

This is an interesting paper containing novel information on the dynamics of soft rot *Pectobacterium* species (SRP) after inoculation of TSB and potato tubers with mixed populations of SRP species. The research is sound and in general the paper is well written.

Nevertheless I have some critical comments:

- The paper is focused on population studies of SRP in TSB and in potato tubers. It does not describe the dynamics during the development of blackleg. The fact that authors focus on tuber soft rot should be more clearly outlined in the introduction
- The two different species (existing of three strains) are inoculated together in potato tubers. A limitation of the study is also that the effect of space is not taken into account. In naturally infected tubers, species often separated (different lenticel infections, different parts of the vascular system). To what extent different species occupy the same niche in practice is unknown. This should also be discussed in the paper.
- I am not convinced by the modelling work. For example the interactions related to the production of antimicrobial compounds (toxicity interference) are not included. Another factor in the interactions is temperature and humidity. There will also be an interaction with (the defense mechanism) of the potato cultivar. I suggest to remove this part. The model has not been properly validated.
- I regret that *P. aquaticum* has been chosen as a model, as it has never been isolated from potato and seems not endemic in potato.

Minor comments

- I suggest to find an alternative for the word 'cheater'. You could speak about commensal or secondary invader...
- L36-49. This part of the introduction is lengthy and very general. It is also unclear if you speak about plant pathogens. Reduce the text and focus it on SRP
- L55. Reference is missing for the 38 species. Recently *Pectobacterium jejuense* was described, isolated from cucumber stem tissue.
- L99-101. Information unclear, please rephrase
- L120 give formula of dipotassium hydrogen phosphate
- L128 DO must be OD
- L295. Except for *P. parmentieri* in competition with *P. versatile*, which showed a significant higher maceration rate than in *P. aquaticum* in competition with *P. versatile*
- Table 2 requires more explanation in the title or legend.
- L516 include a reference
- L609 But did you find a relatively high density of *P. aquaticum* in communities with this bacterium?
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Some typo's

- L84 stem not steam
- L92 aggressiveness not aggressivity
- L384 *aquaticum* fully in italics
- L451 graph not grap

