

# Diversity of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi in the Rhizosphere of Solaris and Regent Grapevine Plants Treated with Bioproducts

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**The aim of this study was to identify the spores of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) in the rhizosphere of Solaris and Regent grapevine plants grafted onto SO4 rootstock and treated with bioproducts. The bioproducts Ausuma, Bioilsa, manure and BF Ekomix were tested and applied on their own, or combined with standard mineral fertilisation (NPK). The applied bioproducts contributed to an increase in the number of species of mycorrhizal fungi in the rhizosphere soil of the grapevines. The most frequently occurring AMF species was *Claroideoglossum claroideum*. Biopreparation BF Ekomix was a promising agent for increasing the number of AMF spores in the rhizosphere of Regent grapevines. In the rhizosphere of Solaris, a positive influence on the number of spores occurred after the application of Bioilsa.**

## INTRODUCTION

Poland has a temperate climate with relatively cold winters and warm summers. The average air temperatures are around 6°C to 8.5°C in a year, and the annual rainfall is between 500 mm and 700 mm, of which snow constitutes only 5% to 20%. Although Poland is situated in the coldest wine-growing area in Europe, the cultivation of grapevines has been gaining in popularity in recent years. Due to the change in climate and increase in average temperatures, the climatic conditions are becoming more favourable for grape growing in Poland (Kopeć, 2009), and in other countries that have not previously been associated with viticulture (Hannah *et al.*, 2013; Gaidos, 2014). Lower temperatures during the vegetation period compared with those in southern European countries result in a lower sugar content in the fruit, higher acidity and larger amounts of polyphenolic compounds, which also depend on the cultivar (Tarko *et al.*, 2008; Krośniak *et al.*, 2009; Izajasz-Parchańska *et al.*, 2014). The cultivars Solaris and Regent, commonly cultivated in Poland, are classified either as *Vitis vinifera* cultivars (Vitis International Variety Catalogue, 2016) or as inter-intraspecific hybrids (Theocharis *et al.*, 2010). These cultivars are more resistant to frost than most of the original *V. vinifera* cultivars, and have low sensitivity to fungal diseases (Lisek *et al.*, 2016).

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are a group of obligate symbionts belonging to Glomeromycota, which form mutualistic symbioses with about 80% of land plant species on Earth (Smith & Read, 2008; Schüßler & Walker, 2010). These fungi provide several benefits to host plants,

including supplying water and mineral nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, to allow growth under inadequate nutrient supply (Nouri *et al.*, 2014; Thirkell *et al.*, 2016; Prasad *et al.*, 2017). AMF are able to protect host plants against environmental stresses such as water stress, salinity and metal toxicity (Lenoir *et al.*, 2016). The hyphae of these fungi have the ability to penetrate very small pores in the soil because they are thinner than plant roots (Allen, 2011). The hyphae and the glycoprotein glomalin produced by AMF are among the main soil-stability factors (Wright & Upadhyaya, 1998; Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Kohler *et al.*, 2017). Mycorrhizal infection may affect the mineral nutrition of the host plant directly, by enhancing plant growth through nutrient acquisition by the fungus, or indirectly, by modifying transpiration rates and the composition of rhizosphere microflora (Marschner & Dell, 1993).

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi also increase the resistance of grapevine plants to soil pathogens (Nogales *et al.*, 2009) and limit the harmful effects of soil organisms, such as nematodes (Hao *et al.*, 2012). Mycorrhizal fungi have been observed to affect the proteome of grapevine plants by modifying plant metabolism through changes in protein amounts (Cangahuala-Inocente *et al.*, 2011). Application of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in the cultivation of grapevines helps to increase the amounts of anthocyanins, flavonols and other polyphenolic compounds in the plants (Torres *et al.*, 2015).

Bioproducts contain one or several biologically active

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organic compounds (amino acids, vitamins, enzymes, plant hormones), as well as macro- and microelements (Tarozzi *et al.*, 2008). The use of bioproducts in agriculture increases the growth and cropping of cultivated plants, and improves the quality of arable and degraded soils (Bhardwaj *et al.*, 2014; Wezel *et al.*, 2014; Sas-Paszt *et al.*, 2015; Derkowska *et al.*, 2017). A separate group of products stimulating plant growth and yield are bioproducts produced with live microorganisms or dead cells. These special bioproducts contain organic matter and various types of bacteria and fungi, especially mycorrhizal fungi, to stimulate the growth and yield of cultivated plants (Berg *et al.*, 2013; Boyer *et al.*, 2015; Sas-Paszt *et al.*, 2015; Vassilev *et al.*, 2015). Beneficial microorganisms as components of bioproducts stimulate root growth and the uptake of mineral ions, and can be parasitic, predatory or antagonistic towards plant pathogens (Mercado-Blanco & Bakker, 2007).

