

**IX International Symposium on In Vitro Culture
and Horticultural Breeding (13-17 March 2016),
Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), Giza, Egypt**



Abstracts Book

Edited by

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Published by
Horticulture Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Giza, Egypt

Mycorrhizal synthesis between *Lactarius deliciosus* and *Arbutus unedo* L

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Keywords: Arbutoid mycorrhizae, strawberry tree, pure culture synthesis, nursery inoculation, ex vitro persistence

Abstract

The use of strawberry tree plants artificially inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi allows the installation of more productive orchards benefiting from particular advantages conferred by the introduced fungi as, in the case of *Lactarius deliciosus*, the production of edible mushrooms. The compatibility between micropropagated *Arbutus unedo* plants and two isolates of *Lactarius deliciosus* was confirmed *in vitro* using synthesis tubes filled with a mixture of sterilized peat, vermiculite and perlite imbibed with nutrient solution. The effect of inocula type and fungal isolate on the success of mycorrhiza establishment was analyzed. Mycorrhizae synthesized *in vitro* persisted nine months after plants acclimatization and maintenance under nursery conditions. The viability of direct inoculation under nursery conditions was evaluated using seedlings germinated in unsterilized substrate. Plants were inoculated with four *L. deliciosus* isolates multiplied in solid substrate. Inoculation success was evaluated after 4 to 6 months. All the mycorrhizal plants will be installed on orchards with different edaphoclimatic conditions and monitored during 4 to 10 years, to confirm long term

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persistence of mycorrhizae and evaluate the fungal colonization level required to guarantee mushroom production.