Short Research Article

Pollen viability and fruit yield of coriander genotypes inoculated with different concentrations of *Meloidogyne incognita* race 1

ABSTRACT

Coriander is among the most consumed leafy vegetables in Brazil, employing a large number of people in its production chain. Among the limiting factors to the production of this horticulture there is the Meloidogyne caused by gall nematodes. The present work was carried out aiming to understand the impact on coriander plants submitted to the parasitism of *M. incognita* race 1. The number of galls were verified at 30 days after inoculation as well as the plant survival up to the reproductive stage. In addition, pollen viability and fruit yield in coriander plants of two cultivars (Verdão and HTV Dom Luiz), inoculated at sowing with six inoculum concentrations (0, 1,000, 2,000, 4,000, 8,000 and 16,000 eggs / cell) and evaluated in a randomized complete block design with four replications were also analyzed. The plot was composed of one plant. The presence of the pathogen did not influence the pollen viability by means of the acetic Carmine and Alexander dyes. However, neither tetrazolium nor in vitro pollen germination means were efficient in the viability identification. Concentrations of 8,000 and 16,000 eggs/cell did not allow the development of plants, leading them to death. Inoculation at sowing, and evaluation of the number of galls at 30 days did not limit the reestablishment of the plant development and fruit yield, up to the concentration of 4,000 eggs/cell.

Keywords: Coriandrum sativum L., inoculum levels, Meloidogyne, Dyestuff.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gall nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.) are widely distributed phytopathogens in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions of the planet. These worms are classified as one of the five main groups of economically destructive pathogens that affect world food production [1]. Within the phytonematological specialty, the Meloidogyne species constitute the most economically relevant group, due to the high degree of polyphagy and wide geographic distribution, being constant threats to the rural producers. The species with the most prominence within the genus for presenting themselves as the most cosmopolitan, polyphagous, and weedy to agriculture are: *M. arenaria, M. hapla, M. incognita* and *M. javanica*. The last two are the most important from an economic point of view [2].

The species belonging to the genus Meloidogyne are obligatory endoparasites and the second stage juveniles (J2) are infectants, which penetrate the root elongation zone and migrate intercellularly until they reach the differentiating vascular zone, where they choose from 5 to 7 cells and insert their stylus injecting secretions to induce hypertrophy and hyperplasia forming the galls and establishing the feeding site. From that stage on, the pathogen starts to extract nutrients and photoassimilates from nearby tissues, mainly xylem and phloem [3]. Consequently, they promote, besides gall formation, leaf yellowing, defoliation, retarded growth and wilting as a symptom, which collectively reduce plant vigor and cause mass loss and quality. It is estimated that 12.3% of the annual losses in

agricultural production is due to the attack of gall nematodes, causing an economic loss of around US $ 157 billion [1].

In addition to underdevelopment, the formation of coenocytes, induced by gall nematodes, acts as a metabolic drain resulting in physiological imbalances, that is, a lack of macro and/or micronutrients [2]. Boron is a micronutrient that plays an important role in the growth of the pollen tube [4], and the lack of this element is a factor that can reduce pollen viability. In this context, plants parasitized with gall nematodes, due to the presence of physiological disturbances, may undergo influence on the viability of the pollen grains resulting in reduced productivity. To verify pollen viability, various techniques can be adopted, which can be grouped in methods of direct in vitro determination [5]; direct in vivo determination [6]; and indirect methods such as staining from the biochemical reaction [7].

Coriander is among the various cultivated species attacked by gall nematodes. There is no cultivar in Brazil that is indicated as resistant to such pathogens, being necessary the search for superior genotypes. According to [8] the development of breeding programs aimed at resistance to phytonematodes is a process that requires adequate resources and methodologies. Currently, evaluation of the reaction of coriander genotypes to gall nematodes consists of sowing, inoculation at 15 days after sowing and evaluation at 45 days of inoculation, by destructive method for the extraction of pathogen eggs aiming at estimating the reproduction factor (RF) [9, 10, 8, 11].

