

MICROBIAL ANTAGONISMS: THE POTENTIAL FOR SELECTED  
STRAINS OF RHIZOBIUM TO INHIBIT LEGUME  
ROOT PATHOGENS.

PROGRESS REPORT  
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of 2

submitted by

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Since the start of this project on August 28, 1986, Dr. Blum has been collecting Rhizobium and Rhizoctonia cultures, and testing the rhizobia for infectivity and effectivity and the fungi for virulence. Rhizosphere bacteria are also being isolated from Phaseolus vulgaris roots and will be screened for inhibition of the fungus. Methods of screening for antagonistic activity and inoculation with the antagonistic bacteria are presently being evaluated. Screening for the ability of rhizobia to inhibit the fungi will begin by March. We have received verbal assurances from the plant quarantine people that permits for importing rhizobia and Rhizoctonia should be arriving in Charlottesville soon. Once the permits are available, Dr. Ramirez will be shipping cultures and soil to Dr. Blum and testing of the Costa Rican strains will begin.

Dr. Ramirez has selected field locations for field testing of bacteria exhibiting the greatest antagonistic activity. Soil analysis will begin as soon as funds are available for supplies. Funds are not yet available to Dr. Ramirez because the subcontract to the University of Costa Rica has not been returned to the University of Virginia. Rhizobium and Rhizoctonia cultures will be shipped to Virginia as soon as the proper permits are available.

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