It was found previously that the use of fertilisers or biostimulants, such as Ausma, Bioilsa and BF Ekomix, did not in any way affect the time of ripening of grapevine fruit of two cultivars, Solaris and Regent. There were no significant differences in the yields of both cultivars within single years. The only exceptions in those years were the higher marketable yields of Solaris treated with Bioilsa in 2014 and of Regent treated with NPK + manure in 2014 and 2015. No significant differences were found in the cumulative marketable yields in the years 2009 to 2015 between the untreated control and other combinations, neither in the case of the cultivar Solaris nor for Regent (Lisek *et al.*, 2016).

Bio-physicochemical soil properties can significantly affect spore density, e.g. total AMF spore numbers decreased with increasing amounts of heavy metals in the soil (Del Val *et al.*, 1999). Jansa *et al.* (2002) reveal that tillage has a significant influence on the sporulation of some species, and non-*Glomus* AMF tended to be more abundant in the no-tilled soil. In our study, the data revealed that the application of bioproducts in the cultivation of horticultural crops greatly influences species composition and abundance of spores of AMF in rhizosphere soil (Sumorok *et al.*, 2011; L. Sas-Paszt, unpublished data). This is a first study of the influence of microbial bioproducts on the mycorrhizal biodiversity in grapevine cultivation. For this reason, determining the impact of bioproducts on the number of spores and species of AMF enables an assessment of their status in the soil treated with bioproducts. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the effects of bioproducts on the diversity of mycorrhizal fungal species and their abundance expressed by the number of spores formed by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in the grapevine root zone under plantation conditions.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Experimental design

The experiments were conducted in the period 2012 to 2016 on two grapevine cultivars, Solaris and Regent, grafted onto rootstock SO4 (*V. berlandieri* x *V. riparia*), planted in the spring of 2008 in the Experimental Orchard of the Research Institute of Horticulture in Skierniewice (Central Poland) (latitude 51°57' N, longitude 20°08' E). The vineyards were located on a medium-quality pseudo-podsolic soil (graded

Class IV), slightly acidic (pH 6.0), containing (as % DW): 2.37 N, 0.15 P, 1.35 K, 0.22 Mg, 1.64 Ca; microelements (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>): 3.2 B, 13.5 Cu, 1084 Fe, 96.6 Mn and 11.8 Zn; and 1.3% of organic matter. The plants were trained in the Double Guyot system with 10 to 14 bud canes and a low (0.3 m to 0.4 m) trunk. The spacing between the plants in a row was 1.25 m, in inter-rows 2.7 m, and the isolation strip between the plots was 1 m wide. The experiment was designed in randomised complete blocks with four replications and four plants in each (16 vines per treatment and cultivar). From 2013, the inter-rows were maintained under spontaneous vegetation and mowed several times during the season. Weeds under the vine canopies were removed by hand. During the growing season, one to two treatments were performed with pesticides containing mancozeb and sulphur. The experimental plots were not irrigated throughout the entire study period (Lisek *et al.*, 2016).

The average sum of active temperatures (SAT) – sum of all, medium daily temperatures higher than 10°C in the period April to October – in Skierniewice in the period 2012 to 2016 was 2 699°C (2012: 2 730°C, 2013: 2 553°C, 2014: 2 851°C, 2015: 2 694°C, 2016: 2 667°C).

The average seasonal temperature in the period April to October in 2012 to 2016 was 14.3°C (14.4°C in 2012, 14.0°C in 2013, 14.5°C in 2014, 14.1°C in 2015, 14.3°C in 2016). The average total annual precipitation amounted to 500 mm and ranged from 316 mm in 2015 to 680 mm in 2010. In the course of the study, the following minimum winter temperatures below -20.0°C were recorded: -23.0°C (6.01.2009); -28.1°C (26.01.2010); -22.3°C (2011-02-22); -23.3°C (2012-02-04); and -21.4°C (2013-03-24) (Lisek *et al.*, 2016).