The use of a methodology that does not promote the destruction of the plant, allowing the selection among and within segregating populations in the same selective cycle, may promote the attainment of promising results. Thus, the present work aims to verify the development of plants of two coriander cultivars inoculated at sowing with different concentrations of *M. incognita* race 1 inoculum and transplanted after 30 days, evaluating plant survival, percentage of viable and germinated in vitro pollen, and fruit yield.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted under greenhouse conditions, in the Department of Agronomy of the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco (UFRPE), located at 8°54'47"S, 34°54'47"W, 6m high, from July to October 2017. The monthly average temperatures recorded by the weather station of Recife Curado (automatic) varied in average between 22.9 - 28.6°C, for the minimum and maximum temperature, respectively [12]. The design was of randomized blocks in a factorial scheme of 2 (cultivars) X 6 (inoculum concentrations) with four replications, whose plot was composed by one plant.

The reactions of the cultivars Verdão and HTV Dom Luiz were evaluated and handled in six concentrations (0, 1,000, 2,000, 4,000, 8,000 and 16,000) of *M. incognita* race 1. Sowing was carried out in expanded 128-cell polystyrene trays containing commercial substrate. The trays were irrigated, followed by inoculation according to each treatment. Each block contained a plot with Santa Clara tomato cultivar (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.), with a susceptibility standard to gall nematodes, in order to verify the efficiency of the inoculum used.

The inoculum was obtained from sources kept in tomatoes, Santa Clara cultivar, using the [13] and modified by [14] for the extraction of eggs of *M. incognita* race 1.

Irrigation was performed according to the water requirement of the crop, without drainage to prevent egg leaching. After germination, fertigation with nutrient solution containing macro and micronutrient was carried out three times a week, adapted from the proposal by [15], taking the same care not to drain and prevent consequent inoculum loss.

After germination, thinning was carried out leaving only one plant per cell. After 30 days of sowing and inoculation, the roots of each plant of the plot were carefully washed in still water, to remove the substrate without damaging the root system, quantifying the number of galls in the root system and transplanting the seedlings (Figure 1) into 2L pots, properly identified (cultivar and inoculated concentration), containing a substrate based on soil and humus mixture in a ratio of 3:1. These procedures were carried out at around 4:30 p.m., in order to favor seedling adaptation. Irrigation was carried out shortly after transplantation.

In the pots, the plants were irrigated daily according to the water requirement, and fertigation was applied three times a week. The survival of the plants was observed until the fruits were harvested.

At the beginning of flowering, when all the plants were flowering, flowers were collected to quantify the viable pollens in each cultivar as a result of the concentration of the pathogen, seeking to verify if the presence and quantity of the pathogen influence pollen viability.

The pollen was stained with acetic carmine [16], Alexander's solution [17] and tetrazolium salt solutions at concentrations of 0.25%; 0.50%; 0.75% and 1.0% [18]. Each dye reacts with a certain compound and/or structure of the pollen grain, promoting or not promoting grain staining. The stained grains are those considered viable. Acetic carmine indicates chromosomal integrity; Alexander solution contains acid fuchsin and green malachite which react with pollen wall protoplasm and cellulose [19], respectively, whereas tetrazolium salt provides an indication of the metabolic activity of the pollen grain , allowing the estimation of its viability [20] through the reaction of salt with hydrogen resulting from cellular respiration with red pollen [21] indicating the presence of functional enzymes such as peroxidase, esterase and dehydrogenase [22].

The flowers were collected after the anthesis from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., stored in identified paper bags, and taken to the floriculture laboratory where the slides were prepared for visualization and counting of viable pollens in result of the dye. For each dye, four slides per treatment (cultivar X inoculum) were prepared. The pollen of one flower was placed with the aid of a brush on the slide, and then two drops of dye were added before placement of the cover slip. The pollen was observed after 10 minutes of dye addition [19] under a 40X magnification microscope.

