THE BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF *ALTERNARIA* SPECIES

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Alternaria species isolated from different econiches produce a wide variety of biologically active metabolites. The **aim** of this article was the evaluation of the biological activity spectrum of the small-spored *Alternaria* species from different trophic groups (saprophytes, endophytes and plant pathogens) using screening of biologically active metabolites on a wide set of test organisms, and selection of promising strains-producers. **Methods.** Antibiotic, antifungal and phytotoxic activities of culture filtrates and chloroform extracts were determined by agar diffusion assay method. **Results.** 19% of cultural filtrates among of 64 studied strains showed the biological activity at least against one test organism. The most of these fungi belong to endophytic strains and were active against test plant pathogenic fungi, bacteria and algae. Chloroform extracts of cultural filtrates of 33% of fungi showed biological activity against at least to one test organism. The obtained extracts had specific activity mainly against certain test culture. These preparations selectively inhibited the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* B-909, *Chlorella vulgaris* 191 and *Rizoctonia solani* 16036. **Conclusions.** The screening of 64 strains of the *Alternaria* fungi isolated from different ecological niches allows concluding that they have low biological activity. Endophytic *Alternaria* strains were characterized by wider spectrum of activities than plant pathogenic and soil ones. They inhibited all test organisms except Gram negative bacteria and yeast-like fungi. The biologically active metabolites of endophytic *Alternaria* strains including high-molecular compounds play important role in mutual coexistence endophytic fungi and host-plants as well as their spread. Chloroform extracts of the soil saprophytes had comparably high activity especially against fungi and algae. Obviously these low-molecular compounds facilitate to adaptive survival of saprophytic fungi in soil habitats with high biodiversity. For further studies were selected two strains: highly phytotoxic *A. brassicicola* 2855 and *A. longipes* 16800 (an antagonist of *S. aureus* B-909).

Keywords: *Alternaria*, endophytes, plant pathogens, saprophytes, biologically active metabolites.

Alternaria is widely spread in the environment fungal genus that can be isolated from different habitats. Alternarioid hyphomycetes include saprophytic, endophytic and pathogenic species, the most of them are considered to be cosmopolitan saprobes [1]. The strains of this genus can infect a large number of economically important plants [2], and at the same time can be potent airborne allergens determined as an causative agent of childhood asthma and infection of upper respiratory tract in humans [3, 4].

The *Alternaria* genus was first described in 1817 by Nees with *A. tenuis* as the type, and its taxonomy is still under discussion. Today, according to conidia size, a main segregation consists of the two groups, such as the large-spored (conidia are 60-100 μ) and small-spored (conidia are <60 μ). [5]. The small-

spored species are cosmopolitan saprotrophs, plant pathogens, allergens, and mycotoxin producers, being the most common food contaminants [6].

Alternaria species, as plant pathogens, are well known for their ability to produce a wide spectrum of secondary metabolites [7]. These metabolites include various plant pathogenesis related toxins, both host and non-host specific. Some metabolites are unique to one *Alternaria* species, but most metabolites are produced by more than one species. In general, there are about 270 isolated and described substances [8-13].

Alternaria metabolites exhibit a variety of biologically activities such as phytotoxic and antimicrobial properties, which have drawn the attention of many chemists, pharmacologists, and plant pathologists in research programs as well as in applied studies [14]. The metabolites from these fungi can be divided into several categories that include nitrogen-containing compounds, steroids, terpenoids, pyranones, quinones, phenols, etc. [15]; or they can be divided into three different structural groups: the dibenzopyrone derivatives – alternariol, alternariol monomethyl ether, and altenuene; the perylene derivatives – altertoxins I, II and III; and the tetramic acid derivatives – tenuazonic acid, etc. Most of them are the ones that can be found as main contaminants of foodstuffs [6].

The main research direction of our laboratory is the study of new biologically active substances from different fungi. Previously, according to the screening results, we carried out a comparative evaluation of the ability of *Aspergillus*, *Gliocladium*, *Ulocladium*, *Myrothecium* and other genera to produce biologically active metabolites [16, 17]. The main aim of present study was the evaluation of the biological activity spectrum of the small-spored *Alternaria* fungi isolated from different habitats (saprophytic, endophytic and plant pathogenic species) using screening of biologically active metabolites on a wide set of test organisms, and selection of promising strains-producers.

Materials and methods. We used 64 strains of *Alternaria* genus from the Culture collection of Department of Physiology and Taxonomy of Micromycetes of Zabolotny Institute of Microbiology and Virology of the NAS of Ukraine. The 26 of them were soil saprophytes, 17 – endophytes, and 21 – plant pathogens. We studied small-spored *Alternaria* species belonging to *A. tenuissima* (17 strains), *A. alternata* (26 strains), *A. longipes* (7 strains), *A. infectoria* (2 strains), *A. brassicicola* (1 strain) and 10 strains of *Alternaria* sp. Species were identified by their cultural and morphological features [18].

