

# Root-rot and Stem-canker Control in Faba Bean Plants by Using Some Biofertilizers Agents

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## Abstract

Some biofertilizers agents i.e. *Rhizobium leguminosarum var. fabae*, *Bacillus megaterium var. phosphaticum* and *Trichoderma harizianum* play important roles in enhancing the plant growth and controlling several diseases i. e. root rot and stem canker disease. In this work, under greenhouse conditions, *Rhizoctonia solani* caused damping-off and death of all faba bean seedlings, however the three tested microorganisms resulted good biocontrol role against the pathogenic fungus and the application of *T. harizianum* gave the best result in this trend. The treatment of *T. harizianum* and *R. leguminosarum var. fabae* to the soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani* showed significant increase in leaves number of faba bean plants compared with the untreated plants or which treated plants or which treated with *Bacillus megaterium var. phosphaticum* after 40 days from planting. Application of *T. harizianum* and *R. leguminosarum var. fabae* gave the best plant growth while the presence of the pathogenic fungus showed significant decrease in fresh weight, dry weight and nodules number on roots of faba bean plants. Also, polyphenols and antioxidants contents in the shoots and roots were decreased in the presence of the pathogen compared with the untreated plants. Application of *R. leguminosarum* resulted significant increase in the roots and shoots total nitrogen and protein.

**Keywords:** Faba bean; Root- rot; Stem- canker; Polyphenol; Antioxidant *Rhizobium leguminosarum*; *Trichoderma harizianum*; *Bacillus megaterium var. phosphaticum*

## Introduction

Since the early 1990s, induction of systemic resistance by plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) has been investigated as a possible practical way to use induced resistance in agriculture. PGPR have been tested in the green house and field for induced systemic resistance (ISR) to fungal [1,2], pathogen in various crops such as bean, carnation, cucumber, radish, tobacco, tomato and Arabidopsis. The use of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) isolated from cauliflower root, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* SP007s as biocontrol agent in protecting various plants from several diseases caused by bacteria and fungi have been reported for multiple studies [3]. Marleny et al. [4] found that plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) are beneficial bacteria that colonize the rhizosphere and plant roots resulting in enhancement of plant growth or protection against certain plant pathogens. One practical challenge to implementing this approach is establishing beneficial microbial communities, such as plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) to promote soil ecosystem health that contribute to suppression of plant pathogens and other pests [5,6]. Gasoni et al. [7] showed that bacteria belonging to *Pseudomonas* and *Bacillus* genera have been used as biocontrol agents. Yehia et al. [8] proved antagonistic effect of *Trichoderma viridie* against *Fusarium solani* of faba bean. Seed coating with *Trichoderma viridie* increased fresh and dry weight of shoots, roots and nodules number. The population densities of fungi (including *Fusarium* spp.) were low in plants obtained from treated seeds. Nelsson [9] reported that *Trichoderma* spp., are specific biocontrol agents against fungal pathogens (from *Pythium* to *Rhizoctonia*) according to the type of antibiotic produced. Under field conditions, Ehteshamul and Ghaffar [10] observed the antagonistic rhizobia and bradirhizobia used as seed dressing or soil drench reduced infection of *Rhizoctonia solani* in both leguminous and no leguminous plants. Zheng and Sinclair [11]

showed that *Bacillus megaterium* is a potential bacterial biocontrol agent against *Rhizoctonia solani*. Lewis and Lumsdent [12] cleared that *T. harizianum* and *T. viridie* isolates reduced damping off of different plants caused by isolate R-23 of *R. solani*. Jensen et al. [13] evaluated the effect of *Bacillus subtilis* and *T. harizianum* alone or in combination with Captan 400 and Vitavax 200 as biocontrol treatments against the dry bean root rot pathogens. They also recorded that seed application of both biocontrol agents increased plant biomass and decreased disease severity, under greenhouse conditions. Field experiments showed that seeds treated with *B. subtilis* reduced bean root rot and increased yield (31%) when compared with untreated control. Maria and Joseph [14] showed that a *Trichoderma harizianum* strain was antagonistic; *In Vitro*; to *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Verticillium dahlia* and may be considered a potential biocontrol agent.

