USING γ RAY-INDUCED SILVER NANOPARTICLES ON CONTROL OF CLUBROOT DISEASE OF CHINESE CABBAGE CAUSED BY *PLASMODIOPHORA BRASSICAE*

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SUMMARY

Plasmodiophora brassicae- the casual cause of clubroot disease of plants belonging to the family Brassicaceae. This soil-borne fungus infects plants through root hairs. Diseased roots become swollen and deformed. Thus, it's difficult for plants to absorb water and nutrients. There are some methods used to control this disease including soil fumigation, soil pH control, fungicides, surfactants applications, calcium supplementation, but the results are still restricted. Plasmodiophora brassicae was isolated, identified and artificial inoculated on the Chinese cabbage. The rate of root hair infection and gall formation depended on the spore density and growth media. The increase of the pathogen density lead to the increase of disease symptoms. Silver nanoparticles (SNPs) are widely used as an agent for antifungal treatment. The antimicrobial activity of the nanoparticles varies on the size, shape, and the function of the surface area. The γ - irradiation method to synthesize SNPs is known as a method that can be controlled the out coming sizes, shapes and size distribution of particles. The average diameter of silver nanoparticles in this research was 9.5nm. In the liquid culture and soil, SNPs exhibited a controlling effect on P. brassicae. The fungicide activity depended on the SNP concentrations and the medium; no disease symptoms were found at the SNP concentrations of 1.06 ppm in the liquid culture, and 10 and 20 ppm in soil. Results of the study also showed that the biomass and height of infected plants were much lower than those of the healthy plants. Comparing to the plants that were grown in the sterilized soil, there was not significant difference between the biomass and the height of plants exposed to pathogen and treated with SNPs.

Keywords: Biomass, clubroot disease, Chinese cabbage, fungicidal, height, Plasmodiophora brassicae, silver nanoparticles

INTRODUCTION

Clubroot of cabbage, caused by *Plasmodiophora* brassicae, is an important disease of crucifers worldwide (Asano et al., 2000; Dixon, 2009). *P. brassicae* is a soil-born obligate parasite. The formation of club-shaped tumor on both tap and lateral roots associated with the wilting is common symptom of the clubroot disease. In Da Lat, a large vegetable production area of Vietnam, this disease has established on crucifers whole year (Dixon, 2009). Currently, soil fumigation, application of fungicides, surfactants, supplemental calcium, liming to increase soil pH are methods used to control this disease, however the results are still restricted (Tremblay et al., 1999; Donald et al., 2002; Taylor et al., 2002).

Silver nanoparticles (SNPs) are among the most thoroughly explored and extensively investigated antimicrobial agents (Elechiguerra et al., 2005; Fröhlich, Fröhlich, 2016). Silver can attack a broad range of biological process in microorganisms (Gajbhiye et al., 2009; Jiang et al., 2012; Fröhlich, Fröhlich, 2016;). While micro-molar concentrations are sufficient to kill bacteria in water, these doses have no harmful effects on human. The biocidal properties of SNPs result from the alteration of proteins and/or structural and metabolic disruption (Maillard, Denyer, 2006; Silver et al., 2006). Some mechanism have been reported including direct membrane interaction (Jo et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2012; Fröhlich, Fröhlich, 2016), delivering more ionic silver to small surface (Maillard, Denyer, 2006; Jo et al., 2009), the loss of membrane integrity due

to increase the production of reactive oxygen species (McShan *et al.*, 2014). Their high antifungal properties lead to the potential applications is in management of various plant diseases (Stampoulis *et al.*, 2009; Kim *et al.*, 2012). However, no study on the applicability of SNPs for controlling clubroot diseases on crucifer has been reported.

The antimicrobial activity of the nanoparticles varies on the size, shape, and the function of the surface area (Stampoulis et al., 2009). Therefore, the preparation of uniform nanosized SNPs with specific requirements in term of size, shape and physical and chemical properties are attracting more interest. SNPs can be prepared with a variety of synthetic methods such as mechanical grinding, coprecipitation, spraying, and electrolysis sol-gel manufacture. Among them, the γ - irradiation method can control the out coming sizes, shapes and size distribution of particles (Kumar et al., 2005; Li et al., 2007). The particles may also be prepared at the room temperature by using this method. This article presents the possible of using SNPs that were prepared by γ irradiation in order to control of clubroot disease of cabbage caused by P. brassicae.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Silver nanoparticles were obtained from The Nuclear Research Institute of Da Lat, Lam Dong province, Viet Nam. Seeds of cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitate*) were obtained from Hoasen, Inc. (DL, Viet Nam).