The ten experimental combinations were prepared and examined as follows:

1. Control combination – no NPK fertilisation and no application of bioproducts.
2. NPK fertilisation. Ammonium nitrate was used at 70 g per plant, granular triple superphosphate at 77.5 g per plant, and potassium sulphate at 97.5 g per plant. Mineral fertilisers were administered in the spring (April) of each year.
3. Ausma – plant product derived from steam-distilled pine needles (Biolat, Lithuania). Applied in the form of a foliar spray at a concentration of 0.1%, at nine, six and three weeks before the fruit harvest.
4. NPK fertilisation + Ausma in doses as above, at nine, six and three weeks before the fruit harvest.
5. Bioilsa – commercial product of animal origin (ILSA Group Arzignano, Vicenza, Italy). Applied in the form of granules in an amount of 24 g per plant to the upper soil layer (0 cm to 30 cm) in the spring (April) of every year.
6. NPK fertilisation + Bioilsa applied in doses as above.
7. Fertigo – granulated manure (Dutch company Ferm-O-Feed). Applied at a rate of 25 L per plot to the upper soil layer (0 cm to 30 cm) (plot surface area – 5 m<sup>2</sup>) in April of every year.
8. NPK fertilisation + Fertigo manure applied in doses as above.

9. BF Ekomix – commercial product of plant origin (AgroBio Products, Wageningen, Netherlands). Applied in the form of granules at a rate of 100 g per plant to the upper soil layer (0 cm to 30 cm) in the spring (April) of every year.
10. NPK fertilisation + BF Ekomix in doses as above.

In the autumn (September) of 2012, 2014 and 2016, samples of soil from the root zone of the Regent and Solaris grapevines were collected for the determination of fungal spore numbers in the rhizosphere soil, and subsequent taxonomic identification of the spores of AMF in the 2014 season. Soil samples were collected from a depth of 10 cm to 15 cm and at a distance of 15 cm from the trunk of the vines, in three replications. Three collected soil samples from one combination were pooled.

#### Determination of the number of spores of mycorrhizal fungi in the rhizosphere soil

The samples of soil collected from the rhizosphere of Solaris and Regent grapevines were used to weigh out 100 g portions, per treatment, for further analyses. The plant material prepared in this way was placed in containers and made up to 1 L with tap water. The resulting suspensions were shaken for approx. 10 min. and then placed in a refrigerator at 4°C for 24 h. After that time, the soil solutions were filtered through a column of sieves (0.5 mm, 0.125 mm, 0.063 mm and 0.045 mm), and the fractions of soil remaining on the successive sieves were washed away with distilled water into Petri dishes (120 mm), to which sucrose (5 g per dish) was added. The prepared samples were examined under a Nikon SMZ 800 stereomicroscope, and the spores of mycorrhizal fungi present in them were picked out and counted per 100 g of rhizosphere soil (Błaszowski, 2003).

#### Identification of spores of AMF

The spores of mycorrhizal fungi obtained for the determination of spore numbers were subjected to identification by examining microscopic specimens. The microscopic specimens of the spores were prepared by placing, on a glass slide, one drop each of the PVLG reagent (a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol, lactic acid, glycerol and distilled water), and a 1:5 mixture of PVLG and Melzer's reagent (aqueous solution of chloral hydrate, potassium iodide and iodine), in which the isolated spores were then placed and covered with a cover slip. PVLG and Melzer's reagent were prepared from commercial reagents (Sigma-Aldrich®). The spores on the prepared microscope slides were examined, identified, described and photographed (Błaszowski, 2003, 2012).

#### Statistical analysis

The results were statistically analysed using two-factorial analysis of variance. Multiple comparisons of the means for the combinations were performed with Tukey's test, at a significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  using STATISTICA v. 10 software (StatSoft Inc., 2011).

#### RESULTS

The results of the study reveal positive effects of the applied bioproducts on the occurrence and diversity of species of

mycorrhizal fungi and the number of spores of AMF in the rhizosphere of Solaris and Regent grapevine plants.