For screening we used cultural filtrates of *Alternaria* strains from different habitats and their chloroform extracts. Fungi were grown in modified Czapek-Dox medium containing (g/l): glucose – 20.0; NaNO_3 – 1.0; KH_2PO_4 – 1.0; KCl – 0.5; $\text{MgSO}_4 \times 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ – 0.5; $\text{FeSO}_4 \times 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ – 0.01 in distilled water; pH 5.2 [19].

Static fermentation was carried out in 500 ml Erlenmeyer flasks with 100 ml of working volume at 26°C for 14 days. The flasks were inoculated by suspension containing 1×10^6 conidia/ml (0.1 part of working volume). After fermentation the biomass was filtered and cultural filtrates were used for obtaining of extracts by three-time chloroform extraction following by evaporation to a minimum volume under reduced pressure on a rotary evaporator.

A wide set of test cultures was used to determine the biological activities of the cultural filtrates and the chloroform extracts: Gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* B-902, *Staphylococcus aureus* B-909, *Micrococcus varians* Ac-613), Gram negative bacteria (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* B-900, *Escherichia coli* B-916, *Salmonella enterica* B-921), and plant pathogenic bacteria (*Pectobacterium carotovorum* 8636, *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* 8464, *A. tumefaciens* 8628, *P. syringae* pv. *syringae* 8523) – for antibiotic activity; yeasts-like fungi (*Candida albicans* 690, *Kluyveromyces marxianus* 899, *Trichosporon cutaneum* 1502), and plant pathogenic fungi (*Phoma betae* 16865, *Rizoctonia solani* 16036, *Fusarium culmorum* 50716, *F. lactis* 50678) – for antifungal activity; green algae (*Chlorella vulgaris* 190, *C. vulgaris* 191, *C. kessleri* 200, *C. kessleri* 205) – for phytotoxic activity.

Test bacteria were grown on meat peptone agar, test fungi – on malt extract agar, test algae – on mineral media containing (g/l): NaNO_3 – 1.0; K_2HPO_4 – 0.25; MgSO_4 – 0.513; NH_4Cl – 0.05; CaCl_2 – 0.058; FeCl_3 – 0.003; agar – 15.0 in distilled water, pH 7.0.

The screening was carried out by agar well and disc diffusion assay methods [20, 21]. 0.2 ml of each cultural filtrate was added per well. Paper discs were dipped in chloroform extracts. Each disc obtained 10.0 μl of certain chloroform extract and then dried from chloroform in a stream of air. Diameters of growth inhibition zones of test cultures were measured after 24 hours for bacteria and after 48-72 hours – for fungi and algae. All experiments were performed in triplicate.

Results. The table contains data only for strains that inhibited the growth of at least one of the test organisms. The table presents results for only 19% of the studied strains, cultural filtrates of which showed the biological activity.

Only two strains had activity against various group of test organisms. *Alternaria infectoria* 16837 acted on all four strains of test algae and on three strains of plant pathogenic fungi; and *A. longipes* 16800 influenced on *S. aureus* B-909 and two *C. kessleri* strains. Both of these strains belong to the endophytic group. Endophytic *A. alternata* 16828 showed antibiotic activity against *S. aureus* B-909 and belonging to the same group *A. infectoria* 16838 – against all four strains of plant pathogenic bacteria. Plant pathogen *A. alternata* 16762 showed antibiotic activity against Gram positive test bacteria. Cultural filtrates of endophytic *A. alternata* 16798 and soil saprophytic *A. brassicicola* 2855 had phytotoxic activity against two strains of *C. kessleri* and all four strains of test algae, respectively.

The 33% of chloroform extracts of the studied strains were characterized by the biological activity. Notably, the most of the studied extracts showed selective activity exclusively against one of the test organisms. In particular, endophytic *A. longipes* 16801, *A. tenuissima* 16821, *A. alternata* 16762 and plant pathogenic *Alternaria* sp. 8 demonstrated antibiotic activity exclusively against *S. aureus* B-909. Soil saprophytes *A. tenuissima* 1236 and *Alternaria* sp. 2449 inhibited exclusively growth of *R. solani* 16036; *A. alternata* 33 from this group had antifungal activity only against *F. culmorum* 50716. Soil saprophytes *A. alternata* 1906, *Alternaria* sp. 53, endophyte *A. tenuissima* 16816, and plant pathogens *A. tenuissima* 3 and *A. alternata* 5 showed phytotoxic activity exclusively against one of test algae.