To evaluate the tetrazolium solutions, prepared by diluting the salt in distilled water, four flowers of each treatment were collected for each tetrazolium solution. With a pair of tweezers, the stamens of each flower were placed into an eppendorf, duly identified, containing 1 mL of a certain tetrazolium solution (0.25%, 0.50%; 0.75% and 1%). After that, the tubes were agitated for 20 seconds so that the pollens had contact with the solution. The tubes were then wrapped with aluminum foil and kept at 25^0C for 24 hours in a BOD incubator [23, 18]. After this period, the solution of each tube was collected individually with a Pasteur pipette, placed onto a slide, and visualized in a 40X magnification microscope.

Proposed media were used for pollen germination in vitro for eggplant, citrus and some adaptations because no medium was found for coriander or other species of the Apiaceae family. For all media, phytagel was used instead of agar, leaving the medium more translucent, favoring pollen visualization.

Table 1. Media used aiming to germinate the coriander in vitro pollen grains

Medium	Reagents						Reference
	$Ca(NO_3)_2$	H_3BO_3	Sacarose	Phytagel	$MgSO_4$	KNO_3	
A	800 mg/L	200 mg/L	100 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	Salles et al., 2006
B	500 mg/L	120 mg/L	100 g/L	10 g/L	120 mg/L	100 mg/L	Tatis et al., 2013
C	4 g/L	3 g/L	10 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
D	4 g/L	3 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-	-
E	-	40 g/L	200 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
F	-	40 g/L	100 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
G	20 g/L	40 g/L	200 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
H	20 g/L	40 g/L	200 g/L	-	-	-	-
I	20 g/L	40 g/L	400 g/L	-	-	-	-
J	20 g/L	20 g/L	400 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
L	10 g/L	5 g/L	50 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
M	10 g/L	5 g/L	10 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-
N	5 g/L	5 g/L	10 g/L	10 g/L	-	-	-

For both dyes and in vivo media, 150 pollens per slide were evaluated, constituting the experimental unit.

After flowering and fruit filling phase, when they were dry, all fruits of each plant were harvested individually and stored in identified paper bags. Then, the number of fruits of each experimental plot was quantified, and 100 fruits of each plot were weighed on a precision scale.

The number of galls in the root system, number of fruits and weight of 100 fruits variables were transformed by $\sqrt{x}$ to meet the assumptions of the analysis of variance, and then submitted to ANAVA and Scott-Knott grouping test at 5% probability. Regression analyzes were performed for the decompositions within inoculum concentrations. The analyses were performed using the statistical software SISVAR [24], and the regression graphs were significant at 1% or 5%, elaborated in Excel.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the treatments containing 16,000 eggs/cell, the plants died within a few days after germination. As for the treatment with 8,000 eggs/cell, the plants survived until the transplantation, but they were not able to complete the life cycle, due to the underdevelopment of both the root system and the shoot (Figure 1).

