

Identification of strain types of some *Beet necrotic yellow vein virus* isolates determined in Northern and Central Parts of Turkey

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Abstract

Beet necrotic yellow vein virus (BNYVV), the agent of rhizomania disease, causes severe economic losses in sugar beet fields in all over the world. The virus is transmitted by a plasmodiophorid vector, *Polymyxa betae* Keskin. Twenty soil samples, collected from sugar beet fields in northern and central parts of Turkey during surveys in 2004 and 2005 and known to be infested with viruliferous cultures of *P. betae* carrying BNYVV, were selected and used in this study. Sample selection was made according to symptom expression of beet seedlings in preliminary bait plant tests and locations of the soil samples that accurately represent the region from which they were taken. Total RNAs were extracted from sugar beet plants grown in these soils and used to amplify RNA-2 (nt. 19-1088) and RNA-3 (nt. 50-1268) of BNYVV by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method. Restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis of PCR-amplified products showed that most of BNYVV isolates studied were A-type strain, however, two isolates did not exactly match the band profile of A-type strain. Additionally, the presence of BNYVV RNA-5 component was investigated by RT-PCR using the primers specific for P26 coding region. Four samples belonging to three provinces were found to be involving RNA-5 segment (20%).

Keywords: Sugar beet, rhizomania, RFLP, RT-PCR.

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Introduction

Many soil-borne viruses are known to infect sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) worldwide. Among them, *Beet necrotic yellow vein virus* (BNYVV), which is the agent of rhizomania disease, is transmitted via the plasmodiophorid *Polymyxa betae* Keskin (Abe and Tamada, 1986) and causes severe economic losses in sugar beet fields in all over the world. BNYVV is type species of the genus *Benyvirus* and possesses a multipartite positive single stranded RNA genome, with four or five components (Tamada, 1999). RNA-1 and RNA-2 are required for replication, assembly and cell-to-cell movement, RNA silencing suppression and vector transmission of the virus. The RNA-3, which encodes for a 25kDa protein (p25), is responsible for pathogenicity and production of typical disease symptoms in sugar beet roots (Tamada et al. 1999; Chiba et al. 2008). RNA-4 coded p31 protein is more directly responsible for vector transmission and root-specific suppression of RNA silencing (Rahim et al. 2007; Peltier et al. 2008). The RNA-5 encodes 26kDa protein (p26) and is known to be an additional pathogenicity factor (Tamada et al. 1989). Also, BNYVV isolates

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containing RNA-5 have been reported to be more pathogenic than RNA-5 lacking isolates (Tamada et al. 1996; Miyanishi et al. 1999).

Three major strain types of BNYVV have been identified using molecular analysis (Kruse et al. 1994; Koenig et al. 1995). The A-type strain, which is the most widespread (Schirmer et al. 2005), has been previously detected in Turkey (Kruse et al. 1994; Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2007a), however the B-type strain is mainly found in Germany, France (Kruse et al. 1994; Koenig et al. 2008), Japan (Miyanishi et al. 1999), Iran (Sohi and Maleki, 2004) Belgium, the United Kingdom (Ratti et al. 2005) and China (Li et al. 2008). The P-type strain is closely related to the A type, but contains a fifth RNA and to date it has been recorded in Kazakhstan (Koenig and Lennefors, 2000), France (Schirmer et al. 2005) and the United Kingdom (Ward et al. 2007). The other BNYVV isolates containing RNA-5 segment have been suggested to be named as the J-type strain which possess two deletions at amino acid positions 77 and 227-229 in p26, compared to the P-type strain (Schirmer et al. 2005). The J-type widely distributed in Asia, especially in Japan (Tamada et al. 1989) and China (Li et al. 2008) whereas it was recorded in a field of Germany (Koenig et al. 2008). More recently, the J-type RNA-5 containing BNYVV isolates were also detected in Turkey (Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2016).

Although increases in sugar beet yields following some chemical treatments to control rhizomania disease were obtained, the use of these products is being phased out because of health hazards and adverse effects on the environment associated with their use. Alternatively, different methods have been tried for the control of rhizomania disease (Burketova et al. 1996; Wang et al. 2003; Akca et al. 2005; Akca et al. 2014). But, their efficiency not sufficient in eliminated BNYVV soil inoculum (Bragard et al. 2013). *P. betae* sporosori is able to persist in the soil for up to 25 years while remaining viruliferous (Abe and Tamada, 1986), therefore, the most reliable solution is use of resistant sugar beet cultivars.

