

6th Annual Conference on

MICROBIOLOGY

&

Annual Conference on

MICROBES AND BENEFICIAL MICROBES

October 16-17, 2017 Baltimore, USA

Variation in root nodules on legume root treated with rhizopine and inoculated with rhizopine and non-rhizopine *Rhizobia* Species**Chikezie I Owuama**

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Some *Rhizobial* species carry symbiotic plasmids which contain rhizopine genes (*mosA*, *mosB* and *mosC*). Rhizopine (3-O-methyl scyllo-inosamine) producing *Rhizobial* strains enhance legume roots nodulation. Nodule formation in legume roots enhances nitrogen fixation and consequently feed or fodder yield. Treatment of lucerne roots with rhizopine and inoculating with rhizopine producing *Sinorhizobium meliloti* strain (L5-30) and non-producing *Rhizobial* strain (Rm1021) showed variation in the time of appearance and number of nodules produced on the roots. Nodules were first observed six days after inoculation of rhizopine treated and non-treated lucerne roots with either *Rhizobial* strain L5-30 or Rm1021. Significantly, more nodules were later (between 14 and 30 days) produced in lucerne roots treated with rhizopine than those not treated with rhizopine.

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