World Journal of Microbiology & Biotechnology 11, 223–227

Rhizobium leguminosarum inoculation decreases damage to faba bean (*Vicia faba*) caused by broad bean mottle bromovirus and bean yellow mosaic potyvirus

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Faba bean (*Vicia faba*) plants were inoculated with rhizobia and then their sap was infected with broad bean mottle bromovirus (BBMV) or bean yellow mosaic potyvirus (BYMV) in a field experiment. Both viral infections significantly decreased shoot and root dry weight, number of nodules, nodule dry weight, numbers of flowers and pods/plant, total plant N, grain yield and N_2 fixation. However, inoculation with *Rhizobium leguminosarum* significantly increased all these parameters, both in healthy and virus-infected plants. Although BYMV was more destructive than BBMV, inoculation with rhizobia could be used, with other control measures, to limit damage by both viruses.

Key words: *Rhizobium*, seed-borne viruses, *Vicia faba*, viruses.