

# Resistance of Citrus Rootstocks to *Phytophthora citrophthora* During Winter Dormancy

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## ABSTRACT

Tuzcu, Ö., Çınar, A., Göksedef, M. O., Özsan, M., and Biçici, M. 1984. Resistance of citrus rootstocks to *Phytophthora citrophthora* during winter dormancy. *Plant Disease* 68:502-505.

Resistance of 70 citrus genera, species, and cultivars to *Phytophthora citrophthora* was investigated during winter dormancy. *Aeglopsis chevalieri*; *Citrus yatsushiro*; *C. sulcata*; *C. aurantium* 'Alibert' and 'Granito'; *C. reshni* 'Kıbrıs'; *Poncirus trifoliata* 'Yerli,' 'Jacobson,' 'SEAB,' 'Luisi,' 'Rubidoux,' 'Benecke,' 'Rich,' 'Ferre Blanche,' 'Troyer' citrange, and *C. ampullaceae* were found to be very resistant. *Citrus celebica*; *C. aurantium* 'Cardosi,' 'Santucci,' and 'Curaçao'; *C. pennivesiculata* 'CRC'; *C. depressa* 'CRC'; Carrizo citrange, *C. trifoliata* 'Menager'; *C. wilsonii*; and *C. webberi* 'SRA' were resistant. *C. keraji*; *C. nobilis*; *C. aurantium* 'Azagaie'; *C. trifoliata* 'Christian,' 'Town,' and 'Yamagushi'; *C. assamensis*; and *C. micrantha* were very susceptible. *C. aurantium* 'Yerli' showed medium resistance and 'Okan' was susceptible. Among the citrus rootstocks used widely, *C. taiwanica*, *C. macrophylla*, *C. aurantium* 'Brazilian,' and *C. junos* were ranked as susceptible to *P. citrophthora*.

There is a great potential for citrus culture in Turkey, where the citrus industry has been developing rapidly. Eighty-seven percent of the total citrus, and 93% of the lemons are produced near the Mediterranean Coast. Although the eastern Mediterranean area provides the most suitable growing conditions for lemon trees, its culture has been threatened by *Phytophthora*. It has been reported that 7.8% of lemon trees had trunk infections and 65% of the citrus orchard soils were contaminated by *Phytophthora* in Turkey (10,15). *P. citrophthora* (Sm. & Sm.) Leon., which incites gummosis or foot rot, is widely distributed in Mediterranean citrus areas (27). It was found that 24.0% of the citrus trees in İçel, and 22.4% in Adana provinces, based on fruit infection, were contaminated by *P. citrophthora* (12).

Use of resistant rootstocks offers an excellent means of reducing the damage caused by *P. citrophthora*. Resistant citrus species and varieties have been reported from many parts of the world. Although variations exist among the selections, trifoliolate orange, sour orange, Cleopatra mandarin, Taiwanica, Citremon, Carrizo and Troyer citranges, Macrophylla, Siamelo, and Volkameriana were reported resistant (2,5,6,11,12,15-19, 21,23,25,26,28,30). Some sour oranges, mandarin, trifoliolate oranges, oranges,

Mexican lime, tangelo, and grapefruit were intermediate (1,3,6,10,11,17,20). Rough lemon, Rangpur lime, all citranges except Carrizo and Troyer, Madame Vinous orange, sweet lemon, and lemons were susceptible (6,7,10, 18,22,26).

Use of resistant rootstocks has provided partial success in preventing gummosis in Turkey. Lemons, although grafted on resistant sour orange stocks, show high incidence of infection in the eastern Mediterranean area. This paper reports a study of the relative resistance of various citrus rootstocks to root rot and canker caused by *P. citrophthora*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two-year-old seedlings of 70 varieties and selections of citrus and related genera were used. These were obtained from various research institutes in the United States, France, Cyprus, and Turkey and are listed in Table 1.

Inoculum was prepared as follows: *P. citrophthora* was grown on 2% potato-dextrose agar at 26 C for 7 days, and disks 6, 8, and 10 mm in diameter were cut and transferred into 250-ml flasks containing sterilized distilled water. After being incubated for 24 hr at 18 C, the disks were

Table 1. The resistance of various varieties and selections of *Citrus* and related genera to *Phytophthora citrophthora*