Plasmodiophora brassicae resting spore preparation

Resting spore suspension of *P. brassicae* was isolated from clubroot galls of the heavily infected plants on property in Da Lat, Lam Dong province, Viet Nam. These spores were extracted and purified by gradient centrifugation as described by Suzuki *et al.*, (1992). Spore suspension was diluted with sterilized distilled water to give a final concentration of 10^6 spores per mL by using a haemocytometer. Cabbage plants were artificially inoculated with *P. Brassicae* spores.

Infected root hair count and diseases assessment

The plants were removed carefully and their root were washed in water to remove soil. The root hair infection with the *P. brassicae* was determined by the method described by Takahashi *et al.* (1991). The number of plants with visible clubs was counted. The disease severity index was calculated using the formula as follows:

0: none, 1: < 33.33%, 2: 33.33-66.66%, 3: > 66%

Didease index = $100 \times (B + 2C + 3D)/4(A + B + C + D)$

Where A, B, C, and D represent the number of plants rated at 0, 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

The growth was determined by measuring the height and the biomas of plants. The height was measured from the ground to the top of the plants. The plants were dried for at least 48 h at 80°C, then cooled in a desicator jar and determine the dry weight.

Experiment design

To study effects of the SNPs on *P. brassicae*, the experiments were carried out in the liquid culture and raised field beds.

Liquid culture inoculation

The plants (*B. oleracea*) were grown in liquid cultures with the method of Hanna Friberg (Friberg *et al.*, 2005). Seeds of cabbage were laid on moist wool fibers packed in holes (2 cm diameter) which were bored on a Styrofoam plate (7 mm thick). The plate was floated on water in a 1 L water tank, which was bubbled by a small electric air pump to supply the water with oxygen. The tanks were kept at 25° C and at 18° C under day time and night time respectively, with a 16 h photoperiod under illumination of 15,000 lux in the day time. Ten Chinese cabbage seedlings were grown per test. All treatments were triplicated.

Soil inoculation

The 15 day seedlings were grown in the raised beds used the local soil with pH 6 ± 0.5 . The experiments were carried out in the green house with natural light without supplemental lighting (photoperiod 10 - 14 h) at $23.5 \pm 5^{\circ}$ C. Water and nutrients (N, 20%; P, 12%; K, 16%) were applied as required. Ten Chinese cabbage seedlings were grown per treatment. Each treatment had triplicated.

The effect of varying density of spore suspension on root hair infection and club formation

The effect of varying density of spore suspense on root hair infection was studied in the nutrient solution and in soil. At the day of 15th, *P. brassicae* resting spores were added from the stock to achieve final treatment concentrations of 10^2 , 10^3 , 10^4 , 10^5 , 10^6 , and 10^7 spores/mL in the nutrient solution and 10^2 , 10^3 , 10^4 , 10^5 , 10^6 , and 10^7 spores/g dry soil in raise bed. For both experiments in nutrient solution and in the soil, the root-hair infection and club formation were observed.

The effect of SNPs on P. brassicae

The 15 day seedling was treated with SNPs and *P. brassicae* resting spores in nutrient solution and in soil. The spore concentraion was adjusted to 10^6 spores/mL in the nutrient solution. The SNPs were added to achieved final treatment concentrations of 0.3, 1.06 and 3.08ppm in the nutrient solution. Two controls were included with each experiment: the control number 1: non infected with *P. brassicae*, the control number 2: infected with *P. brassicae* without SNPs. The root hair infection, height of plants, and club formation were investigated.

