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## *In vitro* evaluation of the fungicides, botanicals and bioagents against *Colletotrichum truncatum* causing anthracnose of soybean

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### Abstract

Soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill) is one of the world's most important oilseed cum legume crop. The present research work was conducted at Plant Pathology Section, College of Agriculture, Dhule during 2012-2013. The result revealed that treatments carbendazim @0.1%, Tebuconazole @0.1% and Propiconazole @0.1% were found significantly superior over rest of the treatments, which recorded maximum growth inhibition of 97.67%, 97.67% and 97.28%, respectively of the test pathogen with minimum colony diameter of 2.10 mm, 2.10 mm and 2.45 mm, respectively, all were at par with each other. In case of bioagents and botanicals *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (89.11%), *Trichoderma harzianum* (88.00%), Propineb (87.00%), Neem (84.72%), Chlorothalonil (81.94%) and Copper oxychloride (78.56%), which were recorded mean colony diameter of 9.80 mm, 10.80 mm, 11.70 mm, 13.75 mm, 16.25 mm and 19.30 mm, respectively. While, Thiophanate methyl (75.28%), Ziram (66.39%) and Eucalyptus (55.22%) showed least growth inhibition of the test pathogen with mean colony diameter of 22.25 mm, 30.25 mm and 40.30 mm, respectively.

**Keywords:** Soybean, anthracnose, *Trichoderma harzianum*, Carbendazim, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and eucalyptus

### Introduction

Soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill) is one of the world's most important sources of oil and protein. It has highest protein content among Leguminous crops belonging to the family Leguminaceae. Today, the world production of soybean increased by 4.6% annually from 1961 to 2007 and reached average annual production of 217.6 million tons in 2005-07 and increasing year after year in 21st century. Recently, USA, Brazil, China and Argentina are the four leading countries in soybean production (Tadayoshi and Goldsmith, 2009) [25]. So, there is vast scope for India to improve yield, quality and quantity to capture the world market. Besides its economic value, it is highly nutritious food to human being as its 40 per cent protein content, 20 per cent carbohydrates and 23 per cent oil, holds a great promise in meeting most of the need in human diet (Chandel, 2002) [7]. Soybean also contains valuable amino acids, good amount of minerals, salts and vitamins (Thiamine and Riboflavin) and is cheapest source of proteins, hence called 'poor man's meat'. It has highest protein content among Leguminous crop (EI-Abady *et al.*, 2008) [9].

Additionally, soybean is able to leave residual nitrogen effect for succeeding crop equivalent to 35-40 kg nitrogen/ha and serve as a good intercrop or mixed crop with maize, sorghum, pigeon pea, etc. India's share in world production of Soybean is 3%. India is the fifth largest producer of Soybean in the world (Anonymous, 2009-10) [1]. It accounts for 25 per cent of total oilseed produced in the country in a year. It contributes about 0.7 million tons of oil, out of about 7 million tons of vegetable oils currently produced in the country. In India area, production and productivity of soybean during 2011 were 9.60 million ha., 12.74 million tons and 1327 kg/ha, respectively (Anonymous, 2012) [2]. Soybean growing major states in the country are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujrat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana (Bhatnagar, 1997) [4]. More than 100 pathogens are known to affect soybean crop, of which 35 are of economically important (Sinclair and Backman, 1989) [24]. Soybean diseases cause reductions in yield to the tune of 10 to 30% in most of the areas. The most important disease reported to cause economic losses to the soybean crop is anthracnose incited by *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Schw) Andrus and Moore. In soybean about 16-100 per cent losses due to anthracnose incited by *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Schw) Andrus and Moore, frog eye spot (*Cercospora sojina*) cause 15 per cent losses, rust (*Phakospora pachyrhizi*) cause 10-90 per cent losses, downy mildew (*Peronospora monshurica*) cause 8 per cent losses, powdery mildew (*Erysiphe polygoni*) cause 10-35

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per cent losses and soybean mosaic cause 25-50 per cent losses (Sinclair, 1992)<sup>[23]</sup>.

