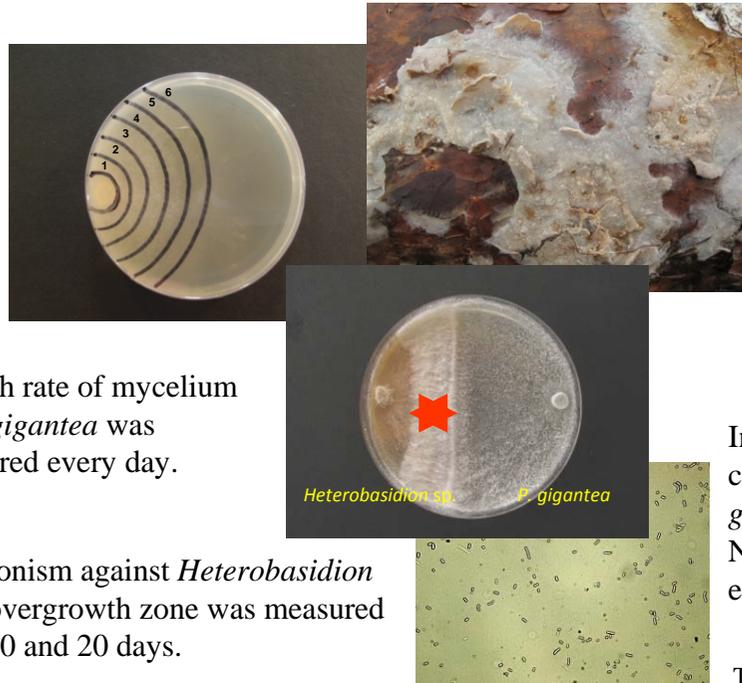


Biological control agent ‘Rotstop’ was registered in Latvia in 2007 for stump treatment of conifers to diminish the spread of *Heterobasidion* spp. Selection of *P. gigantea* strains that would be better adapted to local conditions would favour the protection of coniferous stumps from infection by *Heterobasidion* spp.

Methods

In total 39 *P. gigantea* strains were isolated from Norway spruce and 72 strains from Scots pine in different locations in Latvia.

Parameters (growth rate, antagonistic ability against *Heterobasidion* spp. and spore production) of Latvian *P. gigantea* strains were tested on agar medium, at 20°C.



Growth rate of mycelium of *P. gigantea* was measured every day.

Antagonism against *Heterobasidion* sp. – overgrowth zone was measured after 10 and 20 days.

Production of asexual spores was evaluated after 1 and 1.5 months.

Results

Strains of *P. gigantea* isolated from Scots pine showed higher values in analysed properties comparing with strains isolated from Norway spruce, however, the differences were not statistically significant. There were no significant correlations between different properties of *P. gigantea* strains.



In the future work it is planned to assess correlations between laboratory properties of *P. gigantea* strains and growth rate in wood (of Norway spruce and Scots pine) and control efficacy against *Heterobasidion* spp. in wood.

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