Over the last few decades, consumers demand for healthier food and governments policies focused on environmentally sustainable agricultural systems have both promoted a rapid expansion of organic farming [15,16]. Organic food production is characterized by the absence of synthetic compounds (herbicides, pesticides) [17]. Manach et al. [18] reported that nowadays, emphasis multi strains biofertilizer has already been tidied. Biofertilizers are biological preparations

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embodying, essentially, sufficient densities of potent strains of microorganisms, having a tangible beneficial role in filleting a proper rhizosphere for plant growth [19]. Organically grown cabbage, spinach, welch, union, green pepper generally had higher levels of flavonoids and antioxidants activity [20]. Dinitrios [21] showed that the health benefits of fruits and vegetables are largely due to the antioxidants and vitamins supported by the large number of phytochemicals, some with greater antioxidant properties. Also, Asami et al. [22] mentioned that phenolic and ascorbic acids are presented in higher levels in organic corn, strawberry and marine berry than in conventional. Dave et al. [23] found that there was quantitative increase in total phenol, total protein and major three fatty acids after treatment. *Trichoderma* also observed to introduce resistance capacity of Indian mustard plants. Some *Trichoderma* rhizosphere competent strains has been shown to have direct effects on plants, increasing their growth potential and nutrient uptake, fertilizer sufficiency, percentage and rate of seed germination and stimulation of plant defenses against biotic and abiotic damage [24]. In cucurbits it has been found that ISR induction was correlated to the up-regulation of different pathogenesis related (PR) and defense related proteins (chitinases, glucanase, peroxidases and specific phytoalexins) and enzyme activities, especially phenylalanine ammonia lyase and synthesis of other phenols and related proteins [25].

The aim of this work is to study the effect of some biofertilizers and biocontrol agents either single or in combination applications on faba bean plants cultivated in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

## Materials and Methods

### Microorganisms tested

*Rhizobium leguminosarum* var. *fabae* "Okkadin biofertilizer was obtained from Legume Crops Dept., Field Crops Research Institute, ARC, Giza, Egypt. *Bacillus megaterium* var. *phosphaticum* isolate was obtained from MERCIN, Fac. Of Agric., Ain Shams Univ. an Identified isolate of *Trichoderma harizianum* was achieved from agricultural Botany Dept., Fac. Of Agric., Minuf., Univ.,.

In order to isolate the causal organism of stem canker and root rot disease; infected faba bean plants were collected from different cultivated areas at Sadat City. Roots and stem bases of the obtained samples were separately washed by running tap water, surface sterilized by 70% Ethanol and then left to dry on sterilized filter papers. The samples were cut into small pieces, plated on PDA medium and incubated at 25°C. Petri dishes were examined daily and hyphal tips were individually transferred to new PDA plates. Some other root samples were used for isolation of the outer microorganism "without surface sterilization". Obtained isolates were identified at the Agric. Botany Dept., Fac., of Agric., Min., Univ., Shibin El-kom, Egypt.

### Pot experiments

Pots (20 cm in diameter) were sterilized by immersing them in 5% Clorox for 15 min. and then left to dry in open air. Non-sterilized sandy-loam soil of Sadat City mixed thoroughly with peat moth at the rate of 1:1 were left for a week in the open air before using in this experiment.

For *Rhizobium* inoculation; seeds were immersed in sugar solution as an adhesive material (prepared by dissolving 20 gm. of sugar in 100 ml water) Treated seeds mixed thoroughly with the "Okadeen" biofertilizer and left for 30 min. in a shadow place for drying before cultivation.

*Bacillus* isolate was grown on Nutrient Broth medium for 48 hrs on a rotary shaker at 25°C. The bacterial inoculum was applied as soil treatment at the rate of 5 ml bacterial suspension per plant ( $1 \times 10^8$  cfu/ ml).

However; application of fungal isolates was carried out on Barley medium at the rate of 3% of soil weight. A disc (4 mm in diameter) from the edge of 6 days old fungal culture was added to 200 g sterilized Malt medium (75 g malt+25g soil+100 ml distilled water) and incubated for 7 days at 25°C. The inocula were mixed with the soil at weight. The pots were watered daily for 7 days before cultivation.

