

Differential behaviour of *Magnaporthe oryzae* in the vicinity and on the host surface of tolerant and susceptible Rice varieties

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This study characterizes the behaviour of *Magnaporthe oryzae* causing blast of rice in the vicinity and on the leaf surface of the tolerant host Satabdi and susceptible host Nipponbare. The pathogen showed more hyphal growth towards Nipponbare seedlings than towards Satabdi. In *in vitro* assays *M. oryzae* hyphae reached the Nipponbare seedling within 72 hours post inoculation. On the host leaf surface *M. oryzae* hyphae showed more profuse growth and intimate contact with host surface on Nipponbare leaf than Satabdi. Bulbous hyphopodia were formed on Nipponbare leaves from the hyphal tips within 48 hours post inoculation whereas on Satabdi leaves no hyphopodia were formed. Formation of hyphopodia on rice leaves from hyphae of *M. oryzae* during infection of Nipponbare leaves is being reported for the first time.

Key words: Hyphal behaviour, *Magnaporthe oryzae*, rice, hyphopodia, host-pathogen interaction