias. As actinobactérias constituem a maior fonte de antibióticos, sendo que cerca de dois terços destes são sintetizados por estes microrganismos. Os antibióticos produzidos por estas bactérias apresentam grande variedade de estruturas químicas, incluindo aminoglicosídeos, antraciclinas, glicopeptídeos, β -lactâmicos, macrolídeos, nucleosídeos, peptídeos, polienos, poliéteres e tetraciclinas, dentre os quais podemos destacar cloranfenicol, eritromicina, neomicina, novobiocina, estreptomicina, tetraciclina, e gentamicina (31).

O gênero *Streptomyces* spp. destaca-se nesta ordem quanto à produção destas substâncias. O número de compostos antimicrobianos declarados provenientes de espécies desse gênero por ano aumentou quase exponencialmente em cerca de três décadas, demonstrando, assim, que esse grupo de microrganismos tem representado uma fonte promissora para a produção de novos agentes antimicrobianos. Devido a sua alta capacidade de produzir uma grande variedade de metabólitos (antibióticos, vitaminas e enzimas), os *Streptomyces* spp. são responsáveis por diversos antibióticos comercialmente importantes (32).

1.3 Metabolismo secundário e atividade antimicrobiana

Os metabólitos secundários são compostos não essenciais para o crescimento e reprodução dos diferentes organismos vivos, sendo derivados dos metabólitos primários. A gama de possíveis atividades biológicas que os metabólitos secundários, especialmente os microbianos, podem apresentar é muito ampla sendo: antibióticos (ações antibacteriana, antifúngica, antiviral, antiprotozoária e antihelmíntica), pigmentos, toxinas, efetores na competição ecológica e na simbiose, feromônios, inibidores de enzimas, agentes imunomoduladores e quimioterápicos, antagonistas ou agonistas de receptores, pesticidas, herbicidas, aditivos alimentares, surfactantes, ou promotores do crescimento de animais e plantas (Figura 3) (33,34,35).

Figura 4 - Funções dos metabólitos microbianos bioativos



Fonte: Adaptado de Bérdy, 2012 (36)

O metabolismo secundário é geralmente acarretado por exaustão de nutrientes, biossíntese ou adição de um indutor e/ou decréscimo na taxa de crescimento. Esses eventos geram sinais que incitam uma série de cascatas regulatórias as quais resultam nas diferenciações químicas (idiofase) e morfológicas (morfogênese) (34). A produção destes metabólicos comumente coincide ou, sutilmente, antecede o desenvolvimento das hifas aéreas e a fase estacionária nos cultivos microbianos em meios sólidos e líquidos, respectivamente (37). Os microrganismos que produzem grande variedade dessas substâncias metabólicas estão provavelmente refletidas nas diferenças de habitats e estratégias de sobrevivência dos mesmos (38).

Os denominados antibióticos, produtos desse metabolismo secundário, são pequenas moléculas microbianas bioativas que sob uma determinada concentração exibem antibiose, ou seja, a capacidade de um organismo e seus metabólitos de prejudicar ou inibir o crescimento de outro (39).

O estímulo à intensiva busca por novos isolados com atividade biológica, se deu com o trabalho pioneiro do grupo de Waksman (40), que demonstrou que as actinobactérias eram capazes de produzir antibióticos úteis para aplicação na prática médica, sendo que milhares de novas moléculas e microrganismos deste grupo já foram estudados (41).

Estima-se que o grupo das actinobactérias seja responsável pela produção de milhares de antibióticos já conhecidos, superando a produção deste por fungos e outras bactérias. As vias biosintéticas de produção dos antibióticos foram evoluindo nas actinobactérias por cerca de um bilhão de anos (42). Dentre este grupo de bactérias, destaca-se o gênero *Streptomyces* sp., onde grande porcentagem dos antibióticos produzidos por este gênero, são comercializados e utilizados na saúde humana e animal e na agricultura (43).

1.4 Infecções fúngicas e resistência a drogas

Os antimicrobianos têm sido amplamente utilizados como opções terapêuticas para o tratamento de determinadas doença provocadas por bactérias e fungos. Entretanto, é universalmente aceito que, o uso indiscriminado dessas drogas tem acarretado na diminuição contínua da sensibilidade dos microrganismos aos antimicrobianos. O potencial surgimento de tolerância e resistência se faz a partir da utilização indiscriminada de qualquer agente terapêutico, através da coexistência de microrganismos com a espécie humana, por milhares de anos, que têm aperfeiçoados uma série de mecanismos para enfrentamento que os capacitam a sobreviver às condições de adversidade e na presença de agentes tóxicos (44,39).

As infecções fúngicas passaram a ter uma grande importância nos últimos anos, devido ao seu aumento progressivo na incidência. Apesar do elevado número de antimicóticos disponíveis, estes ainda encontram-se em desvantagem, quando comparados às drogas antibacterianas. Além disso, a resistência aos antifúngicos tem representado um grande desafio para a clínica médica (45).

As infecções provocadas por espécies de *Cândida* spp. vem se destacando nas últimas décadas, pela alta frequência com que infectam e colonizam o hospedeiro humano. O gênero comprehende espécies leveduriformes, que residem como comensais, fazendo parte da

microbiota normal dos indivíduos saudáveis. Todavia, quando há uma ruptura no balanço normal da microbiota ou o imunocomprometimento do hospedeiro, as espécies deste gênero tendem a manifestações agressivas, tornando-se patogênicas (46).

Candida albicans é considerada a principal espécie do gênero representando cerca de 90% dos processos infecciosos de candidíase. Algumas características, ou fatores de virulência, são responsáveis pela patogenicidade de *C. albicans* como adesão a substratos inertes e biológicos, formação de tubo germinativo, variabilidade fenotípica e genotípica, variabilidade antigênica e imunomodulação do hospedeiro (47).

Infecções por *Candida* spp. envolvem um espectro amplo de doenças superficiais e invasivas oportunistas, acometendo pacientes expostos a uma grande diversidade de fatores de risco. As infecções sistêmicas por estas leveduras podem comprometer vísceras como resultado de disseminação hematogênica, complicações infecciosas que são geralmente documentadas em pacientes críticos, portadores de doenças degenerativas e/ ou neoplásicas (48).

Processos infecciosos resistentes a antibióticos estão relacionados às espécies de *Candida albicans*, porém, infecções por outras espécies de *Candida* não-*albicans* tem sido elevado. Dentro dessas espécies se destacam *C. krusei*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. glabrata* e *C. guillermondii* (49,50). Alterações no alvo molecular do fármaco, produção de enzimas fúngicas que degradam as drogas e uma redução na concentração intracelular do fármaco são mecanismos moleculares envolvidos na resistência a antifúngicos (51). Isso representa um sério problema de saúde pública, porque os microrganismos desenvolvem resistências a múltiplas drogas.

O aumento de espécies de *Candida* spp. resistentes aos antifúngicos representa um enorme risco à saúde pública, necessitando de medidas adequadas para controle de infecções. Contudo, estes problemas de resistência, a sensibilidade do paciente e incapacidade de controlar certas doenças infecciosas tem dado um impulso para a busca contínua de novos antibióticos em todo o mundo (52).

1.5 Actinobactérias produtoras de enzimas com potencial biotecnológico

Depois dos antibióticos, as enzimas, são os produtos mais produzidos pelas actinobactérias (53). As enzimas são catalisadores de reações químicas, envolvendo reações com substratos orgânicos e inorgânicos; geralmente de natureza protéicas, altamente específicas. Devido sua atividade e versatilidade, executam uma variedade de transformações de forma seletiva e rápida, em condições brandas de reação. As atividades enzimáticas não requerem altas temperaturas nem valores extremos de pH, podendo ser regulada com relativa facilidade, por alteração da natureza do meio de reação, como, pH ou a adição de algum efetor (54).

Os microrganismos são as mais importantes fontes de produção enzimática, evidenciando assim as actinobactérias, pela capacidade na produção de uma proporção considerável de enzimas com alto potencial tecnológico. São amplamente utilizadas no processamento de alimentos (pectinase, protease, celulase, oxidoredutase), na fabricação de detergentes (protease, lipase, celulase, oxidoredutase), nas indústrias farmacêuticas (lipase, esterase), têxteis (amilase, celulase, oxidoredutase), em terapia médica (L-asparaginase, urato oxidase), na biologia molecular (endonucleases, Taqpolimerase, etc.) e bioquímica (colesterol esterase, urato oxidase, L-glutamato oxidase, fosfolipase D, colina oxidase) (53,55). O gênero *Streptomyces* spp. destaca-se entre os actinomicetos pela capacidade de produzir uma grande variedade de enzimas com aplicação industrial (56).

Entre as várias enzimas de importância industrial destacam-se:

- Amilases: são responsáveis pela degradação da molécula de amido e estão amplamente distribuídas na natureza, podendo este ser encontrado principalmente em sementes de cereais como milho, cevada, trigo, arroz e em tubérculos ou raízes como batata e mandioca (57). Elas hidrolisam moléculas de amido em vários produtos e progressivamente em polímeros menores, compostos de unidades de glicose (58), requerendo para este completo processo de hidrólise a combinação de enzimas incluindo α -amilases, β -amilases, gluco-amilases e isoamilases (59). A ocorrência de amilases em actinomicetos é uma característica comumente observada em *Nocardia* spp. e *Streptomyces* spp. (60). A hidrólise do amido compreende cerca de um terço do consumo de enzimas no mundo, onde programas para selecionar novos microrganismos para a produção têm aumentado consideravelmente (61).