### Chemical analysis

**Total nitrogen content:** The determination of total nitrogen was carried out with Micro-Kjeldahl method. [26]. Oh point five grams of dried and finely ground shoot and root sample was taken in a Kjeldahl flask. Three g of digestion mixture ( $H_2SO_4 + K_2SO_4$ ) in the ratio of 1:9 was added and followed by 20 ml of  $H_2SO_4$ . The sample was boiled in digestion apparatus for 1.5-2 hrs .until the contents became clear. The digested material was cooled and diluted up to 250 ml in a volumetric flask by adding distilled water. An aliquot 10 ml of it was transferred to the micro Kjeldahl distillation apparatus. It was mixed with 10 ml of 40 % NaOH and distilled in a receiver containing 10 ml of 2 % boric acid solution with methyl red as indicator. The contents of the distillate were titrated against standard sulfuric acid (N/10  $H_2SO_4$ ) to light pink color end point. From the volume of acid used, percentage of nitrogen was calculated based on ammonia liberated.

**Determination of total phenolic content (TPC):** The total phenolic content (TPC) was determined by the Folin Ciocalteu method [27] using spectrophotometer (UV-200-RSLW scientific). Distilled water (3.16ml) was mixed with the 40  $\mu$ l of sample, and then 200  $\mu$ l of Folin Ciocalteu reagent was added. After 5 min, 600  $\mu$ l of 20 % sodium carbonate solution was added and solutions were mixed again. The solution was left at room temperature for 2 hrs.

The color intensities were measured at wave length 750nm. TPC expressed as grams of Gallic acid equivalents per 100g plant.

**Antioxidant capacity (DPPH Assay):** The free radical scavenging activity was estimated by 1, 12-picryl--diphenyl-hydrazyl (DPPH) assay using [28]. The reaction mixture contained 100  $\mu$ l of test extracts (100-500  $\mu$ g/ml) and 1 ml of methanolic solution of 0.1 mM DPPH radical. The mixture was then vigorously shaken and incubated at 37°C for 30 min. The absorbance was measured at 517 nm using ascorbic acid (100-500  $\mu$ g/ml) as positive control. Lower absorbance of the reaction mixture indicated higher free radical scavenging activity which was calculated using the following equation: DPPH scavenging effect (%) =  $100 \times (A_0 - A_1) / (A_0)$

**Where:**  $A_0$  is the absorbance of the control reaction and  $A_1$  is the absorbance of reaction mixture containing DPPH and extract at 517 nm.

The antioxidant activity of the extract was expressed as IC50 value which is defined as the concentration ( $\mu$ g/ml) of extract that inhibits the formation of DPPH radicals by 50%. This was obtained from linear regression analysis.

### Statistical analysis

Data were statistically analyzed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the Statistical Analysis System [29]. Means were separated by

Duncan's Multiple Range Test or by Fisher's Protected Least Significant Differences (LSD) at  $P \leq 0.05$  level.

## Results and Discussion

Under green house and artificial inoculation condition; results present in Table 1 clear that *Rhizoctonia solani* caused emergence damping off of all seeds of each faba bean cultivar. However; the untreated control pots resulted 90% emerged and survived plants. These results clear that Giza 3 Mohassan faba bean cultivar are highly susceptible to *R. solani*.

Application of the tested rhizosphere microorganisms to the potted soil infested with *R. solani* showed good control to the pathogen. The best was achieved with *Trichoderma harzianum* where all the seeds germinated and gave 100% plant survival. *Bacillus megaterium* resulted 70% germination and 92.9% of them plant survival. *Rhizobium leguminosarum* showed the least antagonistic effect to *R. solani* where 65% of the seeds emerged and 69.2% of them survived. The same results were achieved when the tested three microorganisms together were applied to *R. solani* infested soil.