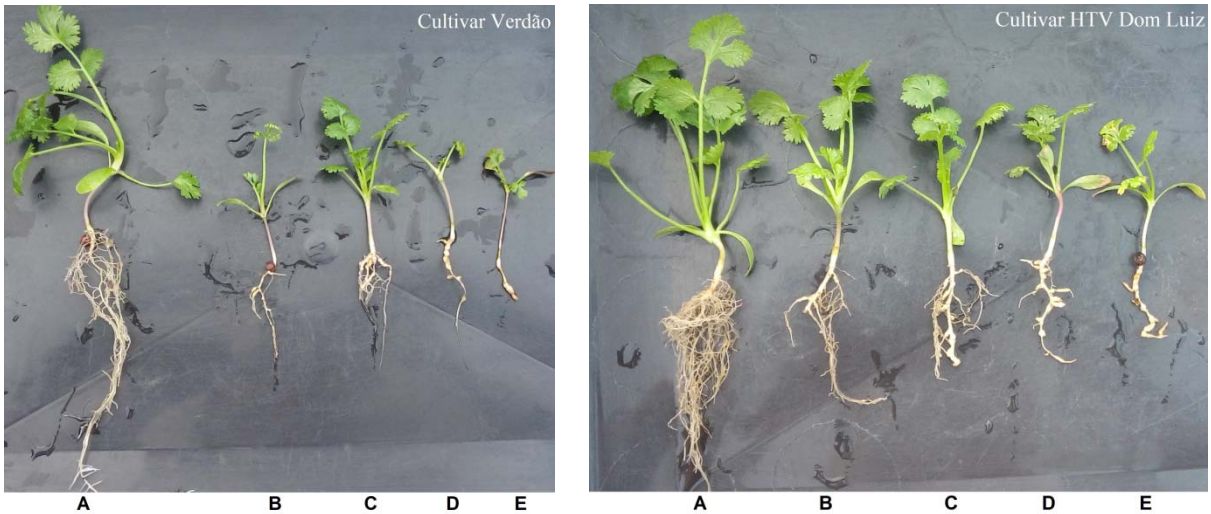


Figure 1. Coriander plants of Verdão and HTV Dom Luiz, 30 days after inoculation with different inoculum concentrations of *M. incognita* race 1. A) 0 eggs/plant; B) 1,000 eggs/plant; C) 2,000 eggs/plant; D) 4,000 eggs/plant; E) 8,000 eggs/plant.

It is possible to observe that with the increase of the concentration of the inoculum there is a reduction in the development of the root system and the shoot, simultaneously. A similar fact was observed by [25] in beet cultivars where a linear reduction of vegetative and root characteristics occurred as the inoculum level of *Meloidogyne incognita*, *M. javanica,* and *M. enterolobii* increased.

For the variables number of galls in the root system, number of fruits and fruit weight, interactions between variation sources of variation and concentrations of inoculum X cultivars were significant at 1% probability. As for the variable number of plants, there were significant differences only for concentrations of inoculum at 1% of significance. The coefficients of experimental variation ranged from 12.98% (NGRS) to 27.08% (NF) (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of the variance analysis of the number of galls in the root system (NGRS), number of plants (NP), number of fruits (NF) and weight of 100 fruits (WF) in two cultivars of coriander inoculated with six concentrations of inoculum of *Meloidogyne incognita* race 1.

SV	DF	MS			
		NGRS^{+}	NP	NF^{+}	WF^{+}
Blocks	3	0.09	0.02	2.02	0.002
Concentrations	5	16.29**	2.02**	222.58**	2.79**
Cultivars	1	4.51**	0.02^{ns}	330.44**	0.001^{ns}
Concentrations*Cultivars	5	0.70**	0.02^{ns}	45.96**	0.05**
Error	33	0.07	0.02	3.02	0.01
CV%		12.98	22.35	27.08	13.72

Mean		2.09	0.65	6.41	0.75

184 [+] Data transformed by $\sqrt{x}$
185 [**] Significant at 1% probability
186 [ns] Not significant
187

188 For the variable NGRS, there was no significant difference between the cultivars only in the
189 concentrations of 1,000 eggs/plant and 16,000 eggs/plant. In all other concentrations, the
190 HTV Dom Luiz cultivar presented the highest number of galls compared to the cultivar
191 Verdão (Table 3).
192

193 **Table 3.** Scott-Knott grouping test of the number of galls in the root system (NGRS), number
194 of plants (NP), number of fruits (NF) and weight of 100 fruits (WF) in two coriander cultivar
195 inoculated with six concentrations of *Meloidogyne incognita* race 1 inoculum, cultivated in
196 greenhouse.
197

