

IOBC/WPRS WORKING GROUPS:

**Biological control of fungal and bacterial plant pathogens
Integrated control in protected crops, temperate climate
Integrated control in protected crops, mediterranean climate**

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S. Michele all'Adige, Italy

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**Management of plant diseases and arthropod pests
by BCAs and their integration in
agricultural systems**

at

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Phenotypic traits underlying wound competence of postharvest biocontrol yeasts and degradation of mycotoxins by these microorganisms

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We had previously shown that wound competence of postharvest biocontrol agents (BCAs) acting against wound pathogens of apples relies on resistance of these microorganisms to reactive oxygen species (ROS: superoxide anion, O₂⁻ and hydrogen peroxide, H₂O₂), generated by the fruit tissue as a consequence of wounding. In this work we report the *in vitro* comparison of the enzyme activities deactivating ROS (superoxide dismutase, SOD and catalase, CAT) and the antioxidant potential of culture filtrates of two biocontrol yeast strains displaying lower (*Rhodothorula glutinis* LS11) and higher (*Cryptococcus laurentii* LS28) wound competence and antagonistic activity. The more efficient antagonist LS28 showed significantly higher SOD and CAT activities and higher antioxidant potential of its culture filtrate. Recently, the EU has released regulations (472/2002 and 1425/2003) setting the highest tolerable levels of the mycotoxins Patulin and Ochratoxin A (OTA), which contaminate apple-based food products and wine, as a consequence of infections by *Penicillium expansum* and *Aspergillus carbonarius* on apples and grape, respectively. Two biocontrol agents of our collection (strain LS11 and *Aureobasidium pullulans* LS30) are able to degrade *in vitro* Patulin and OTA, respectively. Further, strain LS11 shows active reduction of Patulin also *in vivo*, i.e. in apples artificially infected by *P. expansum*.