Application of the beneficial tested microorganisms gave good results in controlling *R. solani*. This could be due to their antagonistic effect as reported by Gasoni et al. [7], Nelsson [9], Ehteshamul-Shaque and Ghaffar [10], Zheng and Sinclair [11], Lewis and Lumsent [12], Jensen et al. [13] and Santamarina and Joseph [14]. These results also were reported by Chen et al. [1], Liu et al. [30] and Pietrse et al. [31] who showed that (PGPR) has been investigate as a possible practical way to use induced resistance to fungal pathogens in various crops. However Nelsson et al. [9] reported that *Trichoderma* spp., are specific biocontrol agents against *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Results shown in Table 2 indicate that there was no significant variation between the average number of leaves formed on faba bean plants up to 30 days of sowing in response to different biocontrol agents application. However, *Trichoderma harzianum* caused significant increase of leaves number as compared with *Bacillus faba megaterium*

35 days after seeding. The result was noticed for *T. harzianum* and *Rhizobium leguminosarum* 40 days after planting, where they result significantly more number of leaves than control and/or *Bacillus megaterium* treatment.

The same table also showed that faba bean plant height has been affected by soil infestation with *Rhizoctonia solani*, even in the presence of the significant higher plants. These results have been shown as early as 20 days and stayed up to 40 days of sowing. Generally, application of either *Trichoderma harzianum* or *Rhizobium leguminosarum* to the soil infected with *R. solani* showed the best plant growth. While application of *Bacillus megaterium* and/ or the three biocontrol agents resulted the worst results of plant height.

Results in Table 3 clear that flowers number of faba bean plants didn't affect by various beneficial biocontrol agents. There were no significant differences between the averages numbers of flowers emerge on the plants of various treatments up to 45 days after seeding. It is of interesting to notice that individual treatment with *Rhizoctonia solani* resulted complete pre-emergence damping-off. The same table showed that average number of nodules significantly decreased in response to the soil infested with *R. solani* even in the presence of biocontrol agent(s). This was noticed in comparison with the non-infested control soil. However, number of *Rhizobium leguminosarum* nodules was the worst when the three microorganisms were applied to the soil infested with *R. solani*. This could be due to the antagonistic effect(s) of the tested microorganisms to *R. solani* as mentioned before. On the other hand, the best number of nodules was achieved when *Bacillus megaterium* applied to the infested soil.

Results in Table 4 indicate that the average total length of faba bean plants severely affected with soil infestation with *Rhizoctonia solani*. Control plants, sown in sterilized soil, gave the best plant length (58.0cm) after 45 days from seeding. Complete death was obtained when Giza 3 Mohassan faba bean cv. was seeded in *R. solani* infested pots. Significant reduction of total plant length was noticed in all treatments contained *R. solani* an one or all of the beneficial soil

Treatments	Germinated seeds		Survived plants	
	Number	%	Number of plants	%
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	13	65	9	69.2
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	14	70	13	92.8
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	20	100	20	100
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	13	65	9	69.2
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	0	0	0	0
Control	18	90	18	100

**Table 1:** Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on seed germination of faba bean plants; Giza 3 Mohassan cv.; (10 days) and survived plants (30 days) in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Treatments	Plant age (days)									
	Leaves number					Length(cm)				
	20	25	30	35	40	20	25	30	35	40
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	3.1	4.1	5.2	6.5	7.8	5.5*	7.8	13.3	16.4	18.5
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	3.1	4.1	5.1	5.6	6.3	4.3	7.5	10.8	15.2	15.2
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	3.0	4.0	5.2	7.0	7.5	6.2	8.6	11.6	16.0	18.7
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.1	6.8	4.9	7.1	9.5	12.9	16.6
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	-	-	-	-	-	ND**	ND**	ND**	ND**	ND**
Control	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.1	6.3	7.4	10.7	3.7	18.4	21.8
L.S.D. <sub>0.05</sub>	0.79	2.09	0.77	1.07	1.13	0.9	3.33	4.14	2.25	3.78

\*\*ND = Not determined due to total damping-off seedlings

**Table 2:** Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on the average number of leaves and length of faba bean plants (Giza 3 Mohassan cv.) grown in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani* after 20-40 days from seeding.

microorganisms except that of *Trichoderma harizianum* which resulted insignificant reduction (12.9%).

Shoot system fresh weight of Giza 3 Mohassan cv. Plants was significantly less than control in response to soil infestation with *Rhizoctonia solani*, in most cases (Table 5). The most fresh weight reduction of shoots was achieved with application of the three microorganisms to the infested soil with *R. solani* 4.5/8.8%). However, the competitive saprophytic ability could minimized the antagonistic role of each tested biocontrol agents itself [32]. *Bacillus megaterium* application caused (50.5%) reduction in fresh weight. Both mentioned treatments also resulted significant reduction in roots fresh weight (6/12.4 and 5.8/12.4% respectively). Results shown in the same table nearly clear the same response of plants dry weight as found in fresh weight. These results are also reported by Yehia et al. [8].

