

BIOSTIMULATED REDOX PROCESSES IN SOILS DISINFESTED WITH ETHANOL SOLUTION

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Introduction

The chlorinated fumigants chloropicrin (trichloronitromethane) and 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D) are major fumigants used in Japan to control soil-borne diseases in crops such as cucumbers, gingers, tomatoes, melons, green peppers, etc. Although these two fumigants are not recognized as stratospheric ozone-depleting substances such as methyl bromide, their rapid volatilization causes air pollution that is a public health concern. Biological Soil Disinfestations (BSDs) with organic materials such as wheat bran, rice bran or sugarcane molasses have been strenuously examined as an alternative to chemical soil fumigations in Japan. Hitherto known factors for the effects of BSDs are assumed to be decreasing in redox potential (Eh), O₂ concentration and pH, and generated-organic acids such as acetic acid and butyric acid. However, the fungicidal activity in soil amended with the organic materials has not been explained adequately by only these factors. The purposes of our study were to develop the new fumigation technique with low concentration of ethanol solution, and to elucidate the fungicidal mechanisms by evaluating metal ions dynamics in soil solutions under biostimulated anoxic condition with diluted ethanol solution.

Materials and methods

Laboratory experiments were conducted to fill up polypropylene containers (15.4 cm in height, 17.0 cm in width and length with an inner dimension, and ca. 4.45 L with an internal volume) with fresh soils (4 kg, Hydric Hapludand soil at the NIAES, Tsukuba and 6.5 kg Loamy Sand at Sousa, Chiba), and to place each 3 porous cups for soil water sampling and the inoculum bag to depth of 10 cm from the soil surface. Water contents of fresh Hydric Hapludand soil and Loamy Sand were 28.9 and 15.4 %, respectively. Given amounts of diluted ethanol solutions (0.0, 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 v/v%) were applied at a volume of 1.0 L to each container. For a comparison purpose, 30 g of rice bran and 1.0 L of water were applied to other containers. These containers were maintained at 20 and 30 °C for 14 days in the incubators.

For sequential changes of physicochemical properties of soils by applying diluted ethanol, we focused on soil pH, Eh and O₂ concentrations in soils or soil waters. Soil pH and Eh were measured with multiple electrodes (Orion 3-Star Portable pH/ORP/Temperature Meter, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) and oxygen concentrations in soils or soil waters were measured with Oxygen Sensor Spectrometer (USB4000-FL-450 Spectrofluorometer and FOXY-T1000-RTD, Ocean Optics, Inc.) consecutively every 30 minutes.

7 and 14 days after treatment, soil solutions were withdrawn by porous cups and analyzed for organic acids and metals. The amounts of organic acids and metals were analyzed using High-Performance Liquid Chromatography equipped with a conductometric detector (HPLC; SCL-10A, CDD-6A Shimadzu) and Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES: VARIAN VISTA-Pro), respectively. The inoculum bags were retrieved, and viable pathogen was counted 7 and 14 days after treatment.

Results and discussion

The ethanol seems to act as an initiator to the reduced condition of soils and several phase reaction steps take place (Fig. 1). Acetic acid was detected in ethanol treatment. Concentration of other organic acids was negligibly low. In water treatment, no organic acids were detected (data not shown). These concentrations of organic acids had not sufficient fungicidal activity to the pathogen. Iron (Fe) and Manganese (Mn) are important and abundant element in the soil environment. Microbially stimulated reductive condition with ethanol solution has been linked to the release of Fe and Mn to soil water (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the pathogen was effectively killed in Mn^{2+} and Fe^{2+} solution. Therefore, we suggested Fe^{2+} and Mn^{2+} were important factors that incite cell death of the pathogen in this fumigation technique. In contrast to soil water of the Hydric Hapludand soil, that of Loamy Sand contained high concentrations of Fe and Mn, which raises the question how multiple metal releases are effected by microbial activities under changing redox conditions. Few studies have addressed the potential impact of metal dynamics on fungicidal activity of redox sensitive elements. This study linked fungicidal activity with metal dynamics in field soils under biostimulated reductive conditions with ethanol.