Variables	**Concentration**	**Cultivars**	
		Verdão	**HTV Dom Luiz**
NGRS	0	-	-
	1,000	10.50 a	10.75 a
	2,000	10.75 a	14.00 b
	4,000	7.00 a	10.75 b
	8,000	2.50 a	6.75 b
	16,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
NP	0	1.00 a	1.00 a
	1,000	1.00 a	1.00 a
	2,000	1.00 a	1.00 a
	4,000	0.75 a	1.00 b
	8,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
	16,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
NF	0	187.25 b	68.25 a
	1,000	259.75 b	67.25 a
	2,000	129.25 b	31.25 a
	4,000	199.00 b	63.75 a
	8,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
	16,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
WF (grams)	0	1.37 a	1.13 a
	1,000	1.36 a	1.11 a
	2,000	1.05 a	1.05 a

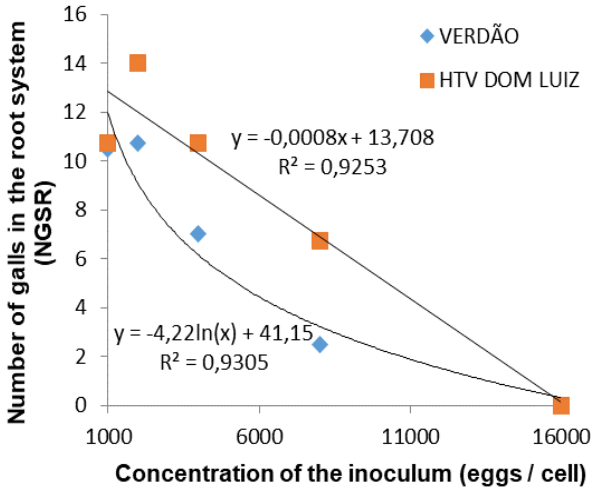
4,000	1.52 b	1.01 a
8,000	0.00 a	0.00 a
16.000	0.00 a	0.00 a

Means followed by the same lowercase letter in the row did not differ statistically by the Scott-Knott test at 5% probability.

In the number of plants that completed the life cycle, in both cultivars, the concentrations of 8,000 and 16,000 eggs/plant did not allow plant survival, thus obtaining the lowest averages for this variable. For the remaining concentrations, there was no variation within or between cultivars, except in 4,000 eggs/plant where the cultivar Verdão obtained a lower average than the cultivar HTV Dom Luiz. In addition, the average was lower than those obtained for the concentrations of 0, 1,000, and 2,000 eggs/plant. Regarding the number of fruits, in the concentrations of 0 - 4,000 eggs/plant, Verdão cultivar had a higher number of fruits in relation to HTV Dom Luiz (Table 3).

At the inoculum concentrations of 1,000 and 2,000 eggs/plant, both cultivars obtained the largest number of plants that completed the life cycle, allowing the evaluation of the number of galls in the root system with subsequent transplantation of the individuals selected for recombination and attainment of the new improved population.

Based on the obtained regressions, for the variable NGRS, it is noticed that with the increase of the inoculum concentration there is a reduction of the number of galls in both cultivars, fact justified by the underdevelopment of the plants under high concentrations of the nematode. As for the number of fruits, the cultivar Verdão was higher in the concentration of 1,000 eggs/plant, while with Dom Luiz HTV, the highest yields of fruits were obtained in concentrations of 0, 1,000 and 4,000 eggs/plant. In both cultivars, there was no fruit yield in the concentrations of 8,000 and 16,000 eggs/plant, for the plants did not survive until the reproductive phase. By means of the obtained results, it is observed that the concentration of 1,000 eggs/plant allows a greater number of fruits for both cultivars (Figure 2).



