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COINOCULATION OF A SIDEROPHORE OVERPRODUCING RHIZOBIAL STRAIN MUTANT WITH MOONG BEAN *RHIZOBIUM* STRAIN MO1 ENHANCES GROWTH AND NODULATION OF MOONG PLANTS (*VIGNA RADIATA*) PLANTS

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Influence of siderophore production by a coinoculant rhizobial strain BICC 651 on nodulation and nitrogen fixation of the strain Rhizobium *MO1 on moong plants was studied. The strain BICC 651 was isolated from a nodule of* Cicer arietinum *and the siderophore produced by the strain was cross-utilizable by* Rhizobium *MO1. Coinoculation with a siderophore overproducing mutant N15 of the strain BICC 651 enhanced symbiotic performance of the strain MO1 and improved general growth of moong plants.*

Key words: Siderophore production, Rhizobium*, Moong plants, coinoculation, nodulation, nitrogen fixation*