- Celulases: A celulose é um dos biopolímeros mais abundantes e pode ser hidrolisada, através do rompimento das ligações β -1,4-glicosídicas de suas microfibrilas, tendo como produto final a glucose (62). A atividade celulolítica se refere a um sistema enzimático que consiste de três tipos de celulases: endoglucanases, exoglucanases e β -glicosidases. As celulases são amplamente utilizadas na indústria têxtil, e contam com aproximadamente 14% do mercado de enzimas industriais (63). Embora os microrganismos degradadores de celulose estejam distribuídos em grupos diversificados, os sistemas de celulases de bactérias e fungos têm sido mais estudados que os outros sistemas. Os gêneros que apresentam atividade celulolítica dentre as actinobactéria são *Microbispora*, *Streptomyces*, *Thermoactinomyces* e *Thermomonospora*, incluindo mesofílicas e termofílicas (64-66,67,68).
- Esterases: As esterases são definidas como enzimas que hidrolisam os triglicerídeos em pequenas cadeias e preferem substratos solúveis em água, podendo catalisar a quebra e a formação da ligação éster (69). Estão amplamente distribuídas na natureza podendo ser encontradas nos animais, nas plantas e nos microrganismos. Estas enzimas possuem propriedade que as tornam atrativas como biocatalizadores na obtenção de compostos oticamente puros em reações de síntese da química fina (70). As esterases desempenham ainda um papel importante na síntese de alguns medicamentos de importância clínica, tais como as esterases de *Trichosporon brassicae* e *Rhodococcus* sp., *Bacillus circulans* que podem produzir em ampla escala, compostos de uso terapêutico. Esterases de *Pseudomonas* sp. são utilizados na produção de drogas como ibuprofeno, usado como anti-inflamatório (71).
- Lipases: As lipases (triacilglicerol acilhidrolases) constituem um importante grupo de enzimas que estão associadas ao metabolismo e à hidrólise dos lipídios, com considerada significância fisiológica e potencial industrial, pois catalisam a hidrólise de triacilglicerol a diacilglicerol, monoacilglicerol, ácidos graxos e glicerol na interface entre a fase aquosa e lipídica (72,73). São amplamente utilizadas nas indústrias de laticínios, agroquímicas, cosméticas e processamentos farmacêuticos (74). Muitas lipases comercialmente importantes são de origem microbiana, dentre eles destacam-se *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida rugos*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus oryzae* e dentre as actinobactérias, o gênero *Streptomyces* sp. (75).

- Pectinases: São produzidas por um grande número de bactérias, leveduras e fungos, insetos, nematódeos e plantas, a fim de degradar ou modificar o heteropolissacarídeo pectina (76). A biodegradação eficiente da pectina, um polissacarídeo construído principalmente pela ligação α -1,4-do ácido D-galacturônico e seu metilesteres, ocorre como resultado da ação sinérgica de uma ampla diversidade de enzimas pectinolíticas (77,78). Possuem importância industrial, principalmente para aumentar a eficiência de filtração e clarificação de sucos de frutos, na maceração, liquefação e extração de tecidos vegetais (indústria têxtil), podendo em alguns casos ser responsáveis pela patogênese em plantas (76). Pesquisas envolvendo enzimas pectinolíticas em actinobactérias, ainda que de forma limitada, tem revelado principalmente a presença de pectato liases (79). Para o gênero *Streptomyces* sp. e alguns termofílicos do gênero *Thermomonospora* sp. tem revelado a presença de pectinas as quais foram purificadas e caracterizadas (80).
- Proteases: São enzimas capazes de quebrar ligações peptídicas de cadeias protéicas, estão amplamente distribuídas na natureza e ainda estão associadas a importantes processos biológicos tais como: a digestão protética, coagulação sanguínea e morte celular (81). Para a avaliação da atividade proteolítica, podem ser utilizados diversos tipos de substratos, como a caseína, azocaseína, gelatina, peptídeos e albuminas (82,83). As proteases possuem uma vasta aplicação comercial e industrial, estando entre os três maiores grupos de enzimas industriais (81). Elas são usadas em alimentos, produtos farmacêuticos, e na indústria do couro e têxtil (84,85).

Levando-se em conta os aspectos abordados, a descoberta e o desenvolvimento de novos antimicrobianos são essenciais no combate contra patógenos resistentes, pela investigação de novas biomoléculas mais efetivas. Destaca-se os microrganismos endofíticos, especialmente actinobactérias, como uma fonte promissora de grande interesse para a indústria farmacêutica e biotecnológica, bem como a produção de enzimas extracelulares como agentes catalisadores capazes de modificar extensivamente estruturas que vão desde propriedades toxicológicas de contaminantes até o desenvolvimento de fitoterápicos enzimáticos.

Considerando as argumentações expostas, este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar o potencial biotecnológico de actinobactérias residentes no interior de plantas nativas do Cerrado, como agentes de síntese de substâncias antibióticas ativas contra diferentes espécies de *Candida* spp. obtidas da cavidade oral de pacientes irradiados e portadores de neoplasias malignas, e como fontes de enzimas de valor industrial.

2 OBJETIVOS

2.1 Objetivo geral

Avaliar o perfil fenotípico, enzimático e antagônico dos isolados de actinobactérias endofíticas residentes em áreas do Cerrado.

2.2 Objetivos específicos

- Identificar fenotipicamente as actinobactérias endofíticas isoladas de espécies vegetais do Cerrado.
- Avaliar substrato para extração de produtos do metabolismo das actinobactérias endofíticas do Cerrado.
- Avaliar atividades antifúngicas dos extratos metabólicos das actinobactérias contra leveduras patogênicas à espécie humana.
- Mensurar o efeito inibitório dos extratos metabólicos frente a diferentes espécies fúngicas patogênicas.
- Caracterizar as actinobactérias endofíticas quanto à atividade de enzimas amilolíticas, lipolíticas, esterásicas, pectinolíticas, proteolíticas e celulolíticas.

3 PRODUTO CIENTÍFICO

3.1 Produto Científico 1: Perfil fenotípico, enzimático e antagônico de isolados de actinobactérias endofíticas do Cerrado, formatado segundo as normas para publicação do periódico *Brazilian Journal of Microbiology*, enviado em um periódico.

1 **Profile enzymatic and biological trait of actinobacteria isolated entophytic antagonistic of the**
2 **Cerrado**

4 **Prospecting of Cerrado actinobacteria**

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17 **SUMMARY**

18 The entophytic actinobacteria are part of a target group of studies that seek new products of industrial
19 interest as antibiotics, enzymes, antifungals, and other bioactive compounds. This work aimed to
20 evaluate the phenotypic profile of actinobacteria isolated entophytic from the Cerrado, the ability to
21 synthesize extracellular enzymes and active metabolites against species of *Candida albicans*, *C.
22 krusei*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. glabrata* and *C. parapsilosis* isolated from the oral cavity of irradiated
23 patients, with head and neck malignancies with a history of resistance or tolerance dose to
24 commercials antifungals. Actinobacteria collection from Epidemiology and Biocontrol of
25 Microorganisms Lab, State University of Montes Claros, were morphotyping regarding reproductive
26 structures. The enzymatic characterization was evaluated through the amylolytic, cellulolytic,
27 sterolytic, lipolytic, proteolytic and pectinolytic expressions. Twelve genera of actinobacteria were
28 recognized *Actinopolysora*, *Micromonospora*, *Terrabacter*, *Nocardia*, *Saccharopolyspora*,
29 *Streptosporangium*, *Thermoactinomyces*, *Streptoalloteichus*, *Streptomyces*, *Streptoverticillium*,
30 *Nocardioides*, and *Nocardiopsis*. The metabolic extracts of 88% of actinobacteria strains presented
31 more than 70% inhibitory action against at least one of the species of *Candida* spp. challenged. It was
32 observed that the Starch-Nitrate-casein broth (SCN) showed to be better stimulating substrate in the
33 biosynthesis process of antibiotic substances produced by actinobacteria. Five actinobacteria isolated
34 were superior to the others, however with inhibition intensities dependent on the *Candida* species
35 challenged. Related to the enzymatic activity, 94% expressed amylase, 88% lipase and gelatinase,
36 71% esterase, 59% cellulase, 24% caseinase and 6% pectinase.

