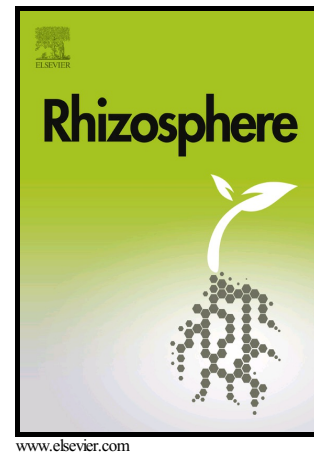


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## **A consortium of rhizobacteria and fungal endophyte suppress the root-knot nematode parasite in tomato**

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### **Abstract**

Biocontrol of root-knot nematode with a consortium of bacteria and fungi is an emerging field with environmental and commercial applications. We inoculated tomato roots with the endophytic fungus *Piriformospora indica*, and two plant-growth-promoting rhizobacteria (*Bacillus pumilus* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens*). We demonstrate the effective suppression of root-knot nematode infection (*Meloidogyne incognita*). The endophyte was found to confer the most to plant immunity to suppress the nematode parasite. Our trio of bio-agents improved

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