Botanical name	Common name	Contributing institute <sup>1</sup>	Origin	Mean lesion index <sup>2</sup>
<i>Aeglopsis chevalieri</i> Swing.		IFAS	Florida	0.00 a
<i>Citropsis gillettiana</i> Swing. & M. Kell.		IFAS	Florida	0.00 a
<i>Citrus yatsushiro</i> Hort. ex Tan.		ATAE	Japan	0.00 a
<i>C. sulcata</i> Tak.		ATAE	Japan	0.00 a
<i>C. aurantium</i> L. 'Alibert'	Sour orange	SRA	Tunisia	0.00 a
<i>C. reshni</i> Hort. ex Tan. 'Kıbrıs'	Cyprus Cleopatra mandarin	Güzelyurt	Cyprus	0.00 a
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i> (L.) Raf. 'Yerli'	Trifoliolate orange	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.00 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Jacobson'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	0.00 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'SEAB'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	Algeria (Boufarik)	0.00 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Luisi'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	France (Corsica)	0.00 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Rubidoux'	Trifoliolate orange	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.00 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Benecke'	Trifoliolate orange	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.01 a
<i>C. sinensis</i> Osb. × <i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Troyer'	Citrange	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.03 a
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Rich'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	0.06 ab
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Ferre Blanche'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	France (Perrégaux)	0.12 abc
<i>C. ampullaceae</i> Hort. ex Tan.		ATAE	Japan	0.14 abcd
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Granito'	Sour orange	SRA	Algeria (Boufarik)	0.16 abcd
<i>C. celebica</i> Koord.		CRC	CRC	0.18 abcd
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Santucci'	Sour orange	SRA	France (Corsica)	0.19 abcd
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Cardosi'	Sour orange	SRA	CRC	0.21 abcd
<i>C. pennivesiculata</i> (Lush.) Tan. 'CRC'		SRA	CRC	0.21 abcd
<i>C. depressa</i> Hay. 'CRC'		CRC	CRC	0.23 abcdef

(continued on next page)

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Table 1. (continued from preceding page)

Botanical name	Common name	Contributing institute <sup>y</sup>	Origin	Mean lesion index <sup>z</sup>
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Curaçao'	Sour orange	SRA	CRC	0.24 abcdef
<i>C. depressa</i> 'Florida'		IFAS	Florida	0.25 abcdef
<i>C. sinensis</i> Osb. × <i>P. trifoliata</i> Raf. 'Carrizo'	Citrange	ÇÜZF	Turkey (Adana)	0.26 abcdef
<i>C. jambhiri</i> Lush.	Rough lemon	ÇÜZF	Turkey (Adana)	0.27 abcdefg
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Menager'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	France (Carcans)	0.29 abcdefgh
<i>C. wilsonii</i> Tan.	Ichang lemon	SRA	CRC	0.31 abcdefgh
<i>C. webberi</i> Wester 'SRA'	Kalpi papeda	SRA	CRC	0.31 abcdefgh
<i>C. parasidi</i> × <i>P. trifoliata</i> 'CRC 1452'	Citrumelo	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.32 abcdefghi
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Vallauris'	Sour orange	SRA	France (Corsica)	0.34 abcdefghi
<i>C. reshni</i> Hort. Tan. 'Antalya'	Cleopatra mandarin	ATAE	CRC	0.34 abcdefghi
<i>C. webberi</i> 'CRC'	Kalpi papeda	SRA	CRC	0.35 abcdefghi
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Genest'	Sour orange	SRA	Spain	0.38 abcdefghi
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Yellow fruited'	Sour orange	Güzelyurt	Cyprus	0.39 abcdefghi
<i>C. sinensis</i> × <i>P. trifoliata</i> '8A-34/5'	Citrange	ÇÜZF	Turkey (Adana)	0.40 abcdefghi
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Yerli'	Sour orange	ÇÜZF	Turkey (Adana)	0.45 abcdefghi
<i>C. reshni</i> 'SRA'	Cleopatra mandarin	SRA	CRC	0.47 abcdefghij
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Tulear'	Sour orange	SRA	Madagascar	0.49 abcdefghij
<i>C. taiwanica</i> Tan. & Shim.	Taiwanica	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.54 abcdefghij
<i>C. limon</i> (L.) Burm. F. 'Borneo'	Citron	SRA	Morocco	0.54 abcdefghij
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Dwarf'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	0.54 abcdefghij
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Australian'	Sour orange	SRA	CRC	0.54 abcdefghij
<i>C. latipes</i> (Swing.) Tan.		ÇÜZF	CRC	0.55 abcdefghij
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Brazil'	Sour orange	SRA	Brazil	0.59 abcdefghij
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Okan'	Sour orange	Uluçinar	Turkey (Hatay)	0.62 abcdefghij
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Brazilian'	Sour orange	CRC	CRC	0.62 abcdefghij
<i>C. macrophylla</i> Wester	Macrophylla	ÇÜZF	CRC	0.66 abcdefghijk
<i>C. madurensis</i> Lour. 'CRC'	Calamondin	CRC	CRC	0.68 abcdefghijk
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Red fruited'	Sour orange	Güzelyurt	Cyprus	0.69 abcdefghijk
<i>C. mitis</i> Blanco 'Antalya'	Calamondin	ATAE	CRC	0.74 abcdefghijkl
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Luisi'	Sour orange	SRA	France (Corsica)	0.76 abcdefghijk
<i>C. obovoidea</i> Hort. ex Tak.		ATAE	Japan	0.77 abcdefghijk
<i>C. tachibana</i> (Mak.) Tan.		CRC	CRC	0.79 abcdefghijk
<i>C. sinensis</i> 'Madam Vinous'	Sweet orange	ATAE	CRC	0.84 bcdefghijkl
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Ruche Foncière'	Sour orange	SRA	France (Corsica)	0.84 bcdefghijkl
<i>C. pennivesiculata</i> 'SRA'		CRC	CRC	0.86 cdefghijkl
<i>C. natsudaoidai</i> Hay.		ATAE	CRC	0.86 cdefghijkl
<i>C. junos</i> Sieb. ex Tan.	Yuzu	ÇÜZF	Turkey (Adana)	0.92 defghijkl
<i>C. keraji</i> Hort. ex Tan.		ATAE	Japan	1.01 efghijkl
<i>C. volkameriana</i> (Pasq.) Tan.	Volkameriana	ÇÜZF	CRC	1.02 fghijkl
<i>C. limonia</i> Osbeck	Rangpur lime	ÇÜZF	CRC	1.05 ghijkl
<i>C. intermedia</i> Hort. ex Tan.		CRC	CRC	1.08 hijkl
<i>C. nobilis</i> Lour.	King mandarin	ATAE	CRC	1.11 ijkl
<i>C. aurantium</i> 'Azaguié'	Sour orange	SRA	Ivory Coast	1.26 jklm
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Christian'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	1.42 klm
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Town'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	1.44 klm
<i>C. assamensis</i> Dutta & Bhatt.		CRC	CRC	1.63 lm
<i>P. trifoliata</i> 'Yamagushi'	Trifoliolate orange	SRA	CRC	1.96 mn
<i>C. micrantha</i> Wester		CRC	CRC	2.73 n
D 0.01				0.79