39 Key words: *Candida* spp., Actinobacteria, Entophytes, Antibiosis, Enzymes.

47 **1. INTRODUCTION**

48
49 One of the fungal infections, caused by *Candida* spp. involve a broad spectrum of surface
50 diseases and invasive infections, affecting patients exposed to a wide range of risk factors. Systemic
51 infections by *Candida* spp. may compromise viscera because of hematogenous dissemination,
52 infectious complications that are usually documented in critical patients with degenerative and/or
53 neoplastic diseases.¹ Normally affects immunocompromised individuals with cancer and
54 chemotherapy intensive treatment, who made widespread use of antibiotics, or using
55 immunosuppressive drugs for organ transplant, parenteral nutrition, in addition to HIV-positive
56 patients.^{2,3} The emergence of antifungal resistant yeast populations has represented a great challenge
57 for the medical clinic.⁴

58 The soil ecosystem traditionally is the preferred environment for bioprospecting of
59 antimicrobial drugs, however new ways have been considered, among them the inner of plant tissues.⁵
60 So the prospecting involving entophytic microorganisms has become a promising source of secondary
61 metabolites with antibacterial, antifungal, antitumor, antimalarial, among othersactions.^{6,7}

62 The actinobacteria are widely distributed in terrestrial biomes with different environmental
63 conditions such as soil type, pH, and humidity, among others. These bacteria produce a wide variety of
64 secondary metabolites, probably reflecting differences in habitats and survival strategies.⁸ these are
65 prokaryotes valuable biotechnologically to play important roles in the process of adaptation of the
66 plant, in addition to the high capacity of producing a diversity of secondary metabolites.⁸ They are the
67 subject of several studies that seek new products of industrial or commercial interest as enzymes,
68 antibiotics, antifungal, anticancer and other bioactive substances.⁹ The bacteria of the *Actinomycetales*
69 order are responsible for producing more than 45% of microbial metabolites of pharmaceutical access.
70 In this order, the genus *Streptomyces* is responsible to produce more than 70% of 10,000
71 biotechnological products secondary metabolites actives, discovered from actinobacteria.¹⁰

72 After the antibiotics, these microorganisms more often produce enzymes, products. Highlight
73 to those used in food processing (pectinase, protease, cellulase, oxidoreductase), in the manufacture of
74 detergents (protease, lipase, cellulase, oxidoreductase), pharmaceutical industries (lipase, esterase),
75 textiles (amylase, cellulase, oxidoreductase), on medical therapy (L-asparaginase, urate oxidase), in
76 molecular biology (endonucleases, Taq polymerase, etc.) and biochemistry (cholesterol esterase,
77 ureato oxidase, L-glutamate oxidase, phospholipase D, choline oxidase).^{11,12}

78 The Cerrado is referred to as a diverse biome quite adapted to soil and climate conditions of
79 stress resulting from spontaneous combustion and burning, acid soils with high aluminum levels
80 normally related to higher temperatures, with rainy summers and dry winters well define.¹³ Despite the
81 significant biological diversity in the Cerrado, the bioprospecting in this biome is still incompatible
82 with the potential already recognized in folk medicine, especially with herbal medicines.¹⁴

83 This work had objective to study the actinobacteria isolated from native plants of the
84 Cerrado and the biotechnological potential of uses, against different species of *Candida* obtained from
85 oral cavity of irradiated patients with malignant neoplasms, as well as source of enzymes of
86 commercial value.

87

88 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

89

90 2.1 Origin of microbial isolates

91 17 Actinobacteria were isolated from the inner tissues of native Cerrado plant species,
92 belonging to the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Biocontrol of Microorganism (LEBM) of the
93 Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros, Brasil. The isolates were stored at -80°C. The plant species
94 were: *Acrocomia aculeata* (Macaúba) in the region of Montes Claros-MG on the campus of
95 UNIMONTES, *Solanum lycocarpum* (Lobeira), *Vergonia polysphaera* (Assapeixe), *Dipteryx alata*
96 (Barú), *Ficusdoliaria* (Gameleira), *Acanthospermum hispidum* (Espinho de agulha), *Guazuma*
97 *ulmifolia* (Mutamba), *Caryocar brasiliense* (Pequi). As standard procedure for regeneration of the
98 isolates, 100µL aliquots of the conservation suspension were used and spread in Czapek-Dox Agar
99 (CZA) and the plates were incubated (BOD 411-D Nova Ética) at 28°C and under photoperiod of 12
100 hours for 10 days.

101 Three species *C. albicans* (Csp 22/09); *C. tropicalis* (Csp 11/09); *C. glabrata* (Csp 16/09);
102 *C. krusei* (Csp 21/09) and *C. parapisilosis* (Csp 60/10) were isolated from the oral cavity of irradiated
103 patients with malignant neoplasm. The strains were characterized as to the level of sensitivity to
104 fluconazole (FL), Ketoconazole (KE), Itraconazole (IT), Amphotericin B (APB, polyene) and
105 Flucytosine (FC, pyrimidine) through E-test. (Probac. Brazil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil).

106

107 2.2 Morphological characterization of actinobacteria

108

109 The isolates were stained by the Gram method and, those typical of actinobacteria,
110 subsequently examined in microcultivo.¹⁵ Two distinct procedures conducted for microcultivo, both in
111 CZA and incubated at 28° C (411 BOD-D Nova Ética). Observations and records made in optical
112 microscope (Nikon E200) with magnification of 400x. Micromorphological definitions established
113 between 10 and 21 days of incubation.¹⁶ The observations made permanent in polyacrylamide resin,
114 and the fresh preparations stained with lacto phenol cotton blue. Observed and recorded characteristics
115 such as branch of the mycelium on the substrate, mycelium formation, fragmentation and spore
116 production, these attributes used to distinguish isolates based on identification keys.^{16,17}

117

118

119

120 **2.3 Evaluation of antifungal activity of extracellular products of actinobacteria**

121 The production of metabolic extracts (ME) of the actinobacteria made in erlenmeyers flasks of 250 ml
 122 containing 20 ml of broth CZA or Starch-Nitrate-Casein (SNC), distinctly. The cultivation were done
 123 in orbital shaking incubator (SOLAB SL222), at 28° C, 120 rpm for 13 days. The spore suspension
 124 was obtained from colonies after 10 days of cultivation in CZA plate at 28°C (BOD 411-D Nova
 125 Ética). After cultivation, 1 mL of spore solution (0.85% NaCl; 0.1% Tween 80) were added
 126 homogeneited and the spore containing solution was recovered from the plate. After the period of
 127 fermentation, bacterial cells and supernatant were separated by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 10
 128 minutes. The supernatant containing ME was filtered on 0.22 µm membrane (Millipore, Millex ®).
 129 Were 34 extracellular metabolic extracts, being 17 produced in CZA (ME1) and 17 in SNC (ME2).
 130 The suspension of the *Candida* specie were prepared from colonies grown in 24 hours in Sabouraud
 131 Dextrose Agar (DSA-Oxoid, England) at 28 °C. The yeasts colonies were suspended in sterile solution
 132 (NaCl 0.85% m/v) and calibrated in scale 0.5 McFarland ($\approx 5 \times 10^6$ cfu.mL⁻¹) measurement at 530nm
 133 wave length. Then, dilution 1:100 in 0.85% g.L⁻¹ NaCl followed by 1:20 dilution in liquid medium
 134 RPMI 1640 (Fluka); to obtain concentration of 2.5×10^3 yeast.mL⁻¹.¹⁸ Were carriedouto the antibiosis
 135 test were performed in sterile microplate 96 wells.¹⁹ The wells were filled with 100µL of the specific
 136 ME and the 100µL of suspension yeast prepared as above. The microplates were incubated at 37°C for
 137 24 hours. The statistical model applied was completely randomized design in factorial scheme (34 ME
 138 x 5 species of *Candida* spp.) with three replicates, each well a repeat. Treatments controls added, as
 139 well as the sterility of each.

140 The intensity of inhibition was estimated spectrophotometrically at 620nmwave length in Elisa
 141 reader apparatus (model EP-Reader-End Plate). The values of absorbances were considered in the
 142 calculations of the percentage of inhibition generated from each in front of each species of yeast,
 143 whereas the ratio between the growths observed in treatments with and without the presence of ME, as
 144 alleged inhibiting factors.²⁰ The percentage of inhibition was calculated using the formula: for each
 145 *Candida* and ME.

$$Inb_{n-z}(\%) = \left[\frac{(AE_n Csp_z - AE_n)}{ACsp_z} \right] \times 100 \quad \text{At where:}$$

$Inb_{n-z}(\%)$ = Intensity of inhibition of n -ME on species z -*Candida*;