Results present in Table 6 clear that application of *Rhizobium leguminosarum* to faba bean plants sharply increased nitrogen content in both of plant roots and shoots. This may be due to its antagonistic effects against *Rhizoctonia solani*. *Trichoderma harizianum* resulted 4.7% more nitrogen level when compare with the untreated control plants, while *Bacillus megaterium* gave the same result as the control. Application of the three microorganisms to the soil gave 23.7% more total nitrogen content of the whole plant than control. The same results were obtained with the protein content of the roots and shoots of plants. *R. leguminosarum* gave 156.2% more protein content followed by the application of the three microorganisms which increased the protein content by 148.12% while the application with *T. harizianum* gave 29.3% and *B. megaterium* gave the same result as the control. These results are in agreement with Dave et al. [23].

The results above clear the aggressiveness of tested *Rhizoctonia*

Treatments	Average number of Flowers	Average number of nodules
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	4.3	10.1
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	4.0	7.8
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harizianum</i>	4.3	10.1
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	4.5	16.5
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	ND**	ND*
Control	4.5	37.6
L.S.D <sub>0.05</sub>	N.S	18.24

**Table 3:** Effect of some rhizosphere microorganisms on the average number of flowers and nodules formed on plants of the cultivar Giza 3 Mohassan infected with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Treatments	Shoots and roots length (cm)*			
	Shoots	Roots	Total	Length%
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	22.8	25.1	47.9	-17.4
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	18.4	24.0	42.4	-26.0
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harizianum</i>	21.4	29.1	50.5	-12.9
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	18.9	25.3	44.2	-23.8
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	0	0	0	0
Control	25.6	32.4	58.0	-
L.S.D <sub>0.05</sub>	3.47	6.32	9.32	

\*After 50 days from seeding

**Table 4:** Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on shoots and roots length of the cultivar Giza 3 Mohassan in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Treatments	Average fresh weight (gm)*				Average dry weight (gm)*			
	Shoots	Roots	Total	Fresh weight%	Shoots	Roots	Total	Dry weight%
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	5.1	7.7	12.8	-39.6	0.8	0.5	1.3	-27
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	4.7	5.8	10.5	-50.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	-55.5
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harizianum</i>	5.8	7.9	13.7	-35.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	-38.0
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	4.5	6.0	10.5	-50.5	0.5	0.4	0.9	-50.0
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Control	8.8	12.4	21.2	-	0.9	0.9	1.8	-
L.S.D <sub>0.05</sub>	3.5	6.0	3.7		0.25	0.7	0.05	

\*After 50 days from seeding

**Table 5:** Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on the fresh and dry weight of the cultivar Giza 3 Mohassan in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Treatments	Total nitrogen content (mg/g dry matter)				Protein content			
	Shoots	Roots	Total	%	Shoots	Roots	Total	%
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	2.08	2.08	4.16	+41	17.5	17.5	26.0	+156.2
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	1.29	1.66	2.95	-	8.6	10.37	18.43	-
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harizianum</i>	1.43	1.66	3.09	+4.7	8.93	10.37	19.31	+29.37
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	1.57	2.08	3.65	+23.7	9.81	17.5	22.81	+148.12
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Control	1.29	1.66	2.95	-	8.6	10.37	18.43	-

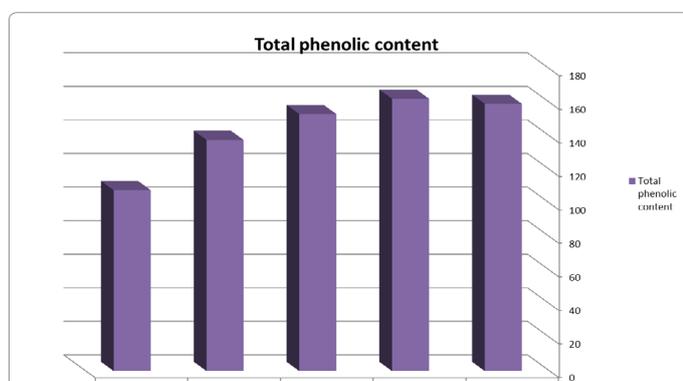
**Table 6:** Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on total nitrogen and protein content of Giza 3 Mohassan cv., faba bean plant in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