The similar experiments were conducted to test the effect of SNPs on *P. brassicae* with seedlings growth in contaminated soil with concentration of 10^6 spores/g dry soil. The 15 day seedlings were dipped in to 5, 10, and 20 ppm the SNPs solutions before being transplanted into the raised beds. Control plants were dipped into water. During the time of experiment, the day wilt symptom of plants was observed. Biomass and the disease severity index were studied after 90 days

Statistics

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and t test at 5% significance level were performed for data analysis. ANOVA, F test and t test were used together to analyze the difference in the root-hair infection, club formation, height, and biomas by different experimental conditions. The Minitab Program was used for statistical analysis.

RESULTS

Dose effect on root hair infection and club formation

To study the relation of spore density to the root hair infection, 15 day Chinese cabbage seedlings were grown on contaminated liquid culture $(10^2, 10^3, 10^4, 10^5, 10^6, and 10^7 \text{ spores/mL})$ (Figure 1, 2) and the soil that was iniculated with 10^2 , 10^3 , 10^4 , 10^5 , 10^6 , and 10^7 spores/g dry soil (Figure 1, 2). After 10 days, no incidence of root hair infection was found at the experiments of 10^2 spores/mL and 10^2 spores/g dry soil. The root hair infection genertally incressed with the increasing spore density. This trend was observed for both cabbages growth in liquid culture and soil. When comparing the effects of growth media for cultivation on the root hair infection, liquid culture resulted in a greater infection at all spore density (p < 0.005).



Figure 2. Effect of spore density on the roothair infection.

Increasing club formation with increasing the spore density was aslo observed at the seedlings after 22 days growing in liquid culture and soil (Figure 1 and Figure 2). For both growth media, the club formation varied with density. The small white clubs with the diameter of 1.5 - 3 mm formed on the roots



Figure 3. Effect of spore density on the clubroot gall

of plants. However, the clubs were observed even at the lowest spore density - 10^2 spores/mL and 10^2 spores/g dry soil. The clubroot symptoms on Chinese cabbage show in Figure 3. 100% plants growth in 10^4 spores/mL and more had visible clubs in the liquid culture while in the soil, all plants were

clubbed when spore density was 10⁵ spores/g dry soil. A similar trend with root hair infection was found in club formation - the plant desease symptom was observed sooner in experiments in liquid culture comparing with soil.

The effect of SNPs on Plasmodiophora brassicae

Liquid culture inoculation

The effects of SNPs on root hair infection, club formation, and height of cabbage in contaminated cultures were studied. Cabbage seedlings grew in nutrient solution mixed with 10⁶/mL resting spores of *P. brassicae* and SNPs at the concentrations of 0.33, 1 and 3 ppm (Figure 4). No root hair infection was found at the first 5 days after inoculation. The symptom development was obtained at 7th day and gradually increased when the plants lasted longer. The similar trend was found in the treatment of 0.3ppm, with the exception that the symptom was observed at the

11th day. At the treatment of 1.06 and 3.08 ppm SNPs, in all cases, 100% inhibition of root hair infection was recored .

The results of club formation are shown in Figure 5. There are no infected plants observed in the control path after infected. Plants that exposed to pathogens without SNPs lot infected 100% (the control 2) and the height of plants was lower than that in the control 1. More than 70 percent of plants treated with 0.3 ppm was found infected with disease. No plant treated with SNPs at the concentrations of 1 ppm and 3 ppm had club formation. Height of plants was also measured. While the height of plants that incubated with inoculum is lower than that of the control plants. The height of the control plants is statically greater than plants that treated with SNPs of 0.33 ppm. Meanwhile the height of plants exposed to 1 ppm and 3 ppm of SNPs are not statistically different compared to the control 1.



Figure 3. Clubroot symptoms on Chinese cabbage plants: (A) Galls produced on the root (Scale bar = 1 cm); (B) Resting spores on the plant cells (scale bar = 20 um); (C) clusters of resting spores (scale bar = 10 um); (D) Resting spore (scale bar = 1 μ m).

40

35



The height (cm) 100 30 80 Infected plant 25 20 60 15 40 10 20 5 0 0 Control 0 0.33 3 1 SNP concentrations

30th day ■ 60th day infected plant (%)

120

Figure 4. Effect of silver nanoparticles on roothair infection.

Figure 5. Effect of silver nanoparticle concentrations the height and infected plants growth in soil.