$AE_n Csp_i$ = Absorbance in n -ME treatment vs species z -*Candida*

$ACsp_z$ = Absorbance observed for z -*Candida* species in the absence of
ME

AE_n = Absorbância do extrator isoladamente

146

147

148

149

150 **2.4 Evaluation of the enzymatic activity from Actinobacteria**

151 The activity of enzymes: amylase, cellulose, esterase, lipase, protease and pectinase were
152 measured by the presence and intensity of expression. The actinobacteria grown as described in item
153 2.3, whose colonies were inoculated in media semisolid (0.3% w/v) with vigorous homogenization.
154 With the aid of an automatic pipette, three aliquots of 10µL each were standardized arranged, about
155 the specific means for evaluation of each enzyme. The enzymatic activity was measured at 4, 11 and
156 18 days post inoculation. The tests were randomized considering three replications for each
157 actinobacteria-cultivation time. Amilolítica activity was measured as described by Nogueira and
158 Cavalcanti (1996):²¹ inoculating 10µL of actinobacteria suspension isolated on Nutrient Agar plates
159 (NA) containing 0.2% (w/v) of soluble starch, pH 6.0. The revelation of the halo of hydrolysis was
160 done with Lugol's iodine.²¹ Celulolítica activity was measured in the midst of carboxymethylcellulose
161 (CMC) 1%, with incubation at 28° C, and the revelation with Congo red dye (0.1 g/100 ml⁻¹), pH 8.0,
162 followed by solution of NaCl (0.5 M) pH 8.0.²² Esterásica activity was evaluated in growth medium
163 containing (g. L⁻¹): Peptone (5 g); Yeast extract (1 g); NaCl (5 g); Agar (15 g); CaCl₂ (0, 1 g),
164 supplemented in a Tween 80 final concentration of 1% v/v. Positive results indicated formation of
165 opaque halo around the colonies.²³ The proteolytic activity was done by two procedures: (i) caseinase
166 activity was held in culture medium containing skimmed-milk powder (5% w/v), and the revelation
167 was made by measuring the translucent halo around the circle of the colonies.²⁴ (ii) gelatinase activity
168 of in Nutrient Gelatin Agar (NGA: nutrient agar, 23 g; gelatin, 8 g), and the revelation highlighted
169 with saturated ammonium sulphate solution.²⁵ The lipolytic activity was measured using the growth
170 medium containing (g. L⁻¹): Bacto peptone (10 g), NaCl (5 g), CaCl₂, anhydrous (0.086g), agar (15 g),
171 pH 7.4; After sterilization and cooling added 1 ml of Tween 80 in final concentration of 1% (v/v). The
172 plates were incubated at 28° C, and lipolytic activity assessed by observation of the calcium crystals
173 halo around the colonies.²⁶ Pectinolítica activity evaluated in Soy Agar Tryptone (TSA) supplemented
174 with 1% of citrus pectin, and the revelation with CaCl₂ solution (1M). The positive activity was
175 indicated by the presence of translucent halo around the colonies.²⁴ The intensity of the expression of
176 enzymes was expressed by the Enzymatic Index (EI), being the ratio of the measurement of the halo of
177 hydrolysis divided by and the diameter of the colony at the specified time.²⁷

178 It was assigned of enzymes as Normal expression time (NE), Early expression time (EE) and
179 Late expression time (LE), consideruy to the records from the scientific literature and the common
180 period of expression of the respective enzymes. Hence, the name 'Normal' correlates directly to the
181 period commonly referred to in specialized publications: (i) amylase and pectinase (usually = 4 days
182 of cultivation);^{21,24} (ii) caseinase, cellulase, esterase and lipase (normally = 11 days of
183 cultivation);^{22,23,24,26} (iii) gelatinase (normally = 18 days of cultivation).²⁶

184
185

186 **2.5 Data Analysis**

187 The statistical analyses were performed by Minitab ® software (Minitab Statistical Software,
 188 Release 15 for Windows, State College, Pennsylvania). The data was regard to the assumptions for
 189 parametric analysis and subsequently conducted analyses of variance (ANOVA), Cluster analysis and
 190 Student's t test, using the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$.

191

192 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

193

194 **3.1 Morphological characterization of the isolates**

195 Twelve genera of actinobacteria residents internally in native Cerrado plant tissues were
 196 morphologically recognized using selective culture media and microculture (Table 1).

197 Diverse morphotypes were identified, from fully fragmented to filamentous. Forms this
 198 morphological variety is cited in the literature, which often refers to the actinobacteria as a diverse and
 199 versatile group.²⁸

200

201 Table 1 – Morphological and presumptive identification of actinobacteria genus isolated from inner of
 202 plants tissues, native to the Cerrado.

Isolate Code	Morphotyping			Genus Presumptive
	Color of the colony	Melanoides Pigments	Microscopic Structures *	
Act1	Brown	Absent	RA	<i>Actinopolysora</i>
Act2	Brown	Absent	RA	<i>Actinopolysora</i>
Act3	Brown	Absent	RA	<i>Micromonospora</i>
Act4	Beige	Absent	R	<i>Terrabacter</i>
Act5	White	Present	B	<i>Nocardia</i>
Act6	Green	Absent	RA	<i>Saccharopolyspora</i>
Act7	White	Absent	RA	<i>Streptosporangium</i>
Act8	Green	Absent	RA	<i>Thermoactinomyces</i>
Act9	Green	Absent	RA	<i>Streptoalloteichus</i>
Act10	Green	Absent	RA	<i>Streptoverticillium</i>
Act11	Greyed out	Present	S	<i>Streptomyces</i>
Act12	Beige	Absent	R	<i>Terrabacter</i>
Act13	White	Absent	B	<i>Nocardioides</i>
Act14	Yellow	Absent	RA	<i>Saccharopolyspora</i>
Act15	Beige	Absent	R	<i>Terrabacter</i>
Act16	Pink	Present	F	<i>Nocardiopsis</i>
Act17	Green	Absent	RA	<i>Streptoalloteichus</i>

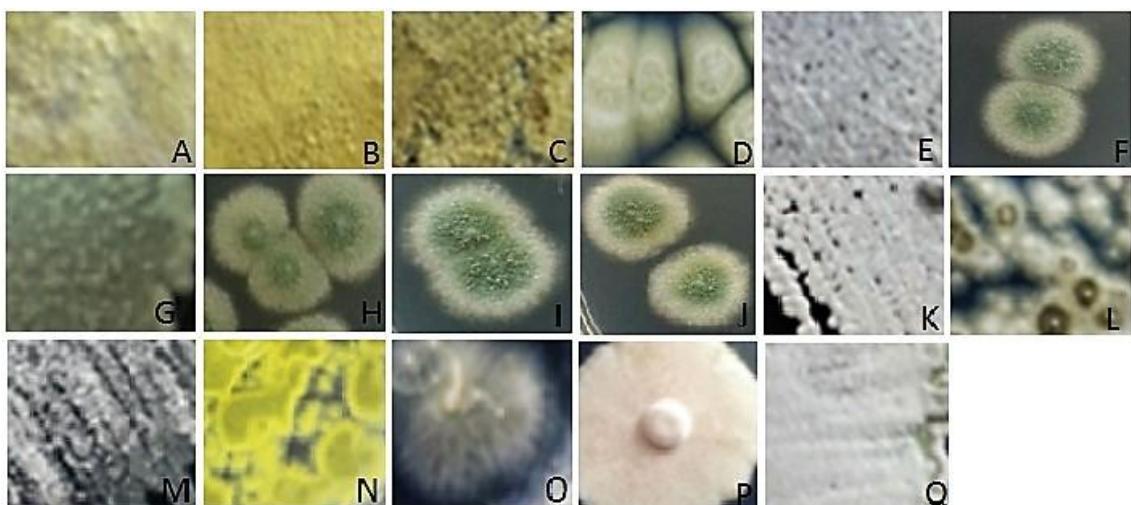
203 * F (Flexibilis); R (Rectus); RA (Retinaculum-Apertum); S (Spira); B (Bacillus)

204

205 It was observed a predominance of the genus *Terrabacter* (17%), followed by the genera
 206 *Actinopolysora* (12%), *Saccharopolyspora* (12%) and *Streptoalloteichus* (12%), *Micromonospora*
 207 (6%), *Streptomyces* (6%), *Nocardia* (6%), *Streptosporangium* (6%), *Streptoverticillium* (6%),
 208 *Thermoactinomyces* (6%), *Nocardioides* (6%) and *Nocardiopsis* (6%).

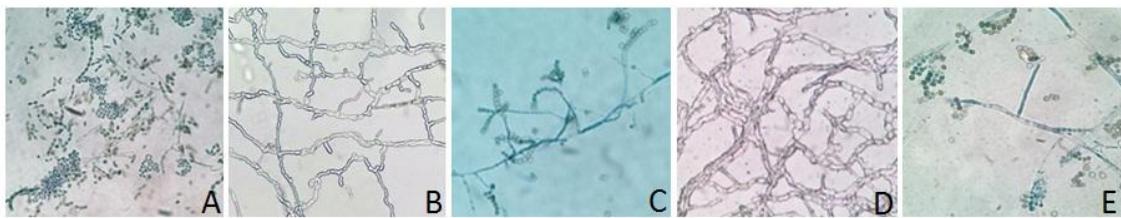
209 As noticed in our studies, other reports show that the morphological diversity of the
 210 Actinobacteria are based primarily on their reproductive strategies that lead to formation of a variety
 211 of structures of spores, such as the arthrospores (*Streptomyces*), aleuriospores (*Micromonospora*),
 212 endospores (*Thermoactinomyces*) and zoospores (several members of *Actinoplanaceae*,
 213 *Geodermatophilus*, *Oerskovia*, *Kitasatoa*).²⁹

214 Three isolates (Act5, Act11 and Act16) presented production of melanóides pigment in the
 215 CZA medium. The morphotyping, at the 21 days, of cultivation showed several types of macroscopic
 216 structures grown in CZA medium (Figure 1). Of the Isolates observed 14 showed Branched aerial
 217 mycelia, being: Act11 spiraled, Act1, Act2, Act3, Act6, Act7, Act8, Act9, Act10, Act14 and mycelia
 218 Act17, snared, and mycelia Act13, Act5, Act16 rod-shaped and flexible, while the mycelium Act4,
 219 Act12 and Act15 presented straight and non-air mycelia. Such structural features express faithfully the
 220 order *Actinomycetales* as described by literature.