<sup>y</sup>ATAE = Citrus Research Institute, Antalya, Turkey; CRC = Citrus Research Center, Riverside, CA; ÇÜZF = University of Çukurova, Faculty of Agriculture, Adana, Turkey; IFAS = Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Gainesville, FL; and SRA = Citrus Research Institute, Corsica, France.

<sup>z</sup>Lesion index =  $\sqrt{\text{lesion area (mm}^2\text{)} \div \text{stem diameter at lesion site (mm)}}$ ; means of 10 replicates per plant species or cultivar. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different ( $P = 0.01$ ) according to Tukey's procedure.

used as inoculum.

Disks of bark 6, 8, and 10 mm in diameter were cut with a cork borer 30–35 cm above the ground from the trunks of rootstocks. An inoculum disk of the same size was inserted mycelial face inward into each of the holes where cambium had been exposed and was covered with the disk of bark. The inoculation site was wrapped with cotton moistened with

sterile water, then covered with aluminum foil and polyethylene. Inoculations were made on 19 November 1981 and the wrappings were removed on 25 November 1981. Ten plants of each type were inoculated. During the period of lesion development, the mean temperature was 13.5 C, with 9.5 C mean minimum and 23.1 C mean maximum.

Thirty-five days after inoculation, the

inoculated rootstocks were cut 25–30 cm above and below the inoculation site and brought to laboratory. Infected bark was removed carefully and the lesion areas on the cambium were traced on translucent paper and measured with an Automatic Area Meter Type AAM-5. Stem diameter at the lesion site was also measured. During measurement, external appearance of the lesion site and gummosis under the bark were recorded. Results were evaluated after transforming the measurements to lesion index (I) according to Çınar and Tuzcu (11):

$$I = \frac{\sqrt{LA}}{D}$$

where LA = lesion area (mm<sup>2</sup>) and D = mean diameter of the stem (mm). Differences among the lesion indices were tested statistically (13).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The degree of resistance of each rootstock to *P. citrophthora* is indicated by its mean lesion index (Table 1). The degree of resistance varied greatly among the rootstocks during their dormancy. *Aeglopsis chevalieri*, *Citropsis gillettiana*, *Citrus yatsushiro*, *C. sulcata*, Alibert sour orange, Kıbrıs Cleopatra mandarin; Yerli, Jacobson, SEAB, Luisi, Rubidoux, and Benecke trifoliolate oranges and Troyer citrange were highly resistant. Rich and Ferme Blanche trifoliolate oranges, *C. ampullaceae*, and Granito sour orange also showed resistance to the pathogen. These results are in agreement with results obtained by Carpenter and Furr (8), Klotz (20), and Laville and Blondel (24). Although they are wound-resistant, *A. chevalieri* and *Citropsis gillettiana* cannot be recommended to the growers at this stage because of their incompatibility with citrus varieties compared with other citrus rootstocks (1). However, these two species might be chosen as parent lines for hybridization to obtain resistant rootstocks.

