

Accommodation

There are a number of hotels and some budget accommodation within walking distance of the meeting.

The World Congress on Toxinology website has information on accommodation:

http://www.toxinology.net/ist_congress/men2sub4.htm

(you might find this doesn't work with some versions of Netscape)

Please make your own arrangements.

Abstract instructions:

Abstracts should fit in a rectangular box 175 mm wide by 120 mm high, with Times Roman font at 10 pt size. Title should be centred in all capitals, followed by a blank line, authors and their affiliations, blank line then text fully justified. Save as a word file (.doc) and email to David Saint, or save on disk and mail with registration.

MEASUREMENT OF LIPID-PROTEIN INTERACTIONS USING THE SURFACE PLASMON RESONANCE BIOSENSOR

W.H. Sawyer and O.V. Rajaram

Russell Grimwade School of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010

Isolations from water and tubers collected from commercial potato washing plants showed that three *Erwinia* bacterium *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora* (Ecc), *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *atroseptica* (Eca) and *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (Echrys) caused tuber soft rot in South Australia. Fifty six South Australian isolates were sent to Scotland for identification, 77% of these *Erwinia* isolates were sourced from tubers, 18% from wash water samples and 5% from potato stems. Of the 43 *Erwinia* isolated from tubers 88.4% were identified as Ecc and 11.6% as Eca. Of the 10 isolates sourced from water samples 40% were identified as Ecc, 40% as Eca, 10% as E.chrys and 10% as other *Erwinia* species. All 3 isolates recovered from potato stems were identified as Eca. Four washing plants in South Australia were monitored to determine the level of *Erwinia* in wash water samples and to determine where tubers were becoming infected in the washing production line. Tubers were sampled from the main areas of the washing plant: the field bins, initial wash, tumbler, underneath final rinse sprays bars and from the end line. Collected tubers were induced to rot by maintaining them at 100% relative humidity for 3 days at 25°C.

After incubation tubers were assessed for incidence and severity of tuber soft rot on a scale from 0 to 5, where 0 = no signs of soft rot, 1 = lenticel infection only, 2 = less than ¼ surface area (SA) affected with soft rot, 3 = ¼ - ½ SA affected with soft rot, 4 = ½ - ¾ SA affected with soft rot and 5 = greater than ¾ SA affected by soft rot. Tubers were often contaminated in the field, with 73% of all field bin samples having a low level of rot, with the average incidence and severity of field bin tubers being 26% and 0.7 respectively. However most tubers became infected when they were immersed in water in the initial wash and tumbler region. Average initial wash soft rot incidences and severity were 72% and 2.3, respectively. Average incidence and severity of soft rot in tubers selected from the tumbler region were 87% and 2.8, respectively.