221
 222 Figure 1 - Macroscopic morphology of colonies of endophytic actinobacteria from the Cerrado's
 223 plants: (A) *Actinopolysora* sp., (B) *Actinopolysora* sp., (C) *Micromonospora* sp., (D) *Terrabacter* sp.,
 224 (E) *Nocardia* sp., (F) *Saccharopolyspora* sp., (G) *Streptosporangium* sp., (H) *Thermoactinomyces* sp.,
 225 (I) *Streptoalloteichus* sp., (J) *Streptoverticillium* sp., (K) *Streptomyces* sp., (L) *Terrabacter* sp., (M)
 226 *Nocardioides* sp., (N) *Saccharopolyspora* sp., (O) *Terrabacter* sp., (P) *Nocardiopsis* sp. and (Q)
 227 *Streptoalloteichus* sp.
 228

229
 230 The Figure 2 shows the morphotyping of five actinobacteria strains selected by the highest
 231 rates of inhibition against the species of *Candida* spp., through optical microscopy. Variations in
 232 edafoclimatic conditions can favor, selectively, certain physiological types, having the dry soils and
 233 warm a large occurrence of actinobacteria, being the predominant genera and commonly isolated,
 234 *Nocardia*, *Streptomyces* and *Micromonospora*.^{30,31} Even if there is an analogy from the ground of the
 235 Savannah, our results showed different results in a smaller number for these genres, indicating that not
 236 all are fit biologically to colonize plant tissues, without causing diseases such as endophytic.
 237



238
239 Figure 2 - Micromorphology, recorded in microcultivos, of the residents in the Cerrado biome
240 actinobacteria and selected as inhibitory substances producing species of *Candida* spp. A - Act3
241 (*Micromonospora* sp.), B - Act12 (*Terrabacter* sp.), C - Act10 (*Streptoverticillium* sp.), D - Act15
242 (*Terrabacter* sp.), E - Act17 (*Streptoalloteichus* sp.). 400 x Magnification
243
244

245 **3.2 Screening of strains producing inhibitory substances against *Candida* spp.**

246

247 The choice of isolated *Candida* species and was based on the responses of sensitivity to
248 antifungal drugs: fluconazole (FL), Ketoconazole (KE), Itraconazole (IT), Amphotericin B (APB) and
249 flucytosine (FC), being recognized as resistant or tolerant dose to some of these substances.

250 On cluster analysis of these yeasts regarding sensitivity to these antifungals, as well as the
251 metabolic extracts (ME) from actinobacteria, supernatant showed grouping pattern similar between
252 *Candida glabrata* and *C. tropicalis* (Similarity = 94%), closing of *C. krusei* and highlighting of other
253 species in this study (Figure 3A). These species of *Candida* presented the same similarity when
254 grouped by levels of sensitivity to antifungal trade (Figure 3B).

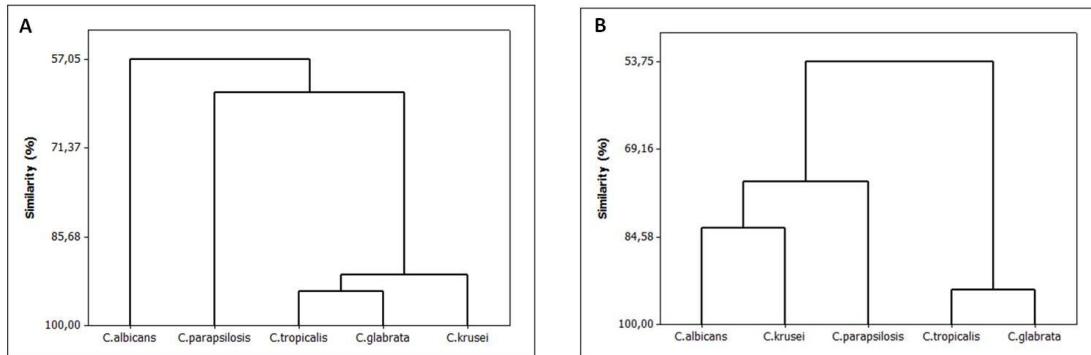
255 The different between behavior of *Candida albicans* and *C. tropicalis* in face of the ME of the
256 actinobacteria (Figure 3A), suggest the existence of distinct biochemical mechanisms to deal with the
257 suppressive effect of antifungals, deserving differentiated attention regarding the following results and
258 monitoring of populations resistant to antifungal drugs. An important characteristic of *C. tropicalis* is
259 related to the high mortality rate (59.0 to 85.7%) and it is fast dissemination in immunocompromised
260 patients, especially in individuals with haematological complications and other disseminated
261 infections.³²

262 Studies indicate that *C. tropicalis* and *C. albicans* is pathogenic species in the oral and vaginal
263 cavity, responsible for more than 70% of the fungal infections in these areas.³³

264 These results are associated with the enzyme, profile metabolic pathways and genetic
265 mechanisms characteristic of the species.³⁴⁻³⁶

266 The isolates of Actinobacteria that stood out as promising, regardless of the medium and the
267 species of *Candida* spp. challenged, can be recognized in figures 4A and 5: Act17, 15, 4, 10 and 3, and
268 the intensity of their inhibitory in variable with the growth medium used.

269

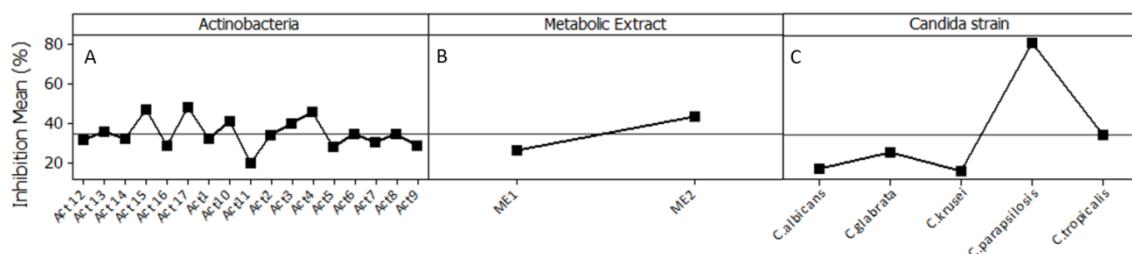


270 Figure 3-Cluster analysis of *Candida* spp. isolates considering the sensitivity level to ME from
 271 actinobacteria isolates (Panel A) and commercial antifungals: Fluconazole, Itraconazole, Cetaconazol,
 272 Flucytocine and Amphotericin B(Panel B).

273

274 The 17 isolate characterized to being to genus *Streptoalloteichus* produced inhibitory
 275 substances, in both media of fermentation, which inhibited all species intensities of *Candida* spp.
 276 tested in different medium. On average 48% inhibited yeast being the highest inhibition on *C.*
 277 *parapsilosis* (100%), with ME1 and the minimum, about *C. krusei* (6.3%) with ME2(Figure 4C).
 278 Studies point out that species of the genus *Streptoalloteichus* produce Kedarcidin, which is a
 279 cromoprotein with amino acid residues that displays activity both as anticancer and antibiotic.^{37,38}
 280 Literature does not address specifically the adversarial process of metabolic extracts of this genre in
 281 front of other microorganisms, however reports that these actinobacteria is known to produce the
 282 Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs), which are biodegradable and renewable polymers.³⁹ These polymers
 283 can used as a substrate for the production of D-β-hydroxybutyrate synthesis of antibiotics, vitamins,
 284 aromatics and pheromones.⁴⁰

285



286

287 Figure 4 - Mean of the dependent effects involved in the inhibition test: A – Medium promoted by
 288 inhibition in the actinobacteria regardless of the means and of the species of *Candida* challenged ($n =$
 289 30), B – regardless of actinobactéria and species of *Candida* challenged, C – regardless of the
 290 actinobactéria and of the growth medium.

291

292 The ME produced by *Terrabacter* sp., who are isolated Act4 and Act15 inhibited three species
 293 of *Candida* spp. when Czapek-Dox broth produced (ME1) and all when cultivated in the SNC (ME2)
 294 broth.

295 The ME from the isolated Act15 inhibited on average 47% of tested yeasts, being the highest
 296 inhibition on *C. parapsilosis* (100%) with ME1 and ME2, and the hower minimum on *C. albicans*
 297 (0.0%) with ME1 and ME2. The ME from the isolated Act4 inhibited on average 45.6% of yeasts,

298 being the highest inhibition on *C. parapsilosis* (98.6%), and the minimum about ME1 *C. albicans* and
 299 *C. krusei* (0.0%) with ME1 and on *C. albicans* (0.0%) with ME2.

300 Although they belong to the same genre and the slower growth among the Actinobacteria
 301 evaluated, these isolates are very promising showing minor variations in inhibition in relation to the
 302 yeasts challenged. Similar data was found in out actinobacteria isolated studies by Rodrigues (2006),⁴¹
 303 in the process of composting, in which it found that the genus *Terrabacter* represented 8% of bioactive
 304 metabolites, with emphasis on the biocidal effectiveness against microorganisms of clinical
 305 importance as *Enterobacter cloacae*, and additionally the genre of greatest inhibition to *C. albicans*.⁴¹
 306 The largest number of isolates with greater potential for the antimicrobial activity, can be assigned
 307 because the genre *Terrabacter* be characterized by adaptations to dryness, radiation and high
 308 salinity,⁴² and these conditions are also observed in the Cerrado.