*C. yatsushiro*, *C. sulcata*, and *C. ampullaceae* are considered different species by Tanaka, but in Swingle's system, *C. yatsushiro* is placed in mandarin and *C. sulcata* and *C. ampullaceae* are placed in grapefruit. Because of their Far Eastern origin and their nonacceptance as separate species under Swingle's taxonomic system, very limited studies have been made on the resistance of these rootstocks to *P. citrophthora*. Detailed studies on the rootstock characters and resistance of these three species may reveal useful traits. The high resistance of *C. yatsushiro* in this study and its suitability as a rootstock for orange and mandarin make it a promising rootstock for these species. *C. sulcata* and *C. ampullaceae* also possess good possibilities as lemon rootstocks because they both showed resistant reactions to the pathogen and

grapefruit is known as the best rootstock for lemon (31). The varieties of some species did not differ from each other significantly (eg, *Citrus webberi* var. SRA and var. CRC [CRC and Antalya calamondin]), but sour orange and

**Table 2.** Resistance of various cultivars of *Citrus aurantium*, *C. taiwanica*, and *C. intermedia* to *Phytophthora citrophthora*

Species Cultivar	Source	Mean lesion index <sup>2</sup>
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>		
Alibert	Tunisia	0.0 a
Granito	Algeria	0.16 ab
Santucci	Corsica	0.19 ab
Cardosi	Corsica	0.21 ab
Curaçao	South America	0.24 abc
Vallauris	France (Nice)	0.34 abcd
Genest	Spain	0.38 abcd
Yellow Fruited	Cyprus (Güzelyurt)	0.39 abcd
Yerli	Turkey (Adana)	0.45 abcd
Tulear	Madagascar	0.49 abcd
Australian	Australia	0.55 bcde
Brasil	Brazil	0.59 bcde
Okan	Turkey (Uluçınar)	0.62 bcde
Brazilian	Brazil	0.62 bcde
Red Fruited	Cyprus (Güzelyurt)	0.69 bcde
Luisi	Corsica	0.76 cdef
Ruche Foncière	Corsica	0.84 def
Azagüé	Ivory Coast	1.26 f
<i>C. taiwanica</i>	United States	0.54 abcde
<i>C. intermedia</i>	United States	1.08 ef
D 0.01		0.54

<sup>2</sup> Lesion index =  $\sqrt{\text{lesion area (mm}^2\text{)} \div \text{stem diameter at lesion site (mm)}}$ ; means of 10 replicates per plant species or cultivar. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different ( $P = 0.01$ ) according to Tukey's procedure.

**Table 3.** Resistance of various trifoliate oranges and citranges and their hybrids to *Phytophthora citrophthora*

Species Cultivar	Source	Lesion index mean <sup>2</sup>
<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>		
Yerli	Turkey (Rize)	0.00 a
Jacobson	United States	0.00 a
SEAB	Algeria	0.00 a
Luisi	Corsica	0.00 a
Rubidoux	United States	0.00 a
Benecke	United States	0.00 a
Troyer		
citrangle	United States	0.03 a
Rich	United States	0.06 ab
Ferre		
Blanche	Algeria	0.12 ab
Carrizo		
citrangle	United States	0.26 ab
Menager	France	0.29 abc
1452		
citrangle	United States	0.32 abc
8A-34/5		
citrangle	United States	0.40 bc
Dwarf	United States	0.54 c
Christian	South Africa	1.42 d
Town	United States	1.44 d
Yamagushi	United States	1.96 e
D 0.01		0.35

<sup>2</sup> Lesion index =  $\sqrt{\text{lesion area (mm}^2\text{)} \div \text{stem diameter at lesion site (mm)}}$ ; means of 10 replicates per plant species or cultivar. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different ( $P = 0.01$ ) according to Tukey's procedure.

trifoliate orange rootstocks, which were evaluated separately (Table 2), showed varying reactions to the pathogen. Cleopatra mandarin and *C. pennivesiculata* also showed varying reactions.