*solani* isolate and its high tolerance to the tested biocontrol agents. This pathogen caused complete pre-emergence damping off all faba bean seedlings. It also affected the growth characters of those survive in the presence of the biocontrol agents, which has a good role in this investigations as reported by Marleny et al. [4] and Shoresh et al. [24] who showed that PGPR and *Trichoderma* spp., are beneficial microorganisms resulting in enhancement of plant growth against certain plant pathogens.

Figure 1 show that the application of the three microorganisms gave highest amount of poly phenolic content (153.1%) followed by the treatment of *Trichoderma harzianum* (137.3%) and *Bacillus megaterium* (137.3%) in the roots of faba bean plants.

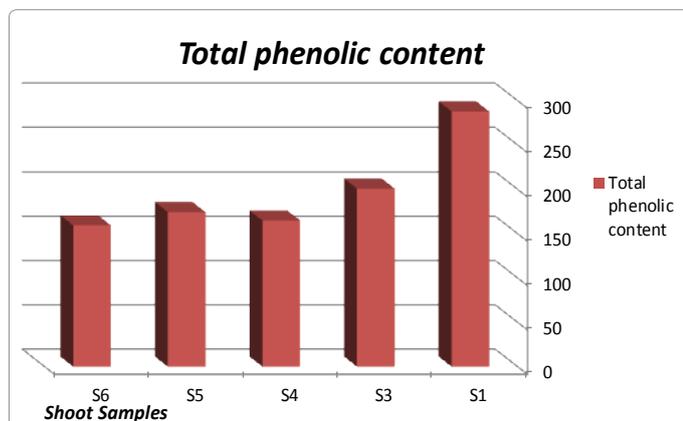
The results shown in Figure 2 illustrate that the phenolic content in the shoots are similar in the roots.

Results in Table 7 show that applicaton of *Rhizobium leguminosarum*



R1: Control, R3: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Rhizobium leguminosarum* + *Bacillus megaterium*, R4: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Trichoderma harzianum*, R5: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Bacillus megaterium*, R6: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Rhizobium leguminosarum*

Figure 1: Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on roots total phenolic content of Giza 3 Mohassan cv., faba bean plant in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.



S1: Control, S3: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Rhizobium leguminosarum* + *Bacillus megaterium*, S4: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Trichoderma harzianum*, S5: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Bacillus megaterium*, S6: *Rhizoctonia solani* + *Rhizobium leguminosarum*

Figure 2: Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on shoots total phenolic content of Giza 3 Mohassan cv., faba bean plant in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Treatments	Shoots		Roots	
	O.D	Antioxidant effect (%)	O.D	Antioxidant effect (%)
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i>	0.083	85.77	0.716	26.71
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	0.089	90.58	0.696	28.76
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	0.092	90.58	0.674	31.01
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> + <i>Rhizobium leguminosarum</i> + <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	0.092	90.89	0.654	33.06
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	-	-	-	-
Control	0.139	91.508	0.664	32.04

Stock solution conc.: 10 mg/ 1 ml  
conc. used: 1.0 mg/ 0.1 ml

Table 7: Effect of some rhizospheric microorganisms on antioxidants content of Giza 3 Mohassan cv., faba bean plant in soil infested with *Rhizoctonia solani*.

+ *Bacillus megaterium* to faba bean plants gave the best levels of antioxidants in shoots ( 90.89%) while application each of *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Bacillus megaterium* alone gave the same level(90.58%) of antioxidants in shoots *Rhizobium leguminosarum* gave 85.7%. The same results were obtained in roots (33.06, 31.01, 28.76 and 26.71%) for *Rhizobium leguminosarum* + *Bacillus megaterium*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Bacillus megaterium* and *Rhizobium leguminosarum* respectively. This result is in agreement with Ren et al. [20].

## Conclusion

The three tested microorganisms has a beneficial role in controlling the root-rot disease in faba bean plants.

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