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Clubroot disease control of SNPsSNPsin raised beds

The day wilt of plants during the hot periods of the day was observed. The plants of the control 1 were grown in the contaminated soil strongly wilted. Lightly wilt symptoms were observed at SNP concentration of 5 ppm. No plants was found midday wilting symptoms at two dosage rates of 10 and 20 ppm of treatments (Figure 6 and Table 1).

The results of club formation are shown in table 1. The similar trend with the plants cultivated in liquid culture was observed. No infection could be detected in the growth of cabbage in the sterilized soil at the 60^{th} day after infected. Whole plants

exposed to the pathogens infected 100% and the height of plants was lowest. Plants treated with 5 ppm of SNPs were found infection ($67 \pm 2.15\%$). Plants treated with SNPs at the concentrations of 10 ppm and 20 ppm were observed healthy with no club formation. The height of plants in the control 1 is statically greater than plants that treated with SNPs of 5 ppm SNPs. Comparing the average height between the treatments, the plants treated with SNPs were significant taller than the plants only inoculated with fungi spores without treated SNPs. There was no statistical different between the plants growth in the sterilized soil and the plants treated with 10 and 20 ppm SNPs.

Table 1. Effect of silver nanoparticle (SNPs) concentration on day wilting of plant growth in soil.

SNPs (ppm)	0	5	10	20
Day wilting symptom	+++	+	-	-

Note: Strongly wilted: + + + Wilted: + +; Lightly wilted: + Non wilted: -.





Figure 6. Clubroot symptoms on Chinese Cabbage plants: (A) Infected control plant showing wilt; (B) Galls of infected control plants; (C) Non-day wilting of the plants treat with 10 ppm SNPs; (D) Healthy roots of the plants treat with 10 ppm SNPs.

The results of plant biomass were showed in figure 7. The biomass of the plants that were grown in the contaminated soil was lower than other treatments. As expected, the increase of biomass of plants was associated with the disease index. The

Figure 7. Effect of silver nanoparticle concentration on the biomass and disease index of plants growtzh in soil

plants that had the visible clubs were smaller than others that were not infected. Some of them die with the rot root. The biomass of the plants that only exposed to *P. brassicae* was significantly lower than other treatments. Compared to the control 1 (plants

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were not inoculated with pathogens), the biomass of plants treated with 5 ppm SNPs slightly lower. There was no significant difference between the biomass of the plants that were not inoculated with pathogens and the plants that were grown in the treatments of 10 and 20 ppm. No clubbed appearence was found at all incubation periods at these two dosage rate. On the basis of the activity exhibited, the disease index was evaluated. The disease index decreased with the increasing SNP concentrations. The SNPs exhibited activity against clubroot disease. More than 85% inhibition in clubroot formation was observed using the treatment concentration of 5 ppm (data not shown). The galls were white comparing being grey in the controls. The club diameter of plants treated 5 ppm SNPs was 1.5 ± 0.5 mm comparing with the diameter of 5 ± 1 mm at the controls. Fungicidal activity increased when the concentration of SNPs increased, giving complete control of *P. brassicae* at 10 and 20 ppm.

Table 2. Effect of silver nanoparticle concentration on the height of plant and clubbing ratio of roots growth in liquid culture.

Sample	Concentration of silver nanoparticles, ppm							
	Control 1 ^ª	Control 2 ^b	5	10	20			
Height, mm (30 th day)	24.1 ± 2.13	15.5 ± 1.05	20.3 ± 1.78	24.5 ± 2.03	28.8±1.06			
Height, mm (60 th day)	32.5 ± 1.03	20.5 ± 1.74	26.2 ± 1.09	32.0 ± 1.12	35.4±1.85			
Infected plant, %	0	100	67.1 ± 2.15	0	0			

Note: ": control 1: non infected with Plasmodiophora brassicae; ^b: control 2: infected but not inoculation with SNPs (0ppm of SNPs).

