

**Title** Inhibitory influence of inorganic salts on banana postharvest pathogens and preliminary application to control crown rot

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#### **Abstract**

*Lasiodiplodia theobromae*, *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*, *Colletotrichum musae*, *C. gloeosporioides*, *Fusarium verticillioides*, and *F. oxysporum* were screened in vitro for sensitivity to Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, CaCl<sub>2</sub>, NaCl, and NaClO. The spore germination of all pathogens was completely inhibited by Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 4 g/l, NaClO 5 g/l, and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, CaCl<sub>2</sub>, and NaCl 6g/l each. Dipping the bananas for 10–15 min in these concentrations reduced the incidence of crown rot (compared with the untreated fruits) 17 days after harvest in fruits treated with NaClO by 67%, with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> by 62%, with NaCl by 38%, and with CaCl<sub>2</sub> by 33%. Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>-treated fruits had the same incidence of crown rot as untreated fruits.