Among the major fungal diseases of soybean, anthracnose (pod blight) caused by *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Schw) Andrus and Moore, has been reported as the major constraint in the successful cultivation of soybean (Sinclair, 1992)<sup>[23]</sup>. The disease has been reported geographically widely distributed on soybean crop especially in tropics (Hepperly *et al.*, 1983)<sup>[15]</sup>, under warm (20-25 °C) and humid conditions (Sinclair and Backman, 1989)<sup>[24]</sup>. Infected seeds often show brown discoloration. Samples with upto 30 per cent seed discoloration had up to 70 per cent seed infection of *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Hepperly *et al.*, 1983)<sup>[15]</sup>. Anthracnosed plants are significantly shorter, with fewer pods and seeds with reduced seed weight compared to non affected plants. Considering, the importance of anthracnose disease of soybean and losses incurred in the farmer's field, it was felt necessary to investigate on anthracnose disease problem in Khandesh region of Maharashtra.

### Material and Methods

The details of the materials used and methods followed for various experiment are described here in the following paragraphs. Leaves and pods exhibiting typical symptoms of anthracnose and pod blight disease were collected separately from the field-grown soybean plants from the farm of Agriculture College, Dhule and farmers fields in the vicinity of the College. The test pathogen was isolated from infected leaves and pods (blighted) of soybean on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium. The colonies of the fungus developed on PDA were creamy to blackish-grey, with thin mat of mycelium. Potato dextrose agar (PDA), the common laboratory culture medium was used as basal medium for isolation, multiplication and maintenance of the pure culture of *C. truncatum*. Seeds of JS-335 variety of soybean were obtained from the Agriculture College, Dhule for conducting the pathogenicity test. The isolates of *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bioagents obtained from the MPKV Rahuri.

For Pathogenicity test Surface sterilized (0.1% HgCl<sub>2</sub>) seeds of anthracnose susceptible soybean Cv. JS-335 were sown (@ 10 seeds /pot) in the earthen pots (25 cm dia) filled with steam sterilized potting mixture of soil : sand : FYM (2:1:1). Five healthy growing soybean seedlings per pot were maintained, watered regularly and kept in the screen house for further growth. The test pathogen (*C. truncatum*) was mass multiplied on the basal culture medium PDA in petri dishes. Spore suspension of the test pathogen was prepared by harvesting freshly sporulating 7-8 days old culture in plates by flooding with 5-10 ml sterile distilled water. The resultant spore-cum-mycelial suspension was filtered through double-layered muslin cloth and filtrate obtained was suitably diluted with sterile distilled water to get inoculum concentration of 3-5 x 10<sup>6</sup> spores/ml. Thirty days old seedlings of soybean Cv. JS-335 were artificially inoculated by spraying with automizer the conidial suspension (3-5 x 10<sup>6</sup> conidial/ ml) of the test pathogen. Seedlings sprayed with sterile water (without inoculum) were also maintained as suitable control. Inoculated plants were incubated in the screen house where high humidity (>80%) and optimum temperature (24±2 °C) were maintained for further development of anthracnose symptoms. Subsequently reisolation, identification and symptomatology is studied.

### a) Experiment details

Design : CRD

Replications : Two  
Treatments : Twenty

### b) Treatments

| Tr. No.         | Treatments                     | Concentration |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| T <sub>1</sub>  | Carbendazim                    | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>2</sub>  | Propiconazole                  | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>3</sub>  | Mancozeb                       | 0.25%         |
| T <sub>4</sub>  | Propineb                       | 0.3%          |
| T <sub>5</sub>  | Copper oxychloride             | 0.3%          |
| T <sub>6</sub>  | Chlorothalonil                 | 0.25%         |
| T <sub>7</sub>  | Hexaconazole                   | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>8</sub>  | Tebuconazole                   | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>9</sub>  | Tricyclazole                   | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>10</sub> | Benomyl                        | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>11</sub> | Thiophanate methyl             | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>12</sub> | Difenconazole                  | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>13</sub> | Penconazole                    | 0.1%          |
| T <sub>14</sub> | Carbendazim 12% +Mancozeb 63%  | 0.25%         |
| T <sub>15</sub> | Ziram                          | 0.25%         |
| T <sub>16</sub> | Neem                           | 10%           |
| T <sub>17</sub> | Eucalyptus                     | 10%           |
| T <sub>18</sub> | <i>T. harzianum</i>            | -             |
| T <sub>19</sub> | <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> | -             |
| T <sub>20</sub> | Control                        | -             |