Table

The biological activities of *Alternaria* fungi

<i>Alternaria</i> species	Strain	Diameter of the growth inhibition zone of test organisms, mm																			
		Gram negative bacteria				Gram positive bacteria				Plant pathogenic bacteria				Green algae				Yeasts-like fungi			
		<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> B-900	<i>Escherichia coli</i> B-916	<i>Salmonella enterica</i> B-921	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> B-902	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> B-909	<i>Micrococcus varians</i> Ac-613	<i>Pectobacterium carotovorum</i> 8636	<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> 8464	<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> 8628	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>syringae</i> 8523	<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> 190	<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> 191	<i>Chlorella kessleri</i> 200	<i>Chlorella kessleri</i> 205	<i>Candida albicans</i> 690	<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i> 899	<i>Trichosporon cutaneum</i> 1502	<i>Phoma betae</i> 16865	<i>Rizoctonia solani</i> 16036	<i>Fusarium culmorum</i> 50716
Cultural filtrates																					
Soil saprophytes																					
<i>A. brassicicola</i>	2855	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	30	33	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	2969	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	20
Endophytes																					
<i>A. alternata</i>	16798	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	16832	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	36	25
<i>A. alternata</i>	16828	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. infectoria</i>	16838	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	20	29	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. infectoria</i>	16837	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	52	30	30	0	0	0	24	34	24
<i>A. longipes</i>	16800	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plant pathogens																					
<i>A. alternata</i>	16818	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	16762	0	0	0	12	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	16873	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	16738	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	20	0
Chloroform extracts																					
Soil saprophytes																					
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	803	11	0	0	16	0	0	21	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	1920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	32	0
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	1236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	1916	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. alternata</i>	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
<i>A. brassicicola</i>	2855	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	20	24
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	2449	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	1584	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	20	0
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	397	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	16	0	0
Endophytes																					
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	16816	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. longipes</i>	16799	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
<i>A. longipes</i>	16801	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Alternaria species	Strain	Diameter of the growth inhibition zone of test organisms, mm																											
		Gram negative bacteria				Gram positive bacteria		Plant pathogenic bacteria				Green algae				Yeasts-like fungi		Plant pathogenic fungi											
		<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> B-900				<i>Escherichia coli</i> B-916		<i>Salmonella enterica</i> B-921				<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> B-902		<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> B-909		<i>Micrococcus varians</i> Ac-613		<i>Pectobacterium carotovorum</i> 8636				<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> 8464		<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> 8628		<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>syringae</i> 8523			
		<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> 190				<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> 191		<i>Chlorella kessleri</i> 200				<i>Chlorella kessleri</i> 205		<i>Candida albicans</i> 690				<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i> 899		<i>Trichosporon cutaneum</i> 1502				<i>Phoma betae</i> 16865		<i>Rizoctonia solani</i> 16036		<i>Fusarium culmorum</i> 50716	
Plant pathogens																													
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	16821	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	16824	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>A. tenuissima</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>A. alternata</i>	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>A. alternata</i>	16762	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>A. alternata</i>	16818	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0								
<i>A. longipes</i>	16820	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	13	0	0	7	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0								
<i>Alternaria</i> sp.	8	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								

Note: The table shows the average value of three replicates; 0 – no activity; $p < 0.05$.

The chloroform extracts of soil saprophytes *A. brassicicola* 2855 and *Alternaria* sp. 397 had antifungal activity against plant pathogenic test fungi; *A. tenuissima* 1920 was characterized by antifungal and phytotoxic activities; *Alternaria* sp. 1584 inhibited the growth of plant pathogenic fungus *R. solani* 16036, test bacterium *P. carotovorum* 8636 and yeast-like test fungus *C. albicans* 690. Endophytic *A. longipes* 16799 had antifungal activity against one test alga *C. vulgaris* 191 and one yeast-like test fungus *K. marxianus* 899.

The chloroform extract of plant pathogenic *A. tenuissima* 16824 showed antibiotic activity against *A. tumefaciens* 8464 and phytotoxic activity against *C. vulgaris* 190; *A. alternata* 16818 had phytotoxic activity against *C. vulgaris* 191 and antifungal one against *R. solani* 16036; *A. longipes* 16820 showed phytotoxic and antibiotic (against *S. aureus* B-909 and *A. tumefaciens* 8464) activities.

The chloroform extract of soil saprophyte *A. tenuissima* 803 inhibited the growth of all bacterial strains from three test groups.