DISCUSSION

The resting spores were inoculated with seedlings in liquid culture and in soil. While none plants on the control bed was infected, gall clubs were found at all tested plants. This indicated that the spores isolated were the resting spores of P. brassicae and artificial inoculation can be carried out in cabbage plants that were grown in soil and nutrient solution (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The technique to produce inoculum and produce disease symptoms under artificial conditions will allow further study of all aspects of the disease caused by this pathogen. Mugnier (1987) reported that in a solid medium, there was root hair infection but not gall formation; in a liquid medium, no root hair infection was observed but gall formation. Graveland et al., (1992) stated that small galls were found but no resting spore was observed in the root hair. In this study, resting spores, root hair infection and clubroot formation were found in both soil and liquid culture. This result might be explained by the different in the element of growth medium. The disease symptom depended on the inoculum density. These results agree with the previous reports that the number of infected root hair increased concomitantly with spore density (Samuel, Garrett, 1945; Macfarlane, 1958).

As expected, Chinese cabbage plants were

grown in the control lot did not develop the symptoms. The plants grew taller than those exposed to pathogens and yielded the good biomass. The seedling exposed to the pathogen had impact on the plant biomass and diseases symptom. Even it was reported that the clubbed roots can arise from a single resting spore in rape (Buczacki *et al.*, 1975), in this study, the root hair infection was only found when the spore densities exceeded 10^3 spores/g dry soil and 10^3 spores/mL. This data agreed with the results of Donald *et al.*, (2002). The club formation occurred even at the lower spore density of 10^2 spores/g dry soil and 10^2 spores/mL.

The growth media affected the rate of root hair infection and then the rate of club formation. In the previous work with *P. brassicae*, the primary zoospores move to the host cells between the soil particles through the continuous moisture film (Dixon, 2009). Murakami *et al.*, (2003) reported that physical properties of soil including soil compaction affect the rate of infection. More compacted soil reduced the movement of spores into the subsoil. In the same pH environment, the movement of the primary zoospores with two flagella may be easier in liquid culture than in the soil particle; therefore, percentage of infected root hair of seedlings growth on the liquid culture was higher than that growth on the soil start at the spore density of 10^4 spore/g dry.

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Management of fungal diseases on crops and plants is economically important. The current studies reported that SNPs were very effective for reducing plant diseases caused by spore producing phytopathogenic fungi (Kim et al., 2012; Chmielowiec-Korzeniowska et al., 2013; Pulit et al., 2013). Resting spores of P. brassicae are the source of inoculum in infections of clubroot. Results in this study showed that SNPs have significant antifungal activity in both in vitro assays and in plant inoculation experiments on P. brassicae. The magnitude of symptoms depended on the SNP concentrations. The fungicidal activity increases with the increasing of SNP concentrations. These results agree with studies on the toxicity of SNPs on other fungi reported of the growth media (Sarkar et al., 2007; Nasrollahi et al., 2009).

At low concentrations of SNPs (0.3 ppm in liquid culture and 5ppm in soil), the pathogen was partly inhibited. The plants exhibited delayed development of disease symptoms after inoculation with spore suspensions of P. brassicae, which caused of the club root disease of cabbage (11th day) comparing with the 7th day of the control. No diseases symptom was found at higher exposed SNPs concentration for 23 days. The result that the disease index in experiments exposed to SNPs in soil was significant less than that in the control also supports the conclusion that SNPs inhibits the club root pathogens. No significant inhibition on biomass and the height at SNPs concentrations of 10 and 20 ppm comparing to the plants growth in the pasteurized soil. Yin et al., (2012) observed that leaf and root biomass of C. luria, Panicum virgatum increased response to SNPs while several taxa showed the decreasing in the biomass after expose to SNPs. Zea et al., (2012) stated that small concentration of SNPs enhanced the growth of bean and corn. This controversy can be explained that the impacts of SNPs on the plants growth depend on the plants species and SNPs size and concentrations.

Under high humidity and warm temperature, resting spores that attached to the plant surface germinate and form germ tubes (Macfarlane, 1970; Siemens *et al.*, 2009; Sharma *et al.*, 2011; Gossen *et al.*, 2013, 2012). This initiated the disease infection. When SNPs and *P. brassicae* were applied to the nutrient solution in the same time, the particles may cover the surface of spores and inhibited the germination. Additionally, the direct contact between SNPs and spores interfere the attachment of freely

swimming primary zoospores liberated from the resting spores on the root surface. Murakami *et al.*, (2002, 2001, 2000) reported that the reduction of number of resting spores in soil associated with the reduction of disease development.