Two species of AMF, namely *Claroideoglomus claroideum* and *Funneliformis caledonium*, were identified in the control samples of rhizosphere soil taken from the root zone of the cultivar Solaris, and only *F. caledonium* was identified in the rhizosphere soil from the cultivar Regent.

The use of the bioproducts Ausma, Bioilsa and BF Ekomix on their own (applied separately) contributed to the increased number of AMF species (four to five) in the rhizosphere soil, in comparison with the rhizosphere soil fertilised with NPK, in which only one species, *C. claroideum*, was found (Table 1).

The use of the bioproducts Ausma, Bioilsa and BF Ekomix alone increased the number of AMF species in the rhizosphere soil compared to the rhizosphere soil fertilised with NPK, in which case only one AMF species, *C. claroideum*, was found (Table 1). In the rhizosphere of the grapevine plants of the cultivars Solaris and Regent, almost the same species of mycorrhizal fungi were identified in the NPK control under the influence of the applied bioproducts, and following the combined application of the bioproducts with standard NPK fertilisation.

Fertilisation of the plants with standard mineral fertilisation limited the colonisation by a greater number of species of mycorrhizal fungi in the rhizosphere of the grapevine varieties studied. Only one species of mycorrhizal fungus – *C. claroideum* – was found in the combinations involving the use of NPK, NPK + Ausma, and NPK + BF Ekomix; another fungus – *F. caledonium* – was found in the combination NPK + Bioilsa, while in the combination NPK + manure both of the two species of fungi were present for Solaris. For Regent, *C. claroideum* and *Glomus macrocarpum* were found in the combination NPK + manure.

In addition, the tested bioproducts had a favourable effect on the number of spores obtained from the rhizosphere soil of the grapevine cultivars. The highest number of spores in the rhizosphere soil of the cultivar Regent had formed and was recorded in combinations following the application of the bioproduct BF Ekomix applied separately (Table 2).

The highest number of spores in the case of Solaris was found after treating plants with the bioproduct Bioilsa. The lowest numbers of spores were recorded in the NPK treatments. The numbers of spores in the NPK treatments combined with bioproducts were lower than when the bioproducts were applied separately, both for Solaris and Regent cultivars, across the individual seasons (Table 2).

#### DISCUSSION

Among the species of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi identified in the analysed samples were fungi from the order *Glomerales*: *F. caledonium*, *Glomus aggregatum*, *G. macrocarpum*, *Rhizophagus intraradices* and *C. claroideum*, and one species of the family *Gigasporaceae* – *Gigaspora margarita*. Almost all the samples of rhizosphere soil (except NPK + Bioilsa) were found to contain the species *C. claroideum*, with the species *F. caledonium* also occurring in numbers. In this study, the AMF species diversity in the rhizosphere was low (one to five species of mycorrhizal fungi), which could have been caused by the slightly acidic soil (pH 6.0)

in which the plants were grown. Other authors have also observed a similar tendency, i.e. that low soil pH decreases the diversity of AMF species (Ocete *et al.*, 2015). Among the species of arbuscular fungi colonising the roots of the

wild grapevine, *V. vinifera* L. ssp. *sylvestris* (Gmelin) Hegi, growing in different regions of the Basque Country (Spain), the cited authors identified a number of AMF taxa, of which one of the most common was *C. claroideum*. They also

TABLE 1

Species of AMF identified in the rhizosphere of ‘Solaris’ and ‘Regent’ grapevine cultivars following the use of bioproducts (season 2014)

Treatment	Species of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)	
	Solaris	Regent
1. Control	<i>F. caledonium</i> <i>C. claroideum</i>	<i>F. caledonium</i>
2. NPK	<i>C. claroideum</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i>
3. Ausma	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>G. aggregatum</i> <i>R. intraradices</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>G. macrocarpum</i>
4. NPK + Ausma	<i>C. claroideum</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i>
5. Bioilsa	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>G. macrocarpum</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>G. macrocarpum</i>
6. NPK + Bioilsa	<i>F. caledonium</i>	<i>F. caledonium</i>
7. Manure	<i>C. claroideum</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i>
8. NPK + Manure	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>G. macrocarpum</i>
9. BF Ekomix	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>R. intraradices</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i> <i>F. caledonium</i> <i>G. margarita</i> <i>G. macrocarpum</i>
10. NPK + BF Ekomix	<i>C. claroideum</i>	<i>C. claroideum</i>