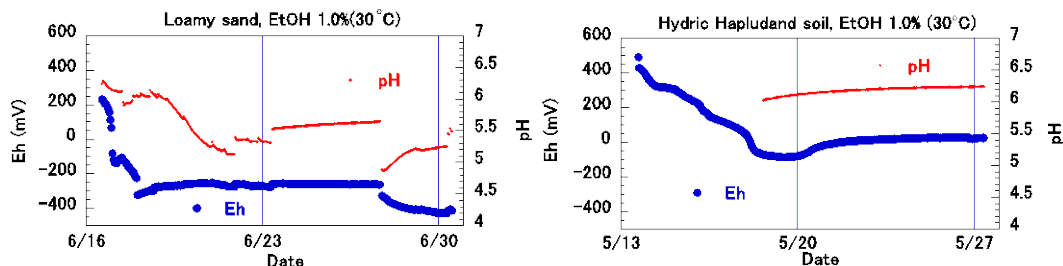


Fig.1 Transitions of Eh and pH treated with 1.0% ethanol solution

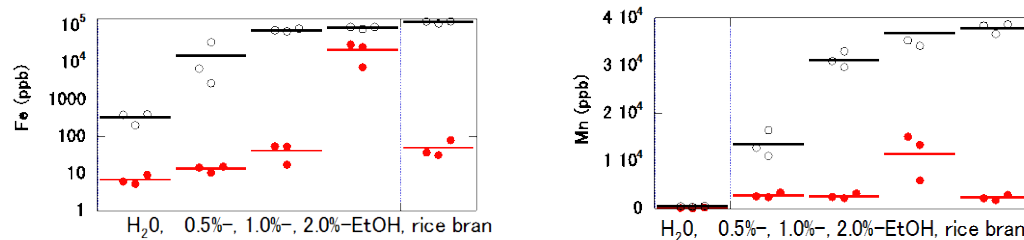


Fig. 2 Fe and Mn concentrations in soil water 14 days after treatment

○ : loamy sand, ● : hydric hapludand soil

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 [**McKown, Clem** \(1\) – Paladin® - Dimethyl Disulfide as a Replacement Soil Fumigant for Methyl Bromide.](#)

 [**Owens, Clay** \(2\) – Paladin® U. S. Registration and UPI Paladin ® Soil Fumigation Program.](#)

 [**McAvoy, Theodore** \(3\) – Retention and Efficacy of Drip Applied Dimethyl Disulfide under VIF and TIF Mulches.](#)

 [**Othman, Mona** \(4\) – Dimethyl Disulfide Plus Chloropicrin as a Methyl Bromide Alternative for Strawberry Production.](#)

 [**Cabrera, J. Alfonsos** \(5\) – Factors Affecting the Nematicides Activity of Dimethyl Disulfide.](#)

 [**Freeman, Josh** \(6\) – Retention and Efficacy of Dimethyl Disulfide Under Virtually and Totally Impermeable Films.](#)

 [**Spadafora, V. J.** \(7\) – Iodomethane \(Midas®\) Soil Fumigant Update – 2010.](#)

 [**Poss, Andrew J.** \(8\) – MeI/HFC-245fa Azetrope: a Drop in Replacement for MeBr.](#)

 [**McAvoy, Theodore** \(9\) – Retention and Efficacy if Methyl Iodide Under Virtually and Totally Impermeable Film.](#)

[!\[\]\(21199eb166cc97331a0c54c649195dcc_img.jpg\) **Burger, Greg J.** \(10\) – Crop Guard® as a Nematicide on Food Crops in South Africa.](#)

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) **Hensley, Jerry** \(11\) -- Multiguard Protect® EC Registration for Nematode Control in Turf.](#)

[!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\) **Gao, Suduan** \(12\) – Evaluation of TIF to Reduce Fumigant Emissions and the Potential to Use Reduced Rates.](#)

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\) **Khan, Afiquar** \(13\) – Chloropicrin Emission Reduction by Using Totally Impermeable Film.](#)

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) **Ajwa, H.** \(14\) – Chloropicrin and 1,3-Dichloropropene Emissions Reductions by Using Totally Impermeable Film.](#)

[!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4_img.jpg\) **Chow, Edgar** \(15\) – TIF Mulch Film – the Leading Fumigant Emission Tool.](#)

[!\[\]\(ec9132f1d27c8919987d92907322654d_img.jpg\) **Noling, Joseph W.** \(16\) – VIF Mulches, Optimized Irrigation and Tillage Practices for Fumigant Use in Florida Strawberry.](#)

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2_img.jpg\) **Dew, J. Thurman** \(17\) – Chloropicrin and PCN in UK Soils – Pilot Study 2010.](#)