In Turkey, rhizomania disease was reported in 1987 (Koch, 1987), and then it has been observed in most provinces where sugar beet is cultivated (Kaya, 2009; Kutluk Yilmaz and Arli-Sokmen, 2010; Yardimci and Culal-Kilic, 2011; Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2016).

In the current study, twenty BNYVV isolates were selected according to their symptom expression and geographic origin from the northern and central parts of Turkey. The BNYVV strain types were determined using reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analyses, and the relationship between the phenotypic appearance of BNYVV on the sugar beet bait plants and strain types were investigated.

Material and Methods

Bait plant technique

In this study, twenty BNYVV isolates belonging to six provinces (Amasya, Cankiri, Corum, Kastamonu, Samsun and Tokat), out of 156 BNYVV-infected ones (Kutluk Yilmaz and Arli-Sokmen, 2010), were selected according to their symptom expression and geographic origin in order to be used in molecular studies (Figure 1, Table 1).



Figure 1. The dark colored inner area in the map of Turkey shows the region soil sampled.

Table 1. Geographic origin and symptom expression of BNYVV isolates.

Province	District	Isolate no	Infection phenotypes	
Corum	Iskilip	114	No visible symptom	
Samsun	Bafra	421		
Tokat	Erbaa	291		
Amasya	Centrum	178	Light chlorosis	
Samsun	Kavak	40		
Tokat	Erbaa	103		
	Pazar	210		
	Zile	262		
Amasya	Suluova	175	Chlorosis	
	Tasova	249		
Kastamonu	Sarayovasi	176		
Samsun	Vezirkopru	30		
Tokat	Artova	325		
	Niksar	202		
	Niksar	275		
Cankiri	Kizilirmak	164	Leaf rolling+curling	
Samsun	Vezirkopru	85		
Amasya	Tasova	186	Green vein banding + distortion	
Corum	Osmancik	106		
Tokat	Zile	324	Necrotic lesions	
Corum	Osmancik	150	Chlorotic lesions + chlorosis	

In the bait plant experiment, two 300 mL plastic pots were filled with each soil sample (20 samples) mixed with sterile sand (1 part soil: 1 part sand), and 10 sugar beet seeds of the rhizomania-susceptible (cv. Arosa) were sown in each pot for the bait plant test technique (Burcky and Buttner, 1985). The plants were grown under controlled conditions of 12-h photoperiod, at 20°C (night) and 25°C (day) temperatures. All plants were equally watered generously every week with Hoagland's solution. After growing sugar beet seedlings six weeks, leaf symptoms on bait plants were recorded. In the harvest, plant roots were carefully washed in running tap water. After that the combined roots of each pot were divided into two parts. One was used to test for the presence of BNYVV by ELISA and the other part for RNA extraction. Plant material was stored at -

20°C until used. In this study, soil samples infested with BNYVV P- type and B- type supplied by Claude Bragard (Universite Catholique de Louvain, Louvainla-Neuve, Belgium) was used as a reference material.

Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)

The bait plants were tested by double-antibody sandwich (DAS)-ELISA according to [Clark and Adams \(1977\)](#) using a specific polyclonal antiserum (Bioreba AG, Switzerland) to identify BNYVV. The optical density was measured at 405 nm using the microplate reader (Tecan Spectra II, Austria) and a sample was considered as positive when absorbance value at 405 nm was more than two times the mean of the negative control ([Meunier et al. 2003](#)).

Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

Total nucleic acids were extracted from 100 mg of roots from cv. Arosa using an RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germany) as described in the manufacturer's instructions. One-step reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was performed as described in the manufacturer's manual (Qiagen, USA) using thermocycler (Bio-Rad, USA) for BNYVV RNA-2 and RNA-3. For the detection of BNYVV RNA-2 and RNA-3, the primers proposed by [Kruse et al. \(1994\)](#) were used (BNYVV-2F: CCATTGAATAGAATTTCCACC and BNYVV-2R: CCCCATAGTAATTTTAACTC for BNYVV RNA-2; BNYVV-3F: GTGATATATGTGAGGACGCT and BNYVV-3R: CCGTGAAATCAC-GTGTAGTT for BNYVV RNA-3). The RT-PCR reaction was done as follows: 10.5 µl RNase-free water, 5 µl 5X Qiagen OneStep RT-PCR buffer, 1 µl dNTPs mix (400 µM), 5 µl 5X Q solution, 0.25 µl each of forward and reverse primers (0.6 µM), 1 µl Qiagen OneStep RT-PCR Enzyme mix and 2 µl RNA sample were added to the mixture. Reverse transcription of 30 min at 50°C and 15 min at 95°C was performed. Then 35 cycles composed of denaturation for 30 s at 94°C, annealing for 30 s at 41°C for RNA-2 (30 s at 48°C for RNA-3), and elongation for 1 min at 72°C, were carried out. A final elongation of 7 min at 72°C was added.

One-step RT-PCR was performed using a Superscript® III One-Step RT-PCR System with Platinum Taq DNA polymerase kit (Invitrogen) using thermocycler (Bio-Rad, USA) for BNYVV RNA-5. The upstream (BN5/F1: GTTTTCCGCTCGACAAGCG) and the downstream (BN5/R1: CGAGCCCGT-AAACACCGCATA) primers ([Schirmer et al. 2005](#)) which are specific for RNA-5 were used. The RT-PCR reaction was done as follows: 9.5 µl RNase-free water, 12.5 µl 2X reaction buffer, 0.5 µl each of forward and reverse primers (10 µM), 1 µl Superscript III RT/Platinum Taq mix and 1 µl RNA sample were added to the mixture. The following reaction conditions were conducted: 55°C for 30 min and 94°C for 2 min followed by 40 cycles of 94°C for 15 s, 59°C for 30 s, 68°C for 1 min, and final elongation step for 5 min at 68°C.

The samples were analyzed on 1% ethidium bromide agarose gel in 1X Tris-borate-EDTA (TBE) buffer using the Gel Doc 2000 Systems (Bio-Rad, USA).

RFLP analysis for the characterization of BNYVV strain types

Twenty isolates were used for RFLP analysis (Table 1). The primers BNYVV-2F and BNYVV-2R; BNYVV-3F and BNYVV-3R were used to amplify the RNA-2 (nt. 19-1088) and RNA-3 (nt. 50-1268), respectively and followed by restriction cut with enzymes *EcoRI* and *EcoRI*, *BamHI*, *StyI*. Digestions were done as previously described by [Kruse et al. \(1994\)](#) and the restrictions patterns were analyzed by electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide.

Results

Detection of BNYVV

In a previous study, BNYVV was detected in 156 of the 510 sugar beet fields in the northern and central parts of Turkey ([Kutluk Yilmaz and Arli-Sokmen, 2010](#)). In the bait plant test with BNYVV-positive soil samples, sugar beet seedlings of rhizomania susceptible cv. Arosa showed different kinds of virus symptoms such as chlorosis, leaf rolling+curling, green vein banding + distortion, necrotic lesions and chlorotic lesions+chlorosis in growth room conditions (Table 1). Besides this, these kind of symptoms were not detected all plants, some of BNYVV-infected plants gave no visible symptom. The presence of some symptomatic differences in bait plant tests raises the question whether different BNYVV strain types are present in this region. Therefore, a total of twenty BNYVV-infested soil samples were selected according to their symptom expression and geographic origin from northern and central parts of Turkey. The rhizomania susceptible (cv. Arosa) cultivar was grown in these soils. To confirm of the presence of BNYVV in bait plant samples, DAS-ELISA test was done. All of the samples tested were positive in ELISA for BNYVV (Figure 1; Table 2).

Table 2. The presence of BNYVV and characterization of BNYVV strain types in northern and central parts of Turkey.