TABLE 2

Effect of bioproducts on the number of spores per 100 g of soil in the rhizosphere soil of ‘Solaris’ and ‘Regent’ grapevine cultivars

Treatment	2012		2014		2016		Ave. ± SD	Ave. ± SD
	Solaris	Regent	Solaris	Regent	Solaris	Regent	Solaris	Regent
1. Control	28a	33ab	36b-d	40b-e	40b-e	50e-h	<b>35 ± 3</b>	<b>41 ± 5</b>
2. NPK	29ab	25a	23a	35b-d	29a	33ab	<b>27 ± 2</b>	<b>31 ± 2</b>
3. Ausma	47de	48de	53f-h	52d-g	64ij	57g-i	<b>55 ± 3</b>	<b>53 ± 4</b>
4. NPK + Ausma	26a	38b-d	31ab	45c-g	27a	52f-h	<b>28 ± 2</b>	<b>45 ± 4</b>
5. Bioilsa	62g	50ef	68ij	55gh	72j	57g-i	<b>67 ± 2</b>	<b>54 ± 3</b>
6. NPK + Bioilsa	46de	33ab	55gh	34a-c	60hi	35a-c	<b>54 ± 3</b>	<b>34 ± 5</b>
7. Manure	53e-g	45c-e	61hi	36b-d	63ij	47d-g	<b>59 ± 4</b>	<b>43 ± 3</b>
8. NPK + Manure	31ab	29ab	53f-h	45c-g	41b-f	41b-e	<b>42 ± 4</b>	<b>38 ± 3</b>
9. BF Ekomix	47de	59fg	42b-f	78j	55gi	72j	<b>48 ± 3</b>	<b>70 ± 3</b>
10. NPK + BF Ekomix	46de	35a-c	47d-g	38b-d	40b-d	44c-f	<b>44 ± 3</b>	<b>39 ± 3</b>

Means within a year followed by the same letter do not differ significantly, at  $p = 0.05$ , according to Tukey’s multiple test.

found the presence of *G. margarita* and fungi of the genus *Funnelformis*. The effect of soil pH on the structure of AMF biodiversity has been observed in other studies concerned with grapevines (Balestrini *et al.*, 2010), as well as in the case of other plant species (An *et al.*, 2008). The arbuscular fungus *C. claroideum*, identified in this study, has also been found in the soil collected from under grapevine plants of the cultivar Pinot Noir grown in four vineyards in Oregon (USA) (Schreiner & Mihara 2009). These authors also identified a few other species of the families Glomeraceae (e.g. *Funnelformis mosseae*), Acaulosporaceae (numerous fungi of the genus *Acaulospora*) and Gigasporaceae (*Scutellospora calospora*). The dominance of fungi belonging to *Glomerales*, mainly of the genus *Glomus* sensu lato, in the rhizosphere soil of grapevines has also been observed. Balestrini *et al.* (2010), examining AMF of grapevines, revealed that the dominant fungi were those classified as *Glomus* and belonging to different groups, while other families, such as *Gigasporaceae* or *Acaulosporaceae*, occurred much less frequently.

The analysis of the results indicates that the application of the Ausma, Bioilsa and BF Ekomix bioproducts on their own (applied separately), without NPK fertilisation, had a stimulating effect on increasing the number of species of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) in the rhizosphere of both grapevine cultivars. Depending on the bioproduct used, the presence of four to five AMF species was observed in the rhizosphere of grapevines. After fertilisation with NPK in combination with the bioproducts, only one AMF species was found in the cultivar Solaris. This result indicates a limiting effect of NPK fertilisation on the occurrence of several AMF species, in comparison with the control combination and fertilisation with the bioproducts only. Similar results have been obtained by Verbruggen *et al.* (2010), who found that the average number of AMF taxa in organically managed fields (6.4) was higher than in conventionally managed fields (3.9). In addition, it has been found that phosphorus fertilisation lowers the extent of AMF root colonisation (Jansa *et al.*, 2006). It can therefore be assumed that in the presence of a fertiliser, the grapevine does not need to enter into symbiosis with AMF. It is also possible that the NPK fertiliser directly affects the formation of AMF spores, but such assumptions should be confirmed by further research.