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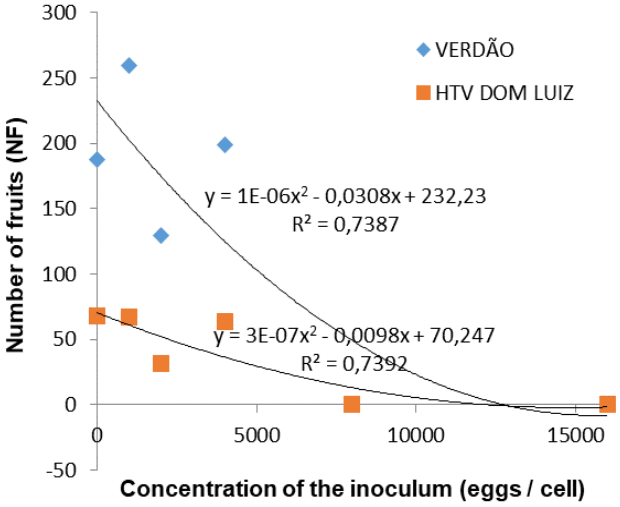

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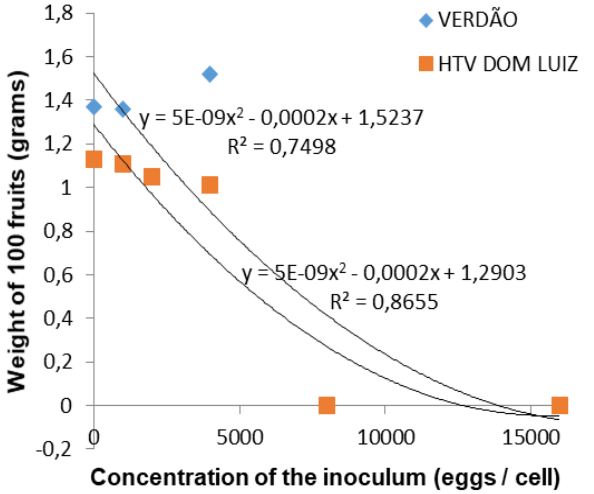

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229 **Figure 2.** Number of galls in the root system (NGRS), number of fruits (NF) and fruit weight
230 of Verdão and HTV Dom Luiz cultivars, as a result of different inoculum concentrations.

As for the weight of 100 fruits, the highest means obtained in cultivar Verdão were at concentrations 0, 1,000, and 4,000 eggs/plant. In both cultivars Verdão and HTV Dom Luiz, the lowest fruit weight averages were obtained at concentrations of 8,000 and 16,000 eggs/plant, due to the death of the plants caused by the intense attack of the pathogen (Figure 2).

In several crops, the production reduction is reported due to the presence of *M. incognita*, as in the case of soybeans, where losses of 20% to 30% of production are estimated [26]. However, in the present work, it was observed that for both the number of fruits and the weight of the 100 fruits, the presence of the pathogen up to the concentration of 4,000 eggs/plant did not influence the production and productivity when compared to the control, concentration 0. Possibly, after transplantation to the 2 L pots, plants were able to reestablish the root system and shoot development, not interfering with the flowering and fruit filling. By means of these results, depending on the intensity of the pathogen in a given area of cultivation, it is possible to produce coriander fruits in soils contaminated by *M. incognita* race 1.

As for pollen viability, acetic Carmine and Alexander dyes reacted to the pollen grains, and consequently staining them. As for the tetrazolium solutions, regardless of concentration (1%; 0.75%; 0.50% and 0.25%), they did not stain the pollen at any intensity of red (Figure 3).

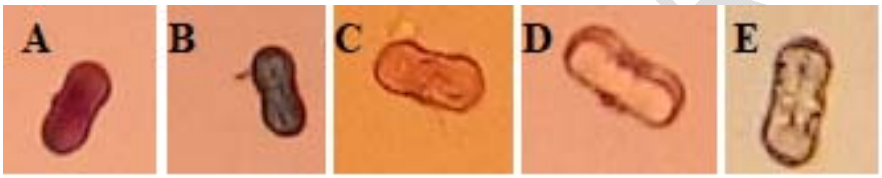

Figure 3. Coriander pollen grains stained with different dyes. Alexander solution, A) viable pollen grain, B) non-viable pollen grain. Acetic Carmine, C) viable pollen grain, D) non-viable pollen grain. Tetrazolium solution, E) non-viable pollen grain.