309 The ME from the isolated Act10 (*Streptoverticillium* sp.) showed inhibition average of 41% of
 310 on yeasts, Being the maximum inhibition on *C. parapsilosis* (85%), with EM1, and the minimum on
 311 *C. albicans* (0.0%) with the same ME. It is described in the literature that *Streptoverticillium*
 312 *cinnamoneum* var. *scleroticum*, isolated from soil samples, produces a substance named sclerotia,
 313 which under specific environmental conditions in liquid or solid, broth presents a promising antifungal
 314 and antibacterial activity.⁴³ And her example is the occurrence of antifungal activities and antitumor of
 315 secondary metabolic produced by *Streptoverticillium* sp. isolated from soil samples, which 2 isolated
 316 substances showed antimicrobial activity against *C. albicans*, *C. krusei*, *C. parapsilosis*, *C. utilis*, *C.*
 317 *tropicalis*, *C. lipolytica* and *C. guillermondii*.⁴⁴ However our results demonstrated that the
 318 actinobacteria from this genre (Act10) produced showed inhibition of 89% and 26% to *C. albicans*
 319 and *C. krusei* when grown in SCN broth, respectively. No inhibition was detected to the same *Candida*
 320 using ME from CZA medium cultivation. (Figure 5A and G).

321 The In the isolated Act3 (*Micromonospora* sp.) inhibited 40% on average of the yeasts, being
 322 the highest inhibition on *C. parapsilosis* (96%) with ME2, and the minimum on *C. albicans* and *C.*
 323 *krusei* (0.0%) with ME1. Studies show that species from this genus are promising bioactive compounds
 324 producers, including gentamicin and caliqueamicina.^{10,45,46} New studies on *Micromonospora* sp.
 325 confirm the high antibacterial activity against several important human pathogens, such as
 326 *Mycobacterium abscessus*, *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*,
 327 *Proteus vulgaris*, *Salmonella*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Escherichia coli*.⁴⁷

328 It was meaningful and statistically significant superiority of the SCN medium in stimulating
 329 the biosynthesis of the antibiotic substances (Figure 4B), suggesting that the excretion of bioactive
 330 substances by the actinobacteria has been more potentized by substrate components ME2 in relation to
 331 the components of ME1 substrate. Studies have shown the influence of cultures with carbon or
 332 nitrogen sources more complex and claim this interference on the growth and production of bioactive
 333 metabolites.^{48,49} The glucose is one of the essential carbon source for the growth of microorganisms,
 334 however there is disagreement among scholars about its use as substrates for production of secondary

metabolites. There are claims that this substance represents an excellent source of C for cell growth and it has influence in the production of various antibiotics.⁴⁸ Others found that cell growth not related to the production of secondary metabolites, a substrate can enhance growth of the microorganism, but the production of bioactive compounds may not significantly influenced.⁵⁰ The use of monomeric and polymeric energy sources like starch have treated as relevant when the goal is the biosynthesis of antibiotics.⁵¹ This study showed the superiority of the culture medium SCN, whose main source of C is starch, which surpassed, for the great majority of actinobacteria the CZA, whose source is glucose(Figure 4B).

Sensitivity to ME distinct and was statistically superior to the *Candida parapsilosis* and conversely *C. albicans*, *C. Krusei* and *C. glabrata* (Figure 4C) and noted greater resistance by *Candida albicans*, *C. krusei* to ME the actinobacteria. Opposite behavior observed for *C. parapsilosis* that showed the highest sensitivity.

It is worth noting the importance in this yeast inhibition, since *C. krusei* spp. has been recognized as a potentially pathogen resistant, in addition, have the ability to form biofilms in biomedical devices that come into contact with the skin, mucosa or inert.⁵²

350

351 **3.3 Profile of enzyme expression of isolated**

352

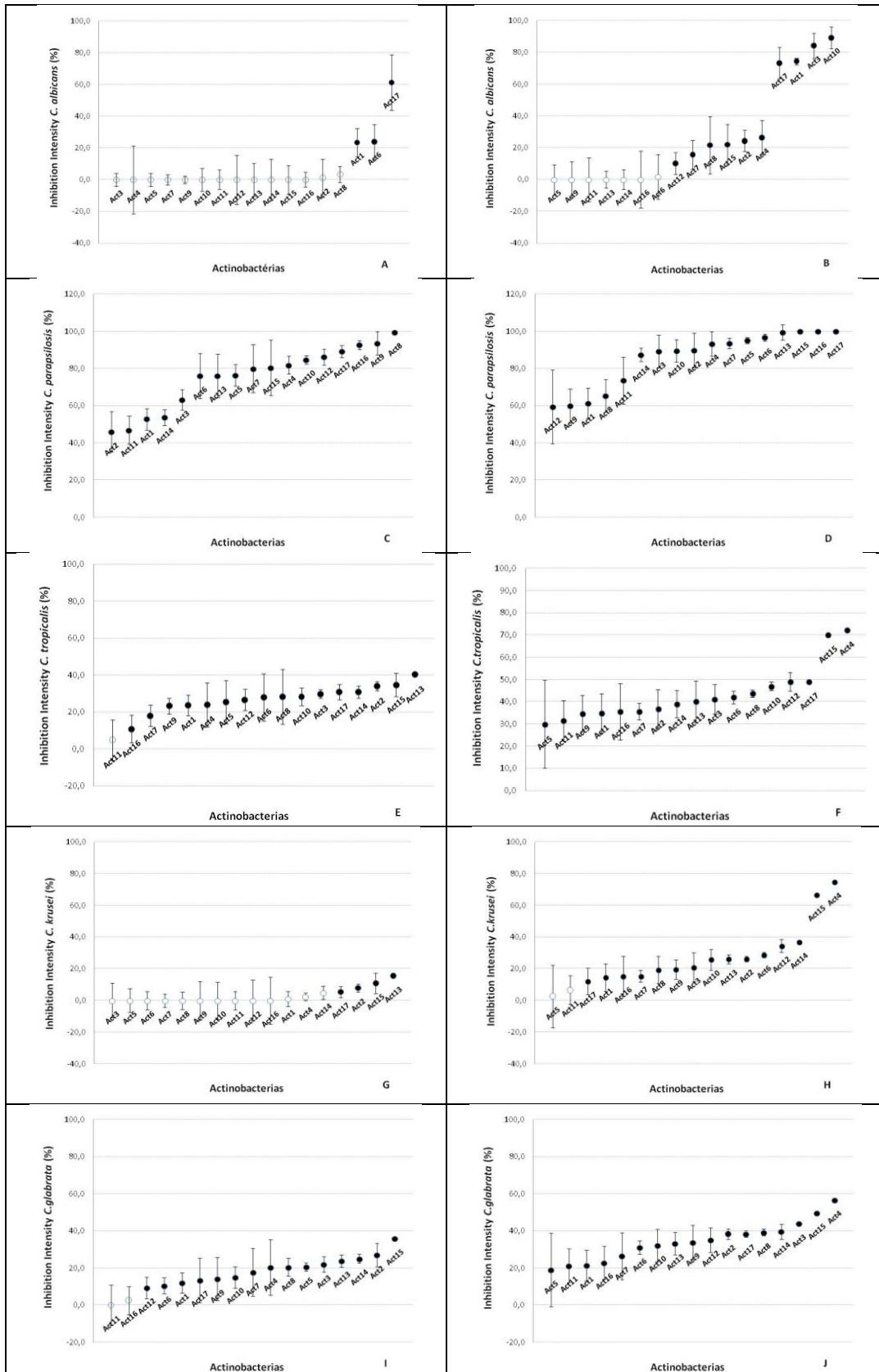
353 The intensity and diversity of enzyme is expression varied among isolates of actinobacteria,
354 and all these have expressed at least one of the enzymes studied, therefore Enzymatic Index (EI ≥ 1),
355 and indicating qualitative activity.^{53,54} So assumed high potential and biotechnology value for some of
356 the actinobacteria isolated from plants of cerrado.

357 Figure 6 deals with the average values of EI for each decoupled factor, especially without
358 considering the interactions among actinobactéria, time of expression and enzyme. Table 2 provides
359 qualitative results of expression of each one of the enzymes in the respective actinobacteria.

360 The most versatile actinobacteria were: Act11 Act13 and 6 of 7 expressed enzymes measured,
361 followed by Act7, Act8, Act9, Act10, Act16, Act17 expressed 5, Act1, Act2, Act3, Act6, Act14 Act15
362 and that expressed 4, followed by Act4 and Act5 that expressed 3, and strain Act12 which featured
363 only 2 enzymes, and low enzyme expression of the latter can be attributed to the slow growth when
364 compared to the other actinobacteria (Figure 6A and Table 2).

365 Considering the moment of the expression of the enzymes, performed greater intensities of
366 enzymatic activities expressed in Regular time (NE), followed by Late expressions (LE) and Early
367 (EE), in lower intensity (Figure 6B).

368 The enzymes that showed higher expression were amylases, lipases and gelatinases, regardless
369 of the time of cultivation and actinobactéria producer (Figure 6C).