Rootstocks were ranked as follows: those having lesion index values up to 0.15 highly resistant, those between 0.15 and 0.30 resistant, those between 0.30 and 0.50 intermediate, those between 0.50 and 1.00 susceptible, and those higher than 1.00 highly susceptible. In general, the rankings presented here are in agreement with those given by Carpenter and Furr (8), Frossard (14), Laville and Blondel (24), Grimm and Timmer (17), and Carpenter et al (7). However, some rootstocks showed different susceptibility than reported previously. Other workers have also reported conflicting information about clones or varieties of same species (4,5,18,32).

Although Taiwanica, Macrophylla, Yuzu, and Volkameriana have recently been accepted as promising rootstocks, they did not show resistance to winter infections of *P. citrophthora* (Table 1). The other interesting result was that Yamagushi, Town, and Christian trifoliate oranges and Azagüé sour orange and King mandarin were more susceptible than Rangpur lime. Some trifoliate orange selections have been reported as highly resistant and some selections of sour orange as resistant. The relative susceptibility of the trifoliates and some sour oranges obtained in this study may be due to different genetical makeup existing among the clones or varieties.

Although not investigated thoroughly, *Citrus latipes*, *C. obovoidea*, *C. tachibana*, *C. natsudaidai*, *C. intermedia*, *C. assamensis*, and *C. micrantha* were found susceptible and could not be recommended as rootstocks for Turkish conditions, except for specific purposes.

The susceptibility of sour oranges with different origins varied greatly (Table 2). Sour orange has been accepted as a resistant rootstock and used widely in Turkey without looking into varietal differences. Although two local sour oranges, Yerli and Okan, showed no statistical differences, they showed different susceptibility according to our

**Table 4.** Resistance of Cleopatra mandarin cultivars obtained from different sources to *Phytophthora citrophthora*

Species Cultivar	Source	Mean lesion index <sup>2</sup>
<i>Citrus reshni</i>		
Kıbrıs	Cyprus	0.00 a
Antalya	Antalya	0.34 b
SRA	Corsica	0.47 b
D 0.01		0.16

<sup>2</sup> Lesion index =  $\sqrt{\text{lesion area (mm}^2\text{)} \div \text{stem diameter at lesion site (mm)}}$ ; means of 10 replicates per plant species or cultivar. Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different ( $P = 0.01$ ) according to Tukey's procedure.

ranking system. In general ranking, Yerli sour orange was intermediate and Okan was susceptible. Therefore, the susceptibility of the varieties and possible hybrids of sour orange to *P. citrophthora* should be investigated in detail. Among the sour oranges studied, Alibert was highly resistant and Granito, Santucci, and Curaçao were resistant. *C. taiwanica* was ranked as susceptible (Table 2). Azagüé sour orange was highly susceptible. This varying reaction of the sour oranges indicates the importance and necessity of studying the various properties of each variety or selection. An investigation of the reactions of 29 clones selected by Tuzcu (29) from the eastern Mediterranean area but not included in this study may reveal some highly resistant rootstocks and could be beneficial for Turkey's citrus culture.

As seen in Table 3, Yerli, Jacobson, SEAB, Luisi, Rubidoux, Benecke, Rich, and Ferme Blanche trifoliate oranges and Troyer citrange were highly resistant; Citrumelo CRC 1452 and citrange 8 A-34/5 were resistant. Dwarf trifoliate orange was susceptible, and Christian, Town, and Yamagushi trifoliate oranges were highly susceptible. These results are, in general, in accordance with Laville and Blondel (24); however, those authors reported SEAB and Ferme Blanche trifoliate oranges as susceptible. Carpenter and Furr (8) found that Rich and Benecke trifoliates were resistant. Although Yamagushi trifoliate orange was determined resistant by Hutchinson and Grimm (19) and Vanderwey (30), it showed a susceptible reaction in this study (Table 3). Our results support the suggestion by various authors (4,9,18,20,24) that resistance of rootstocks to *P. citrophthora* should be investigated at varietal or even clonal levels instead of species level. Otherwise, ranking the rootstocks at species level may create discrepancies. The reactions of Cleopatra mandarins with different origins provide an example (Table 4). Kıbrıs Cleopatra mandarin was highly resistant and Antalya and SRA Cleopatra mandarin were intermediate. Although Cleopatra mandarin was reported as intermediate in resistance by Blondel (3), it was found susceptible by Vanderwey (30), Frossard (14), and Grimm and Timmer (17). Our results indicate that Kıbrıs Cleopatra mandarin could be ranked as highly resistant to *P. citrophthora* infections during dormancy.

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