

A Natural Antagonist Against Phytobacteria of Kiwifruit Plants

Balestra G.M.¹ & Rossetti A.²

Keywords: Epiphytic survival, phytopathogenic bacteria, kiwifruit plants, biological control, organic agriculture.

Abstract

Pseudomonas syringae pv. *syringae* (Pss) and *Pseudomonas viridiflava* (Pv) are the most dangerous bacterial pathogens on kiwifruit plants in Italy. Recently, a natural antagonist (*Bacillus subtilis*) was utilized to verify its efficacy against these bacterial pathogens. During kiwifruit vegetative season, its effect seems to be equivalent to copper treatments reducing the Pss and Pv epiphytic populations and their risk of damages

¹ Dipartimento di Protezione delle Piante, Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Via S. Camillo de Lellis, 01100, Viterbo, Italy, e-Mail: balestra@unitus.it

² Ibid.