SNPs might direct attach to and penetrate to the cell membrane to kill the spores. In this present work, it is not possible to determine whether SNPs penetrate into microbial cell membranes and kill the spores. Another hypothesis is the SNPs attached on the surface of resting spores and inhibited the germination. At low concentrations of SNPs (0.3 ppm in liquid culture and 5ppm in soil), the pathogen was partly inhibited. This may have related to the ratio between nano particles and spores. Some of spores may not contact with the SNPs and keep germinating while others contact to the particles and lead to be lethal or unable germinating.

In conclusion, the results presented here demonstrated that the club root disease could be artificial infected both in the liquid culture and soil. The disease symptom depended on the inoculum density and the media. SNPs inhibited the development of *P. brassicae* that causing the club root disease. The antifungal activities depended on the SNP concentration and the growth media. The SNPs did not show effect on the plant growth including biomass and height. The hypothesis of SNPs germination inhibition of *P. brassicae* resting spores should be tested further before any general conclusions can be drawn.

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SỬ DỤNG NANO BẠC CHẾ TẠO TỪ PHƯƠNG PHÁP CHIẾU XẠ NHẰM KHỐNG CHẾ BỆNH SƯNG RỄ GÂY RA BỞI NẤM *PLASMODIOPHORA BRASSICAE* TRÊN CÂY BẮP CẢI

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TÓM TẮT

Plasmodiophora brassicae - một trong những nguyên nhân gây bệnh sưng rễ phổ biến trên cây bắp cải. Loại nấm này xâm nhiễm thông qua rễ, gây ra hiện tượng sưng và biến dạng rễ. Do đó, cây khó hấp thu nước và chất dinh dưỡng. Có nhiều phương pháp được sử dụng để khống chế bệnh sưng rễ như: khử trùng đất, điều chỉnh pH đất, dùng thuốc giệt nấm, bón vôi, chất hoat động bề mặt. P. brassicae được phân lập, xác định và tái nhiễm thành công trên cây bắp cải. Tỷ lệ rễ nhiễm bệnh và tỷ lệ sưng rễ phụ thuộc vào mật độ bào tử nghỉ và môi trường trồng cây - Mật độ bào tử tăng kéo theo sự gia tăng của các hiện tượng nhiễm bệnh trên cây. Hiện nay nano bac được sử dụng rộng rãi như một chất trừ nấm. Khả năng diệt nấm của vật liệu nano bac phụ thuộc vào kích thước, hình dạng, và các gốc chức năng trên bề mặt vật liệu. Phương pháp chiếu xa tia γ để chế tao nano bac được xem là phương pháp có thể điều khiển kích thước, hình dang và độ phân tán của vật liệu. Sử dụng vật liệu nano bạc được tổng hợp bằng phương pháp này để khống chế bệnh sưng rễ do nấm P. brassicae được điều tra trong nghiên cứu này. Đường kính trung bình của vật liệu nano bạc được chế tạo bằng phương pháp chiếu xạ γ sử dụng trong nghiên cứu là 9,5 nm. Trong hai môi trường trồng cây là môi trường thủy canh và môi trường đất, vật liệu nano bạc thể hiện khả năng ức chế nấm P. brassicae. Hiệu quả kháng nấm của vật liệu nano bac phụ thuộc vào nồng đô và môi trường trồng cây. Không thấy biểu hiện bệnh ở cây trồng trên môi trường thuỷ canh bố sung 1,06 ppm nano bạc, và cây trống trên môi trường đất bố sung 10 và 20 ppm nano bạc. Kết quả của nghiên cứu còn cho thấy sinh khối và chiều cao của cây bệnh thấp hơn rất nhiều so với cây khỏe. Trong khi đó, sinh khối và chiều cao của cây được trồng trên môi trường có bổ sung 10 và 20 ppm nano bạc thu được tương đương với cây khoẻ không bị nhiễm bệnh.

Từ khoá: Bệnh sưng rễ cây bắp cải, chiều cao, nano bạc, Plasmodiophora brassicae, sinh khối, tính kháng nấm