Province	District	Isolate No	ELISA absorbance values	RFLP pattern	RNA-5 positive*
Amasya	Centrum	178	1.246 (+)	A	-
	Suluova	175	0.537 (+)	A	-
	Tasova	186	0.339 (+)	A	-
	Tasova	249	2.743 (+)	A	-
Cankiri	Kizilirmak	164	0.469 (+)	A	-
Corum	Iskilip	114	0.400 (+)	A	-
	Osmancik	106	0.747 (+)	A	-
	Osmancik	150	0.997 (+)	A	+
Kastamonu	Sarayovasi	176	0.364 (+)	A	-
Samsun	Bafra	421	0.317 (+)	A	+
	Kavak	40	0.243 (+)	A	+
	Vezirkopru	30	1.017 (+)	A	-
	Vezirkopru	85	0.217 (+)	A	-
Tokat	Artova	325	2.927 (+)	A	-
	Erbaa	103	0.343 (+)	A	+
	Erbaa	291	2.829 (+)	A	-
	Niksar	202	2.911 (+)	A	-
	Niksar	275	2.820 (+)	A	-
	Pazar	210	2.782 (+)	A	-
	Zile	262	2.837 (+)	A	-
	Zile	324	0.600 (+)	A	-
Total (%)		20			4 (% 20)

*+: determined; -: not determined.

RFLP analyses of BNYVV isolates

RT-PCR studies were done by using the primers specific to RNA-2 (nt. 19-1088) and RNA-3 (nt. 50-1268). RFLP analysis of the PCR products revealed that BNYVV isolates in the region were A-type strain (Figure 2, 3 and 4), despite two isolates (421 and 186 No) did not exactly fit the band profile of A type isolates (Figure 3). The isolate 421 gave no visible symptom on sugar beet seedlings (cv. Arosa) in bait plant test, whereas the isolate 186 showed green vein banding and leaf deformation (Table 1). Besides this, no BNYVV B-type infections were found in the region (Table 2).

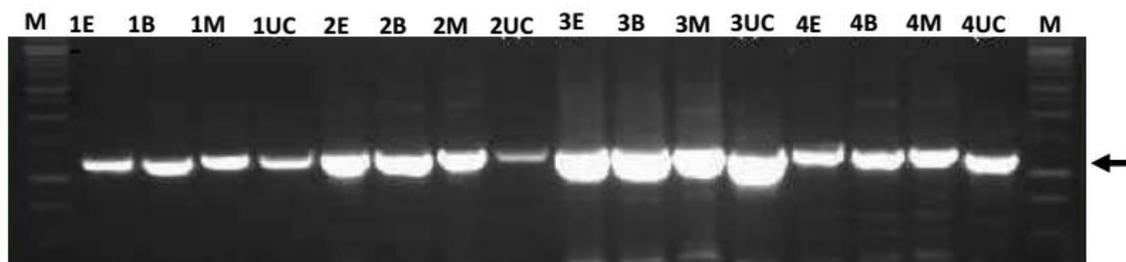


Figure 2. RFLP analysis for RNA-3 of Turkish BNYVV isolates. M: 1kb DNA Ladder (Promega, USA). The black arrow indicates BNYVV-specific 1218-bp DNA fragment. Lane 1-4, from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 178; lane 5-8 from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 262; lane 9-12, from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 325; lane 13-16, from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 175. E: *EcoRI*, B: *BamHI*, M: *MspI*, UC: Uncut PCR product.

Detection of BNYVV RNA-5

To test whether the samples involves the fifth RNA segment, they were subjected to RT-PCR analysis with BNYVV RNA-5 specific primers (Schirmer et al. 2005). Four BNYVV-positive samples (20%) produced the expected amplicon of 885 bp in PCR amplification by using BN5/F1 and BN5/R1 primers (Data not shown). In this study, RNA-5 was determined in Corum, Samsun and Tokat provinces (Figure 1 and Table 1). This result indicated that BNYVV isolates containing RNA-5 segment seems to be not located in this region. The BNYVV isolates (40, 103 and 150) with RNA-5 showed light chlorosis and chlorotic lesions+chlorosis types of symptom on sugar beet seedlings in bait plant tests, whereas the isolate (412) gave no visible symptom (Table 1).

