

Rapid *in vitro* Screening Method for Evaluation of Rice Genotypes against Blast Disease

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ABSTRACT

Through the use of standard assays, like Uniform Blast Nursery (UBN) it is difficult to screen the varieties for blast resistance round the year. It is also laborious and time consuming to screen the plants under natural conditions. Use of the spot inoculation technique on a detached leaf would allow simultaneous testing of multiple fungal isolates on the same plant in the laboratory. This could shorten the time for development of broad-spectrum blast resistant cultivars. The spot inoculation method allows determination of pathogenicity of *M. grisea* in a controlled environment. All operations, such as fungal culture, inoculation and observations of disease development, can be performed in the laboratory.

Key words : Inoculation, *Magnaporthe grisea*, Pathosystem, Phenotype, Rice Blast, Screening