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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Bacteria as growth-promoting agents for citrus rootstocks

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#### **Abstract**

The microbial community plays an essential role in maintaining the ecological balance of soils. Interactions between microorganisms and plants have a major influence on the nutrition and health of the latter, and growth-promoting rhizobacteria can be used to improve plant development through a wide range of mechanisms. Therefore, the objective of the present study was to evaluate bacteria as growth-promoting agents for citrus rootstocks. A total of 30 bacterial isolates (11 of *Bacillus* spp., 11 actinobacteria, and 8 lactic acid bacteria) were evaluated *in vitro* for indoleacetic acid production, phosphate solubilization, and

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