

**Title** Identity and pathogenicity of *Fusarium* Spp. isolated from stored potatoes in Iran  
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#### **Abstract**

*Fusarium* spp. are common pathogens of potato, causing wilts on plants and dry rot on stored tubers in Hamedan and Ardabil provinces, two of the largest areas of potato plantation in Iran. However, there were conflicting reports on the identity and pathogenicity of the *Fusarium* species. The objectives in this study were to isolate and identify diseasecausing *Fusarium* spp. from infected potato tubers, and to ascertain their pathogenicity. Sixty-three isolates of *Fusarium* were obtained from potato tubers collected from Hamedan and Ardabil provinces and identified through morphological characters as *F. solani*, *F. verticillioides*, *F. culmorum*, *F. lateritium*, *F. equiseti*, *F. sambucinum*, and *F. oxysporum*. All of these 63 isolates were evaluated for their pathogenicity on healthy potato tubers. The results of the pathogenicity test revealed that *F. solani* isolates FSO24, FSO112, FSO208 and *F. oxysporum* isolates FOX81 and FOX111 were the most damaging causing typical dry rot symptoms. Molecular identification and mycotoxin-producing ability of *Fusarium* spp. are being investigated.