It should be noted, the test Gram negative bacteria *E. coli* B-916, *S. enterica* B-921, Gram positive *M. varians* Ac-613, yeast-like fungi *C. albicans* 690, *T. cutaneum* 1502, and plant pathogenic *F. lactis* 50678 were resistant to all cultural filtrates and chloroform extracts of the studied test strains.

Discussion. The comparison of the biological activity of cultural filtrates and chloroform extracts of studied *Alternaria* strains has shown that only three of them had activity: soil saprophyte *A. brassicicola* 2855 and plant pathogens *A. alternata* 16818 and 16762. The spectra of the action of the active metabolites did not always coincide. For example, cultural filtrate of *A. brassicicola* 2855 was characterized by high phytotoxic activity against test algae, while chloroform extract of this strain had activity against plant pathogenic fungi. This phenomenon could be explained by different metabolite profiles in the cultural filtrates and chloroform extracts of all studied fungi.

It was shown that the most of biologically active substances present in the cultural filtrates were not extracted with chloroform (Table). Consequently, these compounds by their nature can refer to peptides, enzymes, saccharides and other compounds that exhibit biological activity and are not extracted with chloroform by means of which are extracted usually low molecular weight antibiotics and toxins. It is known, that fungi of *Alternaria* genus synthesize the biologically active high-molecular compounds, such as lipase from *A. brassicicola* [22], polyketide synthase [23] and endopolygalacturonase from *A. alternata* [24].

On the other hand, small diameters of growth inhibition zones of the test organisms using chloroform extract discs indicated relatively low concentrations in the cultural filtrates of biologically active substances that did not inhibit growth of the test organisms. At the same time, the presence of selective action on a particular test organism gives the prospect for obtaining biologically active compounds with directional action. For example, in the case of the chloroform extract of *A. alternata* 33 that exclusively inhibited the growth of *F. culmorum* 50716.

In general, the screening of 64 strains of the *Alternaria* fungi isolated from different ecological niches allows concluding that they have low biological activity compared with previous screening of other genera [16, 17]. Each fungus is evolutionarily adapted to growth and spread on a substrate, to synthesis of necessary for its biologically active metabolites in certain ecological habitats. For the *Alternaria* fungi a main substrate is plants, in that they act both plant pathogenic and endophytic, and on the same time – soil. The cause of the low biological activity of *Alternaria* strains in our studies may be the synthetic nutrient medium composition, which does not include additional nutrient components that contribute to the natural habitats for the synthesis of biologically active substances necessary for the growth and spread of *Alternaria* fungi [25]. The main aim of this study was the evaluation of the biological activity spectrum of 64 strains of the *Alternaria* fungi from different habitats that includes the cultivation of fungi under standardized conditions and comparative analysis of their biological activities.

Studied cultural filtrates of the endophytic strains were characterized by wider spectrum of activities than plant pathogenic and soil ones. It had being inhibited all test organisms except Gram negative bacteria and yeast-like fungi. This phenomenon showed that endophytic *Alternaria* strains had the biologically active metabolites including high-molecular compounds that play important role in mutual coexistence endophytic fungi and host-plants as well

as their spread [26, 27]. It can be assumed that synthesized by endophytic fungi high molecular metabolites may belong to enzymes, peptides and/or their complexes with low molecular bioactive compounds.

Among of studied chloroform extracts the soil saprophytes had comparably high activities especially against test fungi and algae. Obviously these low-molecular compounds facilitate to adaptive survival of saprophytic fungi in soil habitats with high biodiversity [28]. We can suppose that studied saprobes have a potential to biosynthesis of low-molecular metabolites of different chemical structure such as specific antibiotics, phyto- and mycotoxins.

According to the results of screening, *A. brassicicola* 2855 is the pathogen of *Brassica* species [29] and has phytotoxic activity; *A. longipes* 16800 is the pathogen of *Nicotiana* species and inhibits exclusively growth of *S. aureus* B-909; these strains were selected for further work [30]. A more detailed study of biologically active metabolites of these fungi has the prospect of creating preparations for both agricultural application and medicinal practice [31, 32].