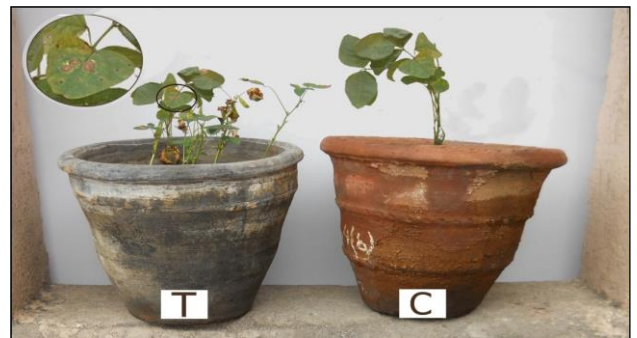


Plate 1: Pathogenicity test of *Colletotrichum truncatum* on soybean.  
T= Treated C= Control

### Poison food technique

The fungicides and plant extracts amended PDA was then poured (15 - 20 ml/plates) in sterilized Petri plates (90 mm dia.) under aseptic conditions. Each treatment with respective concentration was replicated for two times. On solidification of PDA in Petri plates, all treatment plates are inoculated / seeded aseptically by placing in the center with 5.0 mm uniform, mycelial disc obtained from 6-7 days old culture of *C. truncatum* multiplied on agar plates (Nene and Thapliyal, 1993)<sup>[20]</sup>.

### Dual culture technique

Disc (5 mm) of *Colletotrichum truncatum* was placed at the center on a petriplates containing solidified PDA medium and disc of *Trichoderma harzianum* was placed at opposite from center. A loopful 24 hour old culture of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* was inoculated at 2 cm just opposite to the pathogen on each plate (Dennis and Webster, 1971)<sup>[8]</sup>.

All the treatment (inoculated) and control petri plates were then incubated at 24 ± 2 °C in BOD incubator till the control plates were fully covered with mycelial growth of the test pathogen.

Observations on radial mycelial growth of *C. truncatum* were recorded in each treatment and replication and per cent growth inhibition of the test pathogen over control was worked out (Vincent, 1927)<sup>[27]</sup> as follows.

$$\text{Percent inhibition (I)} = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100$$

Where,

C = Growth of test fungus (mm) in control plate,

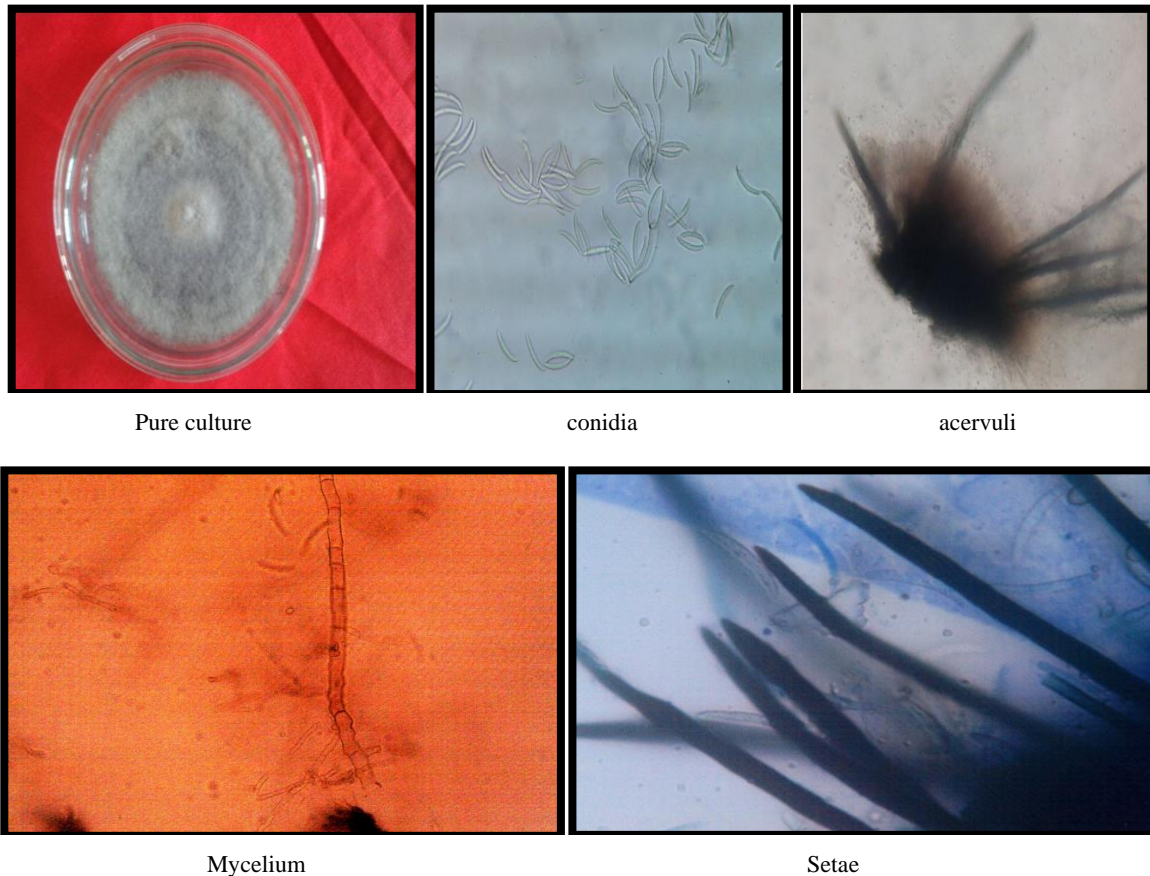
T = Growth of test fungus (mm) in treatment plates