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a_img.jpg\) **Smith, Charles** \(18\) – Overview of Recent Fumigant Emissions Research.](#)

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241_img.jpg\) **Triky-Dotan, Shachaf** \(19\) – Dissipation of Soil Fumigants Following Repeated Applications.](#)

[!\[\]\(758ebdf4629c903da74c2e079717ae32_img.jpg\) **Stanghellini, Mike** \(20\) – A Comprehensive Review of Chloropicrin Field Volatility Studies.](#)

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[!\[\]\(a8f9309f944226d1420f5fed22e2b6e6_img.jpg\) **Shennan, Carol** \(23\) – Optimizing Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation for Strawberry Production in California.](#)

[!\[\]\(248b91fcdac4810ffd15cf33fb6aec6f_img.jpg\) **Klonsky, Karen** \(24\) – Economic Performance of Alternative Preplant Fumigation Treatments for Almonds.](#)

[!\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\) **Beede, R. H.** \(25\) -- Update on a Preplant Methyl Bromide Alternatives Trial in a Walnut Replant Site.](#)

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- [!\[\]\(3da2b303d29c1ea489bbe26a3f5ac664_img.jpg\) **Hanson, Bradley D.** \(27\) – Pacific Area-wide Program: Current Status of the California Perennial Nursery Sector.](#)
- [!\[\]\(9421cea5a5b5319f79b58962509475ab_img.jpg\) **Browne, Greg** \(28\) – Integrated Pre-plant Alternatives to Methyl Bromide for Almonds and Stone Fruits.](#)
- [!\[\]\(17cce402a0380c36f25e02ecf91578f5_img.jpg\) **Wieland, Jerry** \(29\) – *Fusarium* and *Pythium* Populations after Planting in Fumigated Plots.](#)
- [!\[\]\(1086da34995924f924c8e8e23387d139_img.jpg\) **Walters, Thomas** \(30\) – Methyl Bromide Alternatives Trials in Raspberry Nurseries.](#)
- [!\[\]\(ffa6dd4cd8800071ccc1a355540c540c_img.jpg\) **Wang, Dong** \(31\) – Vineyard Replant Update – Pacific Area-wide Program for Methyl Bromide Alternatives.](#)
- [!\[\]\(dfba61b58454dd961d978e324a1fb5e5_img.jpg\) **Fennimore, Steven A.** \(32\) – Facilitating Adoption of Alternatives to Methyl Bromide in California Strawberries.](#)
- [!\[\]\(9580d03b8c5bd7e23dc602a02886460d_img.jpg\) **Stoddard, Scott** \(33\) – Methyl Bromide Alternatives Show Good Potential for Sweetpotato Hotbeds.](#)
- [!\[\]\(406c76dc95713637836155a54c3b56d5_img.jpg\) **Gerik, James** \(34\) – Calla Lily Production without Methyl Bromide – Pacific Area-wide Program for Methyl Bromide Alternatives.](#)
- [!\[\]\(b950fe96ed6737d8544db83990032195_img.jpg\) **Chellemi, Dan O.** \(35\) – Monitoring Chloropicrin under Diverse Shank Application Scenarios.](#)
- [!\[\]\(ec7b82925343491880a39b127070bd34_img.jpg\) **Noling, Joseph W.** \(36\) – USDA ARS South Atlantic Area-wide Program: Large Scale Field Demonstrations in Florida Strawberry 2009 -2010.](#)
- [!\[\]\(bb20e4cc9af9ca0b97fbe827353956b8_img.jpg\) **MacRae, Andrew** \(37\) – Development and Implementation of Fumigant REDs Training for the Southeast US.](#)
- [!\[\]\(c214ddf0ae2379eaabf8c69e717ce4dc_img.jpg\) **Quicke, Marie** \(38\) – 2010 Methyl Bromide Alternatives: Forest Tree Nurseries in Southern USA.](#)
- [!\[\]\(4ab8b8afe6b00cdef47511259a876ad4_img.jpg\) **MacRae, Andrew** \(39\) – Evaluation of all Components of the 3-WAY System for Use in Central Florida Tomato.](#)
- [!\[\]\(98c88aacf7bacdc4699eadf00b1c0084_img.jpg\) **Welker, Rob** \(40\) – Outreach and New Approaches for Methyl Bromide Alternatives through the USDA Area Wide Project.](#)
- [!\[\]\(8c8472ec338d907500225220409b1481_img.jpg\) **Wang, Dong** \(41\) – Yield and Water Assessment of Strawberry Production in Raised-bed Troughs.](#)
- [!\[\]\(2b5e107f13a13f50a6b1482f36f06f97_img.jpg\) **Noling, Joseph W.** \(42\) – USDA CREES: Methyl Bromide Transitioning in Florida Strawberry Demo Trials 2008 -2010.](#)
- [!\[\]\(39482ed3bcfe2ba50520433d9205a285_img.jpg\) **Highland, H. Brett** \(43\) – MelonCon WG ® and SoilGard 12 G ® Used in a Program as a Methyl Bromide Alternative.](#)

