



Polymorphism in *Metarhizium anisopliae* var. *anisopliae* (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) based on internal transcribed spacer-RFLP, ISSR and intron markers

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ABSTRACT. Isolates of entomopathogenic fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* var. *anisopliae* were characterized using internal transcribed spacer-RFLP, ISSR and intron splice site primers. Thirty-seven isolates were studied, most of which were obtained from the sugar cane pest, *Mahanarva fimbriolata* (Hemiptera: Cercopidae) from Tangará da Serra, Southwest Mato Grosso State, Brazil. Internal transcribed spacer-RFLP did not differentiate the isolates of *M. anisopliae* var. *anisopliae*, while ISSR and intron primers identified three distinct groups. Variability among these groups was 96% for (GTG)₅ and 100% for the other primers. We found considerable genetic variability, even among isolates from the same geographical origin and host.

Key words: *Metarhizium anisopliae*; *Mahanarva fimbriolata*; ITS-RFLP; ISSR; Intron