### Results

The results obtained are being presented as follows.

Identification of pathogen is done through a piece of sporulating mycelium was mounted with lactophenol cotton blue and observed under the light microscope. Based on typical symptoms on foliage and pods, cultural characteristic

of the fungus on PDA and microscopic observations recorded such as, mycelium - hyaline, septate and branched. Acervuli - the acervuli were oval to conical and appeared single. It was dark brown to black in colour and measured 181.0 X 275.5µ in size, with numerous black, needle like intermixed long and short setae. Conidia - single celled, smooth, hyaline, curved and measured 21 to 23.5 X 3.8 to 4.1 µ in size. Conidiophore-simple and elongate. The measurements were recorded with the help of stage and ocular micrometer. The fungus has been identified and confirmed with the help of available literature as *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Schw) Andrus and Moore, causing anthracnose of soybean.



**Plate 2:** Microphotographs of pathogen *Colletotrichum truncatum* causing anthracnose of soybean

### Symptomatology

Initial symptoms of anthracnose on foliage were noticed at 25-30 DAS on soybean crop. The most prominent symptoms occurred on foliage were brown coloured patches with gray coloured centre on upper surface and scorched appearance on the lower surface. In advance stage necrosis of leaf vein, leaf rolling, petiole canker, and defoliation occurred. Typical symptoms observed on the pods were reddish brown spots which later turns black. Acervuli on infected pods resembled small pinkish coloured patches surrounded by the minute blackish brown setae. Infected pods finally dried out prematurely with shrivelled and moldy seeds.

### In vitro evaluation of fungicides, botanicals and bioagents

The result (Table 1 and Fig. 1) revealed that all the treatments exhibited significantly superior over untreated control at their respective concentration tested for the inhibition of mycelial growth of *Colletotrichum truncatum*. The treatments Carbendazim @0.1%, Tebuconazole @0.1% and Propiconazole @0.1% were found significantly superior over

rest of the treatments, which recorded maximum growth inhibition of 97.67%, 97.67% and 97.28%, respectively of the test pathogen with minimum colony diameter of 2.10 mm, 2.10 mm and 2.45 mm, respectively, all were at par with each other. The next best treatments were Hexaconazole (95.33%) with the mean colony diameter of 4.20 mm, followed by Difenoconazole (94.61%), Tricyclazole (93.50%), Penconazole (92.94%) and Mancozeb (91.89%), with mean colony diameter of 4.85 mm, 5.85 mm, 6.35 mm and 7.30 mm, respectively. It was further observed that Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% (90.72%) and Benomyl (90.33%) inhibition and recorded mean colony diameter of 8.35 mm and 8.70 mm, respectively and were at par with each other. These were followed by *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (89.11%), *Trichoderma harzianum* (88.00%), Propineb (87.00%), Neem (84.72%), Chlorothalonil (81.94%) and Copper oxychloride (78.56%), which were recorded mean colony diameter of 9.80 mm, 10.80 mm, 11.70 mm, 13.75 mm, 16.25 mm and 19.30 mm, respectively. While, Thiophanate methyl (75.28%), Ziram (66.39%) and Eucalyptus (55.22%) showed least



growth inhibition of the test pathogen with mean colony diameter of 22.25 mm, 30.25 mm and 40.30 mm, respectively, as against 90 mm in untreated control.

