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# Screening of Faba Bean Lines against Black Root Rot Caused by Fusarium solani



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#### Abstract

Faba bean root rot caused by Fusarium solani is one of the most important diseases constraining its production in the major growing areas in Ethiopia. Thirty faba bean lines obtained from Kulumsa Agricultural Research Center were evaluated for resistance against root rot on a well developed sick plot at Ambo Plant Protection Research Center for two consecutive years. Seeds of the accessions were sown in single and double rows. Mortality was recorded at emergence, seedling, podding and maturity. Results showed that 10 of the accessions (EH07005, EH07017, EH07019, EH07020, EH07022, EH07024, EH07025, EH07026, OBSE and GEBELECHO) were found to be moderately susceptible while the remaining 20 showed highly susceptible reactions. The moderately susceptible accessions may be considered for further improvement. The highly susceptible accessions should not be used in faba bean improvement programs for vertisols.

#### Introduction

The total cultivated land allocated for faba bean in Ethiopia is 457,559 ha with total production of 7, 147,960 quintals and the national average yield is 15.62 quintals/ha [1]. The production of faba bean (*Vicia faba* L) is constrained by several biotic and abiotic stresses and black root rot caused by Fusarim solani (Mart) Appel & Wollenw is one of the most important biotic stresses in the major faba bean growing areas [2,3]. Field grown beans are highly destructed by *Fusarium solani* [4]. According to Stewart & Dagnachew [5] and Habtu & Dereje [6], in severe conditions on farmers' fields, annual yield loss due to wilt and root rots can reach up to 70%. When favorable conditions prevail and sever infections occur, the disease can cause complete crop loss [7].

Although there are management options such as rotation with non-susceptible crops, good soil drainage and use of disease free or fungicide treated seeds, none of these are able to contain the disease adequately in the field [8]. Use of resistant varieties is the most inexpensive and sustainable management option for the control of faba bean root rots. As a result of efforts made through national and regional faba bean improvement programs, four resistant varieties: Wayu (Wayu 89-5), Selale (Selale Kasim 91-13), Lalo (Selale Kasim 89-4) and Dagm (Grarjarso 89-8) were developed and released in 2002 [9]. Through time, varietal resistances tend to break. To overcome this problem, screening of more varieties is invaluable. The objective of this study was therefore to evaluate nationally available faba bean lines for resistance to the disease especially in vertisols.

#### **Materials and Methods**

Thirty F2 generation faba bean lines obtained from Kulumsa Agricultural Research Center (Table 1) were evaluated in a well developed sick plot at Ambo Plant Protection Research Center. To increase the inoculums load of the sick plot, the Pathogen was artificially mass produced on faba bean seeds and applied to the sick plot. In addition to this, a susceptible local faba bean variety "kassa" was sown during the short rainy season and ploughed to be incorporated into the soil after showing symptoms of the disease. Twenty nine of the lines were sown on plot size of 2m x 0.8 m with four rows per entry and 20 seeds per row while one line (EHO 7001) was sown in two rows. The distance between plants was 10cm. The susceptible check (kassa) was planted every two test rows. Incidence was recorded at emergence, seedling podding, and maturity and mortality was assessed using 1-9 scale [10]. DAP was applied at a rate of 100kg/ha at planting. The experiment was conducted during two consecutive main rain seasons of 2009/10 and 2010/11.

## **Results and Discussion**

 Table 1: Reaction of faba bean lines for root rot caused by F. solani as evaluated in sick plot during the main rainy seasons of 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

Line	Disease Score (1-9) Scale and % Mortality				Mean Score	Mean Mortality%	Reaction
	2009/2010		2010/2011				
	Score	Mortality	Score	Mortality			
EH07001	9	68.07	7	45.24	8	56.65	Highly susceptible
EH07002	9	53.85	8	85	8.5	69.42	Highly susceptibl
EH07003	9	96.52	8	50.63	8.5	73.58	Highly susceptibl
EH07004	9	94.81	8	70.51	8.5	82.66	Highly susceptibl
EH07005	7	44.59	8	65.43	7.5	55.01	Moderatel susceptibl
EH07006	9	92.5	7	40.51	8	66.5	Highly susceptibl
EH07007	9	53.89	8	66.67	8.5	60.28	Highly susceptibl
EH07008	9	90	7	50	8	70	Highly susceptibl
EH07009	9	95.36	7	48.75	8	72.06	Highly susceptibl
EH07010	9	90	7	41.98	8	65.99	Highly susceptibl
EH07011	9	92.41	9	83.12	9	87.76	Highly susceptibl
EH07012	9	58.23	9	91.25	9	74.74	Highly susceptibl
EH07013	9	93.38	8	72.15	8.5	82.76	Highly susceptibl
EH07014	9	93.33	8	52.5	8.5	72.92	Highly susceptibl
EH07015	9	100	9	81.16	9	90.58	Highly susceptibl
EH07016	9	94.64	8	60	8.5	77.32	Highly susceptibl
EH07017	9	97.01	6	29.73	7.5	63.37	Moderatel susceptibl
EH07018	9	64.91	7	44.59	8	54.75	Highly susceptibl
EH07019	9	93.1	6	29.87	7.5	61.49	Moderatel susceptibl
EH07020	9	98.68	6	35	7.5	66.84	Moderatel susceptibl
EH07021	9	72.57	7	41.33	8	56.95	Highly susceptibl
EH07022	9	94.67	6	29.87	7.5	62.27	Moderatel susceptibl
EH07023	9	97.06	7	38.36	8	67.71	Highly susceptibl

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EH07024	7	40.26	7	42.86	7	41.56	Moderately susceptible
EH07025	9	70	5	17.81	7	43.9	Moderately susceptible
EH07026	9	97.06	6	27.14	7.5	62.1	Moderately susceptible
МОТТІ	9	94.29	7	41.18	8	67.73	Highly susceptible
GEBELECHO	9	92.65	6	33.82	7.5	63.24	Moderately susceptible
OBSE	9	88.24	6	33.82	7.5	61.03	Moderately susceptible
WOLKI	9	68.63	9	69.86	9	69.25	Highly susceptible

The reactions of the evaluated faba bean lines are given in table 1. Ten of the lines showed a moderately susceptible reaction with mean disease score of 6-7 (mortality of 20 -50 %). The remaining 20 lines were highly susceptible to root rot due to Fusarium solani with mean score of 8-9 (mortality of >50%). The evaluated lines are susceptible to the disease. However, in case of good agronomic performances such as high yield, the moderately susceptible lines may be considered for further improvement in terms of resistance to root rot. The highly susceptible lines should not be used in faba bean improvement programs for vertisols. In general, from the year 2000- 2006, 1578 entries were tested out of which 82 showed resistances to root rot. However, only 19 lines showing less than 20% mortality were selected for further improvement by breeders [11]. The current screening evaluated only 30 lines which is much less compared to previous studies. The study revealed that almost all the lines are susceptible to the root rot pathogen, indicating that there is a need to strengthen the search for more root rot resistant varieties.

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