

Title *Cystofilobasidium infirmominiatum* as a biocontrol agent of postharvest diseases on apples and citrus

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Citation ISHS Acta Horticulturae 905:169-180.2011.

Keywords biocontrol yeasts citrus apple

Abstract

two psychotrophic yeasts isolated from the surface of cold stored lemons have been selected as biocontrol agents of most common postharvest diseases of apples and citrus, during cold storage. they were identified as *cystofilobasidium infirmominiatum* and *leucosporidium scottii*. both yeasts resulted resistant to three of the fungicides most frequently used in postharvest applications, so a combination of the antagonists with fungicide could be used as part of an integrated management practice. however, the growth of both of them resulted affected by the presence of chitosan, so a combination of treatments would be impracticable. both antagonists were characterized but mechanisms involved in biocontrol activity could not be fully understood. nitrogen competition seemed to play a role but further studies are required to get a final conclusion.