- [!\[\]\(849840539e55921a3851a4ff96d7400d_img.jpg\) **Freeman, Josh** \(44\) – Utilization of Grafted Tomato Seedlings for Bacterial Wilt Resistance in Open Field Production.](#)
- [!\[\]\(c176e0b06f6c5dd85a4598b214d1ebba_img.jpg\) **Louws, Frank** \(45\) – A Multi-Institutional Public and Private Response to Risk Mitigation Measures for Soil Fumigants.](#)
- [!\[\]\(66a18e26647fc145bd9198dd182dd107_img.jpg\) **Noling, Joseph W.** \(46\) – Assessing Crop Impact and Sting Nematode Management in Florida Strawberry.](#)
- [!\[\]\(572bcf30fdd4de64673b94584b7c6eca_img.jpg\) **Anil, Sebastian** \(47\) – Life Cycle Analysis of Pallets and Phytosanitary Treatment Methods.](#)
- [!\[\]\(ba6dc7fecffbf82e7fd414c1c97a1ece_img.jpg\) **MacRae, Andrew** \(48\) – Sustainability of Methyl Bromide Alternatives – Squash Double Crop.](#)
- [!\[\]\(7b0c59a8d567ae8f4c94e1b0dfc0504e_img.jpg\) **Vallad, Gary** \(49\) – Sustainability of Methyl Bromide Alternatives – Tomato and Pepper Initial Crop.](#)
- [!\[\]\(6e7b00b003bc1efbd5a833fe586c1576_img.jpg\) **Schilling, Wes** \(50\)-Controlled Atmosphere Treatments to Control Arthropod Pests of American Dry Cured Hams.](#)
- [!\[\]\(f2e2aef7ad678fd5527dfd3a24e78b6d_img.jpg\) **Johnson, Judy** \(51\) – Development of Radio Frequency Treatments for Dried Pluses.](#)
- [!\[\]\(0bdc169ad27675acfc0a2460ebf11020_img.jpg\) **Burkes, Charles** \(52\) – Mating Disruption for Navel Orangeworm in Central California Year 3.](#)
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- [!\[\]\(8d7540c68f056d32e1f5c277c946b92b_img.jpg\) **Walse, Spencer** \(54\) – Mapping Sulfuryl Fluoride Quarantine Control of *Amyelois transitells* Using Multivariate Modeling.](#)
- [!\[\]\(3bb45e9059d5a505b3fa2f4e5c39e3da_img.jpg\) **Emekci, Mevlut** \(55\) – The Efficacy of Sulfuryl Fluoride Against Egg Stage of the Dried Fruit Beetle.](#)
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- [!\[\]\(86bfe340afcacac49a3dd00ab134ada7_img.jpg\) **Thoms, Ellen** \(57\) - Sulfuryl Fluoride as a Quarantine Treatment for Wood Products.](#)
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- [!\[\]\(1233990ad3f0b7475c568d7bf16af31f_img.jpg\) **Flingelli, Gabriele** \(62\) – Phosphine Fumigation of Green and Yellow Kiwifruit for Quarantine.](#)
- [!\[\]\(18570b67a4686b081406cd3de636c1c3_img.jpg\) **Campbell, James** \(63\) – Impact of Structural Fumigation on Pest Populations in Food Processing Facilities.](#)
- [!\[\]\(411af059a517db12f1097bc63c4fbe36_img.jpg\) **Arthur, Frank** \(64\) – Residual Efficacy of Pyrethrin-Methoprene Aerosols on Packaging Surfaces.](#)
- [!\[\]\(ed2b7fb1e3bd6514676d2ab3c70d5776_img.jpg\) **Holcomb, Mike** \(65\) – An IPM Approach to Methyl Bromide Replacement.](#)
- [!\[\]\(63f22f364560f085b88206f094473649_img.jpg\) **Horn, Pedro** \(66\) – Automated Structural Fumigations with Phosphine Using the Horn Diluphos System.](#)
- [!\[\]\(1167d0d640d4660b041f4c30896eb62c_img.jpg\) **Hartzer, Michelle** \(67\) – Methyl Bromide, Sulfuryl Fluoride and Heat: Effectiveness Against Red Flour Beetle.](#)
- [!\[\]\(e32ea7ee1d8d316e68314dd7b0885d06_img.jpg\) **Hosoda, Ed** \(68\) – Update on the Commercial Acceptance of Profume Gas Fumigation.](#)
- [!\[\]\(5fb1f24875e954b62806996a167f04fe_img.jpg\) **Williamson, Peter** \(69\) – Profume at Low Rates on Large Grain Bunkers for Complete Control.](#)
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- [!\[\]\(4dcc71cec3ea08e94fd945b9c1c7e90b_img.jpg\) **Barnekow, David** \(71\) – Profume Gas Fumigant: US and Global Regulatory Update.](#)
- [!\[\]\(2b1d69386a6edb44816277545cd6b85f_img.jpg\) **Park, Min-Goo** \(72\) - Effect of PH3 + CO2 Mixture as a Quarantine Fumigant in Cut Flowers.](#)
- [!\[\]\(7398a6e6517c1c70369e9b41e0faa04f_img.jpg\) **Falco, Joseph** \(73\) - Large Scale Methyl Bromide Recapture for QPS.](#)
- [!\[\]\(b8a1aa136b4b7f9adf95b51b6a188633_img.jpg\) **Mack, Ron** \(74\) - Efficacy of Radiofrequency Treatment on Asian Longhorned Beetle \(ALB\) and Emerald Ashborer \(EAB\)in Roundwood.](#)
- [!\[\]\(3389610d51787bef082c2c5fa7b771b1_img.jpg\) **Son, Yerim** \(75\) - A Pilot Study to Apply CATTIS Against the Peach Fruit Moth, *Carposina sasakii*, in Apples.](#)
- [!\[\]\(ed0c1c345f68b5466d78c392f4872360_img.jpg\) **Kokalis-Burelle, Nancy** \(76\) - Grafting for Control of *Meloidogyne incognita* on Bell Pepper, Tomato and Melons.](#)
- [!\[\]\(a20afda83a875fed17fe0a6ad97246f8_img.jpg\) **Bausher, Michael** \(77\) - Performance of Grafted Tomatoes in Open Field](#)