Hence, it was revealed that the fungicides viz. Carbendazim (0.1%), Tebuconazole (0.1%) and Propiconazole (0.1%) were proved most effective in inhibiting the growth of *Colletotrichum truncatum*.

**Table 1:** *In vitro* effect of fungicides, botanicals and bioagents on radial growth of *C.truncatum*.

| Treat. No. | Treatments                     | Concentration (%) | Mean colony diameter(mm)* | Inhibition (%) |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| T1         | Carbendazim                    | 0.1%              | 2.10                      | 97.67          |
| T2         | Propiconazole                  | 0.1%              | 2.45                      | 97.28          |
| T3         | Mancozeb                       | 0.25%             | 7.30                      | 91.89          |
| T4         | Propineb                       | 0.3%              | 11.70                     | 87.00          |
| T5         | Copper oxychloride             | 0.3%              | 19.30                     | 78.56          |
| T6         | Chlorothalonil                 | 0.25%             | 16.25                     | 81.94          |
| T7         | Hexaconazole                   | 0.1%              | 4.20                      | 95.33          |
| T8         | Tebuconazole                   | 0.1%              | 2.10                      | 97.67          |
| T9         | Tricyclazole                   | 0.1%              | 5.85                      | 93.50          |
| T10        | Benomyl                        | 0.1%              | 8.70                      | 90.33          |
| T11        | Thiophanate methyl             | 0.1%              | 22.25                     | 75.28          |
| T12        | Difenconazole                  | 0.1%              | 4.85                      | 94.61          |
| T13        | Penconazole                    | 0.1%              | 6.35                      | 92.94          |
| T14        | Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% | 0.25%             | 8.35                      | 90.72          |
| T15        | Ziram                          | 0.25%             | 30.25                     | 66.39          |
| T16        | Neem                           | 10%               | 13.75                     | 84.72          |
| T17        | Eucalyptus                     | 10%               | 40.30                     | 55.22          |
| T18        | <i>T. harzianum</i>            | -                 | 10.80                     | 88.00          |
| T19        | <i>P. fluorescence</i>         | -                 | 9.80                      | 89.11          |
| T20        | Control                        | -                 | 90.00                     | 0.00           |
|            | S.E. <sub>±</sub>              | -                 | 0.13                      | -              |
|            | C.D. (at 0.05%)                | -                 | 0.38                      | -              |

\*Mean of two replications. Figures in parenthesis indicates Arc sin transformed value

## Discussion

Soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill) is one of the most important oilseed cum legume crop grown in India. The losses caused by the anthracnose are obvious on account of severe loss of the yield. On the other hand foliar diseases affected plants resulting in reduction of the size of pods and seeds. Infected pods finally dried out prematurely with shrivelled and moldy seeds. Hence, studies on isolation, pathogenicity, symptomatology and control measures *in vitro* on anthracnose of soybean were undertaken. The results obtained on these aspects during the present investigations are being discussed below.