In the cultivars Regent and Solaris, the occurrence of one AMF species was observed, as in the control combination, after fertilisation with the bioproducts in combination with NPK. After using manure together with NPK fertilisation, an increase in the number of AMF species was observed, in comparison with the use of manure alone. The application of the bioproducts on their own (applied separately) increased the diversity of AMF in the rhizosphere of both cultivars up to four or five species, in comparison with standard NPK fertilisation, where only one species was observed.

The analysis of the composition of AMF species in individual treatments indicates that the AMF species most tolerant to NPK fertilisation were *C. claroideum* and *F. caledonium*. The large number of spores in the soil treated with BF Ekomix may indicate a beneficial effect of this bioproduct on the development of AMF in the rhizosphere of the cultivar Regent, greater than in the cultivar Solaris.

An explanation of this phenomenon requires further research involving a larger number of grapevine cultivars.

The study demonstrated the beneficial effects of the pine needle extract in Ausma and the extracts of marine algae and of humic acids present in the bioproduct BF Ekomix on the number of AMF species. However, the strongest effects were produced by the bioproduct Ausma in the cultivar Solaris (five AMF species) and Regent (four AMF species), as well as by the application of Bioilsa and BF Ekomix on their own (applied separately) in the case of both Solaris and Regent (four AMF species). The beneficial effects of the compounds contained in marine algae have been proven by other authors working with agricultural plants. Mannitol and other compounds contained in *Laminaria japonica* stimulated the growth of the mycorrhizal fungus *G. margarita*, and the extent of colonisation of the roots of trifoliolate orange (Kuwada *et al.*, 2005). Humic acids applied to the soil stimulated the colonisation of the roots of maize by mycorrhizal fungi (Gryndler *et al.*, 2005).

In a study by Sas-Paszt *et al.* (2019) on the same site, NPK fertilisation limited the degree of mycorrhizal association in the roots of Solaris and Regent to the greatest extent. Similar correlations were found for the number of spores in 100 g of soil in the current study.

In this study, the formation of spores in the rhizosphere of the two grapevine cultivars treated with the bioproducts on their own (applied separately) was different from that observed after the combined application of these bioproducts with standard NPK fertilisation. The number of spores per 100 g of soil ranged from 23.0 to 78.0, indicating a greater spore-forming ability compared to AMF-colonising grapevine plants of the cultivar Pinot Noir grown in four vineyards in Oregon (USA), where the number of spores isolated from the soil, in most cases, did not exceed 15 spores per 100 g of soil in the absence of bioproducts (Schreiner & Mihara 2009). The bioproducts that have a positive effect on the number of spores in the rhizosphere of grapevine plants are Bioilsa (72.0) for Solaris and BF Ekomix for Regent (78.0).

Previous studies had found that the application of AMF had a positive effect on the growth of grapevine plants. Khalil (2013) reported that grapevine rootstocks (*V. vinifera* L.) inoculated with *R. intraradices* exhibited higher growth parameters (plant height, stem diameter, shoot and root biomass) compared to non-inoculated plants. The higher crop performance in inoculated grapevine was attributed to a lower concentration of Na and Cl, higher K and Mg concentrations in the leaf tissue, and also a higher K/Na ratio.

This study shows that all of the bioproducts tested – Ausma, Bioilsa and BF Ekomix – promoted the formation of a greater number of AMF species in comparison to NPK fertilisation and the combined application of NPK with these bioproducts. The species of AMF whose presence was found only in the soil treated with the bioproducts had probably existed in the soil earlier, but in numbers undetectable by the methods used. The application of the bioproducts created conditions suitable for their growth and development, as a result of which they could be identified based on the morphological features of their spores.

## CONCLUSIONS

The applied bioproducts, Ausma, Bioilsa and BF-Ecomix, contributed to an increase in the occurrence and number of species of mycorrhizal fungi in the rhizosphere soil of grapevines. The most frequently occurring AMF species was *C. claroideum*. The bioproduct BF Ekomix had the greatest effect on increasing the number of AMF spores obtained from the rhizosphere of the Regent grapevine plants, while the application of Bioilsa contributed to the formation of the largest number of spores in the rhizosphere of the Solaris cultivar. Standard NPK fertilisation reduced the formation of AMF spores and AMF species in the rhizosphere of grapevine plants of cv. Regent and Solaris.

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