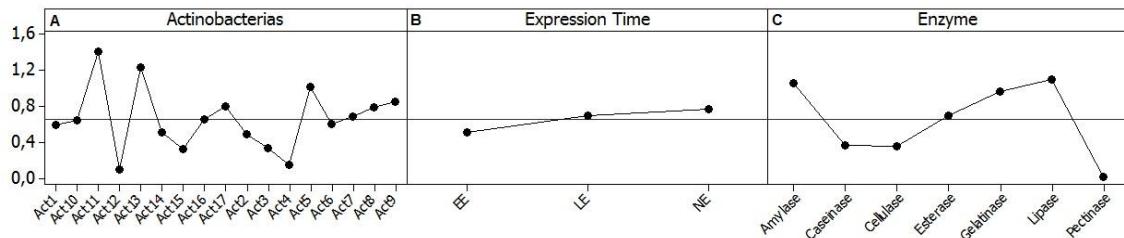


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375

Figure 5 - Intensity inhibition (%) of *Candida* spp., provided by entophytic actinobacteria ME native plants of the Cerrado obtained. Frames: A, C, E, and I – cultivation in Czapek-Dox broth and B, D, F, H and J – cultivation in SCN broth. (●) positive Inhibition (○) without inhibition. Bars = Average standard deviation.

376 The hydrolysis capacity of the isolates Act11 (*Streptomyces*), Act13 (*Nocardioides*) and Act5
 377 (*Nocardia*), deserves to be highlighted because they present higher mean EI, (Figure 6A), although the
 378 latter showed only 3 enzymes (Table 2).

379



380

381 Figure 6 – Average of the dependent effects involved in the assay of enzyme activity: (A) Average of
 382 enzymatic expressions promoted by actinobacteria regardless of the time of expression and the type of
 383 enzyme expressed ($n = 189$), (B) Regardless of the actinobactéria and the type of enzyme expressed,
 384 (C) Regardless of actinobactéria and time of expression.

385

386 Table 2 - Presence of enzyme activities observed to entophytic actinobacteria, in function of growing
 387 time. Early expression (EE), Regular expression (NE) and Late expression (LE). (+) Activity observed
 388 and (-) absence of activity.

Strain Code	Genus Morphotyped	Enzymes-expression time																					
		Amylase			Caseinase			Cellulase			Esterase			Gelatinase			Lipase			Pectinase			
		NE	LE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE	NE	LE	EE
		4	11	18	4	11	18	4	11	18	4	11	18	4	11	18	4	11	18	4	11	18	4
Act1	<i>Actinopolyspora</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Act2	<i>Actinopolyspora</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Act3	<i>Micromonospora</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-
Act4	<i>Terrabacter</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Act5	<i>Nocardia</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
Act6	<i>Saccharopolyspora</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Act7	<i>Streptosporangium</i>	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Act8	<i>Thermoactinomyces</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
Act9	<i>Streptoalloteichus</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
Act10	<i>Streptoverticillium</i>	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Act11	<i>Streptomyces</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
Act12	<i>Terrabacter</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Act13	<i>Nocardioides</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
Act14	<i>Saccharopolyspora</i>	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
Act15	<i>Terrabacter</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Act16	<i>Nocardiopsis</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Act17	<i>Streptoalloteichus</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-
Regular expression time advocated in the literature		4 days			11 days			11 days			11 days			18 days			11 days			4 days			

389

390 Whereas the enzymes amylase, lipase, and gelatinase which were expressed in greater
 391 quantity, as well as the isolated Act5, Act11 and Act13 we can affirm that the expression of amylase
 392 and lipase was common to all regardless of the time of cultivation, differing itself from the expression

393 of gelatinase, where Act5 was unable to synthesize it. Among these isolates the Act11 (*Streptomyces*
394 spp.) showed the highest expression of gelatinases (EI = 3.9) (Data not presented). Other studies found
395 that *Streptomyces* spp. isolated from soil of the savanna was able to hydrolyze casein, gelatin and
396 being a common feature of this genre, corroborating with our findings.⁵⁵ Bacterial Proteases have
397 special relevance as commercial enzymatic in detergents, being your basic property used for
398 generation of protein hydrolysate's of high nutritional value.⁵⁶ The genus *Streptomyces* stands out as
399 the synthesis of these enzymes, since they release in extracellular medium, which itis generally
400 regarded as safe, when applied to the administration of drugs and nutrients.⁵⁷

401 Among the three selected isolates, all starch was hydrolyzed up to 18 days of cultivation. The
402 isolated Act11 along with the Act16 were those who had higher activity of this enzyme (CI = 2.90 ±
403 0,156, p ≤ 0.05). However, it should be emphasized that the Act16 expresses this enzyme until the
404 fourth day as well on the isolates 14, 15 and 3.

405 The Act6, Act7 and Act10 from the 11th day of cultivation. The Act12 was the only one who
406 did not express this enzyme, which explains the slow growth of this microorganism in the SCN, broth.
407 The occurrence of amylases in actinobacteria is a feature commonly found in *Nocardia* spp. and
408 *Streptomyces* spp.,⁵⁸ showing for this first genre high activity amilolítica that according to reports
409 100% of the isolates hydrolyzed starch after cultivation of 7 days.⁴¹ As regards the lipolytic activity,
410 the isolatesAct5 *Nocardia* spp. (EI = 3.51), Act11 *Streptomyces* spp. (EI = 2.1), and
411 Act13*Nocardiooides* spp. (EI = 2.4) were the most intensely expresses lipase, producing them from 4th
412 to 18th day. According to the literature, little information is available on the lipase (carboxylic acid
413 ester hydrolase) in actinobacteria. Most of the data refers to cholesterol esterase, which can also reveal
414 lipolytic activity.⁵⁹ Studies have shown that microbial enzymes have excelled in use in clinical
415 diagnosis and therapeutic such as cholesterol esterase obtained from species of *Nocardia* sp. which
416 have been widely used in enzyme assays.⁶⁰ Considering the isolated qualified as promising substances
417 inhibitory to producers *Candida* spp., therefore the isolatesAct17, Act15, Act10, Act4 and Act3 some
418 considerations must made. None of these produced caseinase unlike the actinobacteria 5, 11 and 13,
419 which were the only ones to produce this enzyme. It should be emphasized the presence of casein in
420 the SCN medium, and this variable is associated to the metabolism of these bacteria in the most
421 efficient broth observed in the antibiosis assays for the control of *Candida* spp..

422 Associations between enzyme activity and microbial antagonism referred to in the literature
423 showing a synergistic relationship between them, in which the fungal cell wall digestion by the
424 secreted enzyme, including chitinase, glucanase and peroxidase. Individually, all these enzymes exert
425 antifungal activity, but their actions are frequently synergistic with antibiotics.⁶¹ Our studies have not
426 been evaluated these enzymes, but the composition of the substrate of culture medium can assist in
427 expression of enzymes associated with antibiotic or antifungal substances biosynthesis.

428

429

430 **CONCLUSION**

431

432 The study of entophytic microbiota of native species of the Savannah are scarce, so a habitat
433 unexplored, and so very promising to bio-prospecting of natural products.

434 The taxonomic identification of entophytic actinobacteria in this strate was able to detect the
435 presence of 12 diverse genres with predominance of the genus *Terrabacter*.

436 The Starch-Nitrate-casein (SCN) broth proved to be a potent substrate to obtaining
437 secondary metabolites produced by actinobacteria. The isolates that inhibit the greater number of
438 yeasts can be targets for future studies aimed at the characterization of the compounds with antifungal
439 activity and improvement of cultivation technology for including culture medium composition.

440 The metabolic extracts produced by entophytic actinobacteria from this biome point to the
441 presence of promising substances with potential antifungal. In the study, it was observed that 88% of
442 the metabolic extracts showed inhibitory effect higher 70% to some species of *Candida* spp.. The
443 actinobacteria 17, 15, 10, 4 and 3 that produced the most suppressive metabolites of *Candida* spp.

444 Considering the enzymatic activities, the expressions of amylases, lipases and gelatinases were
445 the most recurrent and most intensely produced by actinobacteria 5, 11 and 13.

446 The promising anti-fungal metabolism-producing actinobacteria 17, 15, 10, 4 and 3 did not
447 express caseinase biosynthesis, unlike the actinobacteria 5, 11 and 13 that were the only ones to
448 produce this enzyme, which could be exploited in the induction process in culture for the production
449 of antibiotic substances in SCN medium.

450

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4 CONCLUSÕES

Estudos da microbiota endofítica de espécies nativas do Cerrado são escassos, assim um habitat pouco explorado, contudo bastante promissor quando se refere a bioprospecção de produtos naturais.

A identificação taxonômica das actinobactérias endofíticas aqui estudada, ainda que em nível de gênero, esclareceu a presença de 12 gêneros com predomínio do gênero *Terrabacter*.

O caldo de cultivo Starch-Nitrate-caseín (SCN) mostrou ser um potente substrato estimulador no processo de obtenção de metabólicos secundário produzidos por actinobactérias. Os isolados que inibiram o maior número de leveduras podem ser alvos de futuros estudos visando à caracterização dos compostos com atividades antifúngicas.

Os extratos metabólicos produzidos por actinobactérias endofíticas deste bioma apontam para a presença de substâncias promissoras com um grande potencial antifúngico. Neste estudo foi observado que 88% dos extratos metabólicos apresentaram efeito inibitório superior a 70% frente a espécies de *Candida* spp.. Destaque para as actinobactérias 17, 15, 10, 4 e 3 que foram as que produziram metabólitos mais supressoras de *Candida* spp.