[Trials at Two Locations in Florida.](#)

 [**Fennimore, Steven** \(78\) - A Strategy to Sustainably Produce Strawberry without Fumigants.](#)

 [**Sams, Carl** \(79\) - Using Mustard Seed Meal to Biofumigate Strawberry Soil.](#)

 [**Walters, Thomas** \(80\) - Top Ten Things to Know About Methyl Bromide: A Raspberry Nursery Survey.](#)

 [**Lakshman, Dilip** \(81\) - Molecular Identification and Fungicide Tolerance of Rhizoctonia from Turfgrass.](#)

 [**Roskopf, Erin** \(82\) - Evaluation of Alternatives to Methyl Bromide for Ornamental Crop Production in Florida.](#)

 [**Roskopf, Erin** \(83\) - Evaluation of Steam for Nematode and Weed Control in Cut Flower Production in Florida.](#)

 [**Roskopf, Erin** \(84\) - Dvelopment of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation for Florida Vegetable and Flower Production.](#)

 [**Hanson, Bradley** \(85\) - Steam Disinfestation as a Methyl Bromide Alternative in California Cut Flower Nurseries.](#)

 [**Dew, Thurman** \(86\) - Chloropicrin and PCN in UK Soils – Pilot Study 2010.](#)

 [**Qin, Ruijun** \(87\) - Effect of Soil Moisture on Emissions and Behavior of Fumigants in Different Textured Soils.](#)

 [**Hewlett, Thomas** \(88\) - Preparation for Commercial Production of *Pasteuria* spp. to Control Root-Knot Nematode.](#)

 [**Driver, Jim** \(89\) – Evaluation of Non-Fumigant Based and Drip Applied Nematicides to Manage Root-Knot Nematode \(*Meloidogyne* spp.\) on Yellow Squash.](#)

[Back to Home Page.](#)