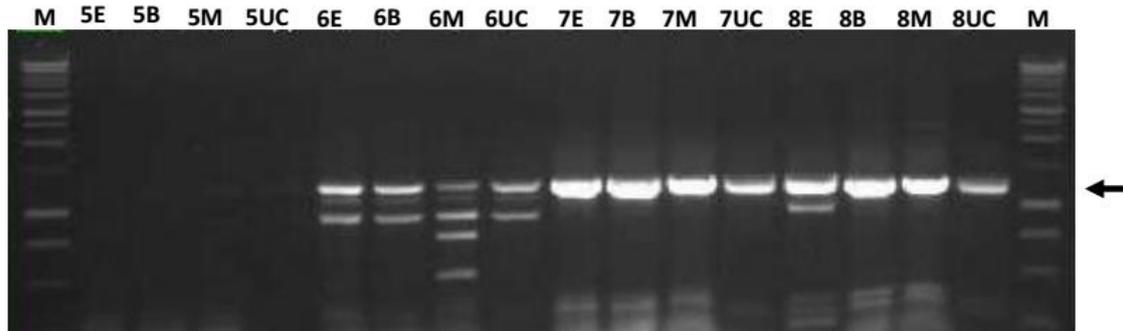


Figure 3. RFLP analysis for RNA-3 of Turkish BNYVV isolates. M: 1kb DNA Ladder (Promega, USA). The black arrow indicates BNYVV-specific 1218-bp DNA fragment. Lane 1-4, from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 275; lane 5-8 from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 421; lane 9-12, from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 106; lane 13-16, from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 186. E: *EcoRI*, B: *BamHI*, M: *MspI*, UC: Uncut PCR product.

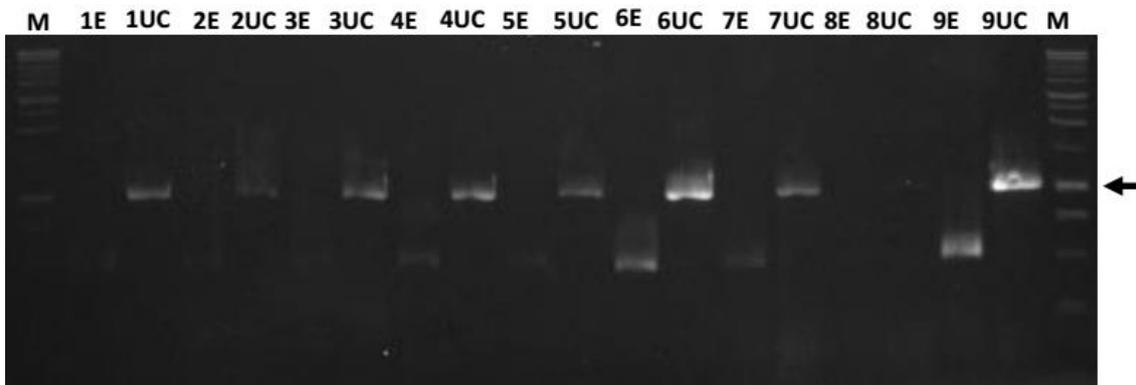


Figure 4. RFLP analysis for RNA-2 of Turkish BNYVV isolates. M: 1kb DNA Ladder (Promega, USA). The black arrow indicates BNYVV-specific 1070-bp DNA fragment. Lane 1-2, from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 186; lane 3-4 from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 178; lane 5-6 from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 106; lane 7-8, from a bait plant in the soil sample No. 85; lane 9-10 from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 325; lane 11-12 from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 291; lane 13-14 from a bait plant grown in the soil sample No. 175; E: *EcoRI*, UC: Uncut PCR product.

Discussion

In the current study, RFLP analysis was conducted for strain determination (A and B type) of BNYVV isolates selected according to their geographic origin and symptom expressions such as chlorosis, leaf rolling+curling, green vein banding+distortion, necrotic lesions and chlorotic lesions+chlorosis (Table 1) in bait plants grown in soils from northern and central parts of Turkey (Figure 1). Restriction patterns obtained for all BNYVV isolates were identical to A-type strain, despite two isolates (421 and 186) did not exactly fit the band profile of A-type isolates (Figure 3, Table 2). These isolates may differ in polymorphic sites and could be different variants of BNYVV. Polymorphism may further be investigated by sequencing. Interestingly, the isolate 421 gave no visible symptom on sugar beet seedlings (cv. Arosa) in bait plant tests, whereas the isolate 186 showed green vein banding and leaf deformation (Table 1). Similarly, A-type BNYVV have been previously reported in Turkey (Kruse et al. 1994; Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2007; Chiba et al. 2011; Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2016) and in its