Considerando as atividades enzimáticas, as expressões de amilases, lipases e gelatinases foram as mais recorrentes e mais intensamente produzidas pelas actinobactérias 5, 11 e 13, independente do tempo de cultivo.

As actinobactérias 17, 15, 10, 4 e 3, promissoras produtoras de metabólicos antifúngicos não expressaram biossíntese de caseinase, ao contrário das actinobactérias 5, 11 e 13 que foram as únicas a produzirem esta enzima, podendo esta característica ser explorada em processo de indução em cultivo visando produção de substâncias antibióticas em meio SCN.

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ANEXO

ANEXO A – Normas para publicação no periódico Brazilian Journal of Microbiology



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SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

Brazilian Journal of Microbiology, published by the Brazilian Society of Microbiology, publishes original research papers and reviews, covering all aspects of Microbiology. The publication fee for this journal is **USD 300** for non-Brazilian citizens, and, **R\$ 840,00** for Brazilian citizens.

The following categories of papers are acceptable for publication in Brazilian Journal of Microbiology:

- **Research paper:** the research paper reports results of original research, which has not been published elsewhere.
- **Short Communication:** a Short Communication is new and significant findings. Submit form is the same way as research paper. They receive the same review, they are not published more rapidly than research paper.
- **Short-review:** Review articles should deal with microbiological subjects of broad interest (ONLY BY INVITATION).
- **Letter to the editor:** Letters to the Editor are intended only for comments on final, typeset articles published in the journal (manuscripts posted online are not accepted) and must cite published references to support the writer's argument.

Your manuscript must be written clearly, in **comprehensible English**.

The text submitted for publication has to be English reviewed before **submission**. To submit the manuscript, you must attach the issued certificate in supplementary files.

SECTIONS

Biotechnology and Industrial Microbiology

Bacterial Fermentation

- biosynthesis and bioconversion of natural products, including antibiotics, xenobiotics, and macromolecules produced by bacteria.
- molecular aspects of bacterial biotechnology

Fungal Fermentation

- biosynthesis and bioconversion of natural products, including antibiotics, xenobiotics, and macromolecules produced by fungi
- molecular aspects of fungal biotechnology

Food Microbiology

Technology

- applications of microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) for food production

Safety and Quality

- food borne diseases
- food spoilage
- microbial ecology in foods

Clinical Microbiology

Bacteria, Fungi, and Virus

- Laboratory diagnosis of human infections and the role of the laboratory in both the management of infectious diseases and the elucidation of the epidemiology of infections.
- Microbial resistance and mechanisms of antimicrobial agents.

Environmental Microbiology

Microbial Ecology

- ecology of natural microbial assemblages, microbial diversity of natural environments such as water, soil, sediments and higher organisms
- microbial interactions
- environmental aspects of public health
- biodegradation
- bioremediation

Bacterial and Fungal Molecular Pathogenesis

- Genetic, biochemical, and structural basis of bacterial and fungal pathogenesis

Bacterial and Fungal Physiology

- Biochemistry, biophysics, metabolism, cell structure, stress response, growth, differentiation, and other related process of bacteria and fungi

Veterinary Microbiology

- control and/or treatment of animals
- animal pathogen diagnostics
- veterinary or zoonotic pathogens

SUBMISSION OF A MANUSCRIPT

Submission of a manuscript to Brazilian Journal of Microbiology is understood to imply that it has not

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previously been published (except in an abstract form) and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere.

Upon receipt of a manuscript all authors will receive an electronic message acknowledging the receipt.

Responsibility for the accuracy of the manuscript content lies entirely with the authors.

PUBLICATION OF A MANUSCRIPT

Manuscripts are accepted for publication after having been critically reviewed by at least two referees, indicated by the Editors.

The suggestions and recommendations of the reviewers and Editors will be forwarded electronically to the corresponding author, who should return the reviewed manuscript to the Editors within the stipulated date, via online system. Whenever applicable, the corresponding author should explain or comment each modification introduced in the text.

The corresponding author will receive an electronic message whenever the manuscript moves from one status to the next.

Membership in Brazilian Society for Microbiology is not a pre requisite for submission of a manuscript for publication.

Nonmember scientists from Brazil and other countries are invited to submit papers for analysis.

ETHICS

When the study, described in the manuscript, is related to experiments carried out with human beings and/or animals, author(s) must inform, within the text, if the research project has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee of their institution, according to the Declaration of Helsinki (http://www.fcm.unicamp.br/fcm/sites/default/files/declaracao_de_helsinki.pdf). Experimental studies involving animals should follow the guidelines established by the "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK54050/>) (Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C. 1996), and the *Princípios Éticos na Experimentação Animal do Colégio Brasileiro de Experimentação Animal* (COBEA) (Ethical Principles for Animal Experimentation of the Brazilian College of Animal Experimentation - http://www.cobea.org.br/conteudo/view?ID_CONTEUDO=65).

PREPARATION OF A MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript should be submitted as **one single WORD file**. This single file should include: the whole text, figures, tables, etc. Only manuscripts written in English will be considered.

For **research papers**, the **WORD** file should contain:

- Title (100 characters)
- Running title (40 characters)
- Authors and Affiliations
- Abstract (up to 200 words)
- Three to five key-words
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- References

For **short communications**, the **WORD** file should contain:

- Title
- Running title
- Authors and Affiliations
- Abstract (up to 50 words)
- Three to five key-words
- Text not divided in topics
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- References

For **short-review**, the **WORD** file should contain:

- Title (100 characters)
- Running title (40 characters)
- Authors and Affiliations
- Abstract (up to 200 words)
- Three to five key-words
- Text
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- References

For **Letter to the Editor** the **WORD** file should contain:

- Title (100 characters)
- Running title (40 characters)
- Authors and Affiliations
- Text (no more than 500 words and must be typed double-spaced)
- References

Author affiliations should be presented in decreasing hierarchical order (e.g. Harvard University, Harvard Business School, Boston, USA) and should be written as established in its own language (e.g. Université Paris-Sorbonne; Harvard University, Universidade de São Paulo).

All manuscripts should be typed double-spaced with 3 cm margins and pages should be numbered sequentially. The lines in each page of the manuscript should be numbered too. The Editors recommend that a manuscript should be critically read by someone fluent in English before submission.

Manuscripts written in poor English will not be accepted.

Research papers and *short-review* consist of 20 pages, including references, tables and figures.

Abbreviations of terms and symbols should follow the recommendations of IUPAC-IUB Commission

(Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature, Amendments and Corrections) and the units are to be used according to SI (International Systems of Units).

Suggested Reviewers

Authors may submit suggestions of reviewers to evaluate the manuscripts. The following information must be provided: reviewer name, e-mail address, and the home institution.

Use of plant extracts in microbiological experiments

Articles that present studies with plant extracts, or other complex substances, will be accepted only after identification of compounds.

ORGANIZATION

The full **Title** of the article should be as brief as possible, not exceed 100 characters including spaces, should not contain abbreviations, and be truly indicative of the subject of the paper. Authors should suggest a **Running title** that appears in the page header which should not exceed 40 characters, including spaces.

Expressions like "Effects of", "Influence of", "Study on", etc, should be avoided. Care should be exercised in preparing the title since it is used in literature retrieval systems.

The **Abstract** should summarize the basic content of the paper. The abstract should be meaningful without reference to the text. An abstract should not contain references, tables or unusual abbreviations. Abstracts are reprinted by abstracting journals and therefore will be read by persons who do not have access to the entire paper.

The **Introduction** should provide the reader with sufficient information so that the results reported in the paper can be properly evaluated without referring to the literature. However, the introduction should not be an extensive review of the literature. The introduction should also give the rationale for and objectives of the study that is being reported.

The **Materials and Methods** section should provide enough information for other investigators to repeat the experiments.

Repetition of details of procedures which have already been published elsewhere should be avoided. If a published method is modified, such modification(s) must be described in the paper. Sources of reagents, culture media and equipment (company, city, state, country) should be mentioned in the text. Names that are registered trade marks should be so indicated. Subheading often makes this section easier to read and understand.

The **Results** section should, by means of text, tables and/or figures, give the results of the experiments, extensive interpretation of results has to be avoid but do so in the *Discussion* section. Tables and figures should be numbered using Arabic numerals. All tables and figures must be mentioned in the text.

The approximate location of tables and figures in the text should be indicated.

The **Discussion** section should discuss the results in relation to the literature cited.

In-text citations: Indicate references by (consecutive) superscript arabic numerals in the order in which they appear in the text. The numerals are to be used outside periods and commas, inside colons and semicolons. For further detail and examples you are referred to the AMA Manual of Style, A Guide for Authors and Editors, Ninth Edition, ISBN 0-683- 40206-4, copies of which may be ordered from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (<http://www.lww.com/index.html>).

Data references: This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. This identifier will not appear in your published article. [dataset] 5. Oguro M, Imahiro, S Saito, S Nakashizuka, T. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, Mendeley. Data, v1; 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>

Reference list: Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

General rules from the 10th edition

- Items are listed numerically in the order they are cited in the text
- Include up to 6 authors
- For more than six, provide the names of the first three authors and then add et al

Examples:

1. Paivio A, Jansen B, Becker LJ. Comparisons through the mind's eye. *Cognition*. 1975;37(2): 635-647.
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: This section is optional. It acknowledges financial and personal assistance.

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