БІОЛОГІЧНА АКТИВНІСТЬ РІЗНИХ ВИДІВ РОДУ *ALTERNARIA*

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Резюме

Види роду *Alternaria*, ізольовані з різних еконіш, синтезують широке коло біологічно активних метаболітів. **Метою** даної статті була оцінка спектру біологічної активності дрібноспорових видів роду *Alternaria* з різних трофічних груп (сапрофіти, ендofіти і фітопатогени) за результатами системного скринінгу біологічно активних метаболітів щодо широкого набору тест-організмів та відбір перспективних штамів-продуцентів. **Методи.** Антибіотичну, антифунгальну і фітотоксичну активність культуральних фільтратів і хлороформних екстрактів визначали методом дифузії в агар. **Результати.** 19% культуральних фільтратів з 64 досліджених штамів проявляли біологічну активність щонайменше до одного з тест-організмів. Переважна більшість цих грибів належала до ендofітних штамів і була активною щодо фітопатогенних грибів, бактерій і водоростей. Хлороформні екстракти з культуральних фільтратів 33% штамів проявляли біологічну активність принаймні щодо одного з тест-організмів. Отримані екстракти мали вибірково специфічну дію щодо певної тест-культури. Ці препарати селективно інгібували ріст *Staphylococcus aureus* B-909, *Chlorella vulgaris* 191 і *Rizoctonia solani* 16036. **Висновки.** Скринінг 64 штамів грибів *Alternaria*, виділених з різних екологічних ніш, дозволив зробити висновок, що вони мають низьку біологічну активність. Ендofітні штами *Alternaria* характеризувалися ширшим спектром активностей, ніж фітопатогенні і ґрунтові. Вони інгібували усі тест-організми за винятком грамнегативних бактерій і дріжджоподібних грибів. Біологічно активні метаболіти ендofітних штамів *Alternaria*, включаючи високомолекулярні речовини, відіграють важливу роль у мутуалістичному співіснуванні ендofітних грибів і рослин-хазяїнів, а також у їхньому поширенні. Хлороформні екстракти ґрунтових сапрофітів мали порівняно високу активність особливо щодо

грибів і водоростей. Очевидно, ці низькомолекулярні сполуки сприяють адаптивному виживанню сапрофітних грибів у ґрунтових місцєиснуваннях з високим біорізноманіттям. Для подальших досліджень було відібрано два штами: високофітотоксичний *A. brassicicola* 2855 і *A. longipes* 16800 (антагоніст *S. aureus* В-909).

Ключові слова: *Alternaria*, ендofіти, фітопатогени, сапрофіти, біологічно активні метаболіти.

БИОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ АКТИВНОСТЬ РАЗНЫХ ВИДОВ РОДА *ALTERNARIA*

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Резюме

Виды рода *Alternaria*, изолированные из разных эконіш, синтезируют широкий круг биологически активных метаболитов. **Целью** данной статьи была оценка спектра биологической активности мелкоспоровых видов рода *Alternaria* из разных трофических групп (сапрофиты, ендofіты и фитопатогены) по результатам системного скрининга биологически активных метаболитов в отношении различных тест-организмов и отбор перспективных штаммов-продуцентов. **Методы.** Антибиотическую, антифунгальную и фитотоксическую активности культуральных фильтратов и хлороформных экстрактов определяли методом диффузии в агар. **Результаты.** 19% культуральных фильтратов из 64 исследованных штаммов проявляли биологическую активность по меньшей мере к одному из тест-организмов. Подавляющее большинство этих грибов принадлежало к ендofитным штаммам и было активным по отношению к фитопатогенным грибам, бактериям и водорослям. Хлороформные экстракты культуральных фильтратов 33% штаммов проявляли биологическую активность по меньшей мере к одному из тест-организмов. Полученные экстракты имели избирательное специфическое действие по отношению к определенной тест-культуре. Эти препараты ингибировали преимущественно рост *Staphylococcus aureus* В-909, *Chlorella vulgaris* 191 и *Rizoctonia solani* 16036. **Выводы.** Скрининг 64 штаммов грибов *Alternaria*, выделенных из различных экологических ниш, позволил сделать вывод о том, что они имеют низкую биологическую активность. Ендofитные штаммы *Alternaria* характеризовались более широким спектром активностей, чем фитопатогенные и почвенные. Они ингибировали все тест-организмы за исключением грамотрицательных бактерий и дрожжеподобных грибов. Биологически активные метаболиты ендofитных штаммов *Alternaria*, включая высокомолекулярные соединения, играют важную роль в мутуалистическом сосуществовании ендofитных грибов и растений-хозяев, а также в их распространении. Хлороформные экстракты почвенных сапрофитов имели сравнительно высокую активность особенно против грибов и водорослей. Очевидно, эти низкомолекулярные соединения способствуют адаптивному выживанию сапрофитных грибов в почвенных местообитаниях с высоким биоразнообразием. Для дальнейших исследований были отобраны два штамма: высокофитотоксичный *A. brassicicola* 2855 и *A. longipes* 16800 (антагонист *S. aureus* В-909).

Ключевые слова: *Alternaria*, эндофиты, фитопатогены, сапрофиты, биологически активные метаболиты.

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