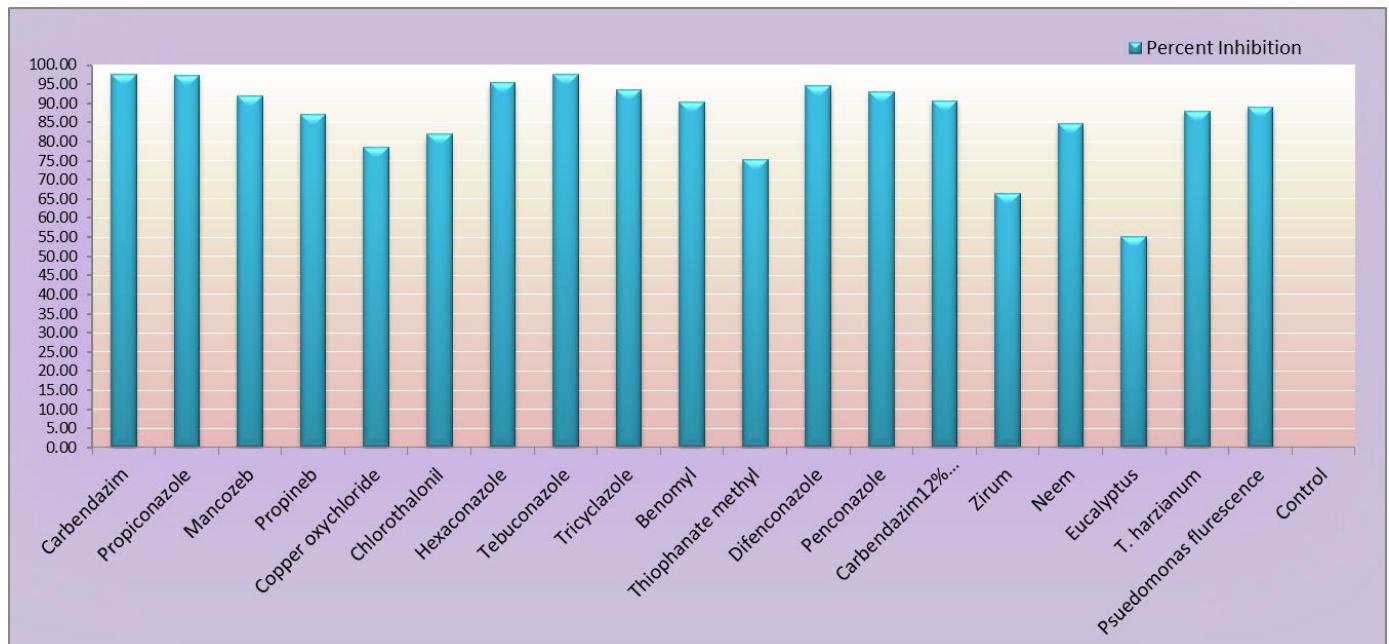
Isolations of the pathogen *Colletotrichum truncatum* (Schw) Andrus and Moore and pathogenicity is carried out by many scientist Thus results are mostly in agreement with Verma and Upadhyay (1973) [26], Chacko and Khare (1978) [5], Gizard (1979), Mathur and Tyagi (1982) [19], Bhardwaj and Singh (1986), Hartman *et al.* (1986), Manandhar *et al.* (1988) [18] and Khan and Sinclair (1992) [23]. Who reported *Colletotrichum truncatum*, the cause of anthracnose disease of soybean. However, the symptoms observed in the present investigations are similar to those described by Lele and Ashram (1968) [17] for *C. dematium* on *Rauvolfia serpentina* by Janardhanan *et al.* (1972) [16] for *C. dematium* on periwinkle by Gotmare (1981) [12] for *C. capsici* on chilli by Rizvi and Ahmad (2005) [21] for *C. capsici* on *Chlorophytum borivilianum*.

Among the different treatments tested, Carbendazim @ 0.1%, Tebuconazole @ 0.1% and Propiconazole @ 0.1% recorded maximum growth inhibition of 97.67%, 97.67% and 97.28% of the test pathogen, respectively, which were statistically at par with each other. The next best treatments were Hexaconazole (95.33%), followed by Difenconazole

(94.61%), Tricyclazole (93.50%), Penconazole (92.94%) and Mancozeb (91.89%), Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% (90.72%) and Benomyl (90.33%) which were at par with each other. The treatments *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (89.11%), *Trichoderma harzianum* (88.00%), Propineb (87.00%), Neem (84.72%), Chlorothalonil (81.94%) and Copper oxychloride (78.56%) were also found effective. While, Thiophanate methyl (75.28%), Ziram (66.39%) and Eucalyptus (55.22%) showed least growth inhibition of the test pathogen. These results are in agreement with those reported by Gawade D. B. (2009) who found Carbendazim and Propiconazole to be effective fungicides followed by Hexaconazole and Difenconazole. These results are in accordance with those reported earlier by many workers viz. Chakraborty and Shyam (1988) [6], Gupta *et al.* (2005) [13] in French bean. Shukla and Singh (1993) [22], in soybean.

## Conclusions

Present research work concluded that the pathogen *Colletotrichum truncatum* was found to be associated with anthracnose of soybean in the Khandesh, the region of Maharashtra state which producing symptoms viz. brown coloured patches with gray coloured centre on upper surface and scorched appearance on the lower surface of leaves. On the pods reddish brown spots showed which later turns black. Acervuli on infected pods resembled small pinkish coloured patches and finally dried prematurely with shrivelled and moldy seeds also having circular, compact colonies and colour of mycelium was grayish later turn black in colour and *in vitro* revealed that carbendazim (0.1%), Tebuconazole (0.1%) and Propiconazole (0.1%) as most inhibitory to the test pathogen, followed by Hexaconazole (0.1%) and Difenconazole (0.1%).



**Fig 1:** Effect of fungicides, botanicals and bioagents on growth inhibition of *Colletotrichum truncatum*.

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