The results obtained for the tetrazolium solutions do not corroborate other studies with the same concentrations used in the present study for eggplant [18] and even in concentrations well below as 0.075% in wild passion fruit [27], where tetrazolium was efficient to stain the viable pollens. It is possible that there is some impediment to the penetration of tetrazolium in the structure of the coriander pollen grain, since according to [28], the tetrazolium test is reliable in distinguishing viable and non-viable pollen due to the reaction with the enzyme dehydrogenase of the malic acid that reduces the tetrazolium salt in living tissues where there are ions of H^+ forming a red compound, being related to the cellular respiration of the pollen.

As fruit yield was verified in the present study, and the plants were managed in a greenhouse where there was no entry of pollinators, it is possible to state that the fruits were obtained from pollination (possibly self-pollination) with the pollens from evaluated plants. Thus, the tetrazolium solutions used were not efficient in distinguishing viable and non-viable pollens in coriander.

The analysis of variance showed triple interaction (cultivars X inoculum concentrations X dyes) significant at 1% probability. The experimental coefficient of variation was 5.28% (Table 4). The value obtained for the CV% approached that obtained by Santos et al. (2016), which was 3.82%, being considered a low CV% [29].

Table 4. Summary of variance analysis of the percentage of stained pollen grains from two coriander cultivars inoculated with four inoculum concentrations of *Meloidogyne incognita* race 1.

SV	DF	MS
		% of stained pollen grains
Block	3	26.96
Genotypes	1	237.62**
Concentrations	3	95.52*
Dyes	1	22.56ns
Genotypes*Concentrations	3	171.36**
Genotypes*Dyes	1	19.51ns
Concentrations*Dyes	3	97.53*
Genotypes*Concentrations*Dyes	3	181.42**
Error	45	25.10
CV (%)		5.28
Mean		94.82

* Significant at 5% probability
** Significant at 1% probability
ns Not significant.

There were significant differences between the cultivars when developed within concentrations of inoculum and dyes, only for the acetic Carmine dye at the concentration of 1,000 eggs plant, where the HTV Dom Luiz cultivar had a higher percentage of stained pollen grains and were, therefore, considered viable (Table 5).

Table 5. Scott-Knott's grouping test of the percentage of pollen grains stained with two dyes of two coriander cultivars inoculated with four inoculum concentrations of *Meloidogyne incognita* race 1 grown under greenhouse conditions.

Cultivars	Inoculum Concentrations	Dyes	
		Acetic Carmine	Alexander
Verdão	0	96.50 a A β	93.67 a A α
	1,000	75.00 a A α	94.50 b A α
	2,000	97.67 a A β	95.50 a A α
	4,000	97.83 a A β	92.50 a A α
HTV Dom Luiz	0	97.00 a A α	97.00 a A α
	1,000	99.17 a B α	96.33 a A α
	2,000	92.50 a A α	95.67 a A α

	4,000	98.16 a A α	98.17 a A α

Means followed by the same lowercase letter in the row, upper case for cultivars and Greek for inoculum cultivars in the column do not differ statistically by the Scott-Knott test at 5% probability.

In the decomposition of concentrations within the cultivars and dyes, only the concentration of 1,000 eggs/plant presented a lower percentage of pollen grains stained in relation to the other concentrations in the cultivar Verdão with acetic Carmine dye.

As for the dyes, there was variation within the cultivar Verdão at the concentration of 1,000 eggs/plant, where acetic Carmine showed a smaller number of grains stained in relation to Alexander. In the study with cane-do-brejo, the lowest values of pollen stained for acetic Carmine and Acid Fuchsin were also observed [7].

Due to the obtained results, both tested dyes can be used, independently of the concentration of the inoculum used, because the lowest percentage of viable pollen was 75% obtained for the cultivar Verdão at the concentration of 1,000 eggs/plant. [30], when working with passion fruit, an allogamous species, consider pollen viability high when values above 70% are obtained, where there is no compromise of breeding work.

In the evaluation of the pollen in vitro viability, none of the used media allowed pollen germination. The media were tested in the order in which they are found in Table 1. Initially, the means proposed by [31] and [18] were tested. As none of the means presented development of the pollinic tube, mean adaptation was tested in order to verify one that promoted pollen germination, for several factors influence the germination of pollen in vitro from the temperature and period of incubation to the micro and macronutrients in the culture medium, according to [32].

In the first alteration (C medium), the beginning of the pollen tube elongation was observed after 24 hours of incubation at 25°C. In order to verify if a longer incubation period was necessary, the evaluation was extended for a further 48 hours, observing every 24 hours, totaling 72 hours of observation. However, there was no progression of the pollen elongation, and the length obtained was insufficient to consider the pollen as germinated, considering the criterion proposed by [33] in which the germinated pollen must have a pollen tube length equal to or greater than the diameter of the pollen itself.

In order to identify an efficient medium in the germination of coriander pollen grains in vitro, adaptations were made in the C medium, varying the concentrations of salts, sucrose, boric acid and phytagel, since according to [34] the types and concentrations of sugar and boron are important in the composition of the culture medium. Although G, I and J media showed the beginning of development of the pollen tube, there was no further growth (Figure 4).

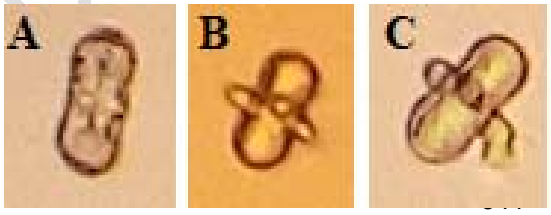

Figure 4. Evaluation of the development of the pollen tube cultivated in vitro. A) Absence of tube emission, result obtained for most of the media tested; B) beginning of development of

the pollen tube, result obtained in G, I and J media; C) elongation of the pollen tube, observed in C medium.

Based on the results obtained, there is a need for new studies that seek to identify the factor that is making it impossible to develop the in vitro pollen tube of coriander pollen grains. C medium, presented in this study, can be used as base medium, altering both the sugar and boron as well as the other salt concentrations, and the pH values of the medium. In addition to the concentrations of sugar and boron, pH is a factor that influences the germination of pollen, a fact verified by [31] evaluating media with 3.5 - 6.5 pH in citrus, who verified a linear growth of the number of pollen grains germinated as the pH increased up to the level of 6.5 for the cultivar Pêra and Natal. However, in the cultivar Valencia, the best results were obtained at pH around 5.

5. CONCLUSION

There is a possibility of inoculation in the egg sowing of 1,000-4,000 eggs/cells of *M. incognita* race 1 to evaluate the reaction of coriander genotypes, allowing the quantification of galls and transplantation of the selected plants into pots, directing them to the recombination in open field, since the evaluation based on the number of galls is a non-destructive method and the presence of the pathogen did not compromise the pollen viability and coriander fruit yield in the surviving plants evaluated.

Seed inoculation and evaluation at 30 days post inoculation provides a 50% reduction of the time required in the selection procedures in which inoculation is performed at 15 days after sowing and evaluation at 45 days post inoculation. In addition, the evaluation through the number of galls - in the early cycles - allows the recombination in the same cycle of the selection, making possible the realization of three selective cycles in a year, thus reducing cost and time to obtain superior genotypes resistant to the nematode.

Among the dyes used to verify pollen viability, acetic Carmine and Alexander solution were efficient in differentiating viable pollens from nonviable ones, and could be used to verify pollen viability in coriander. None of the tetrazolium concentrations stained the coriander pollen.

The culture media used for in vitro germination of the pollen grains did not allow the development of the pollen tube, and new studies must be continued in order to adjust a suitable medium for the coriander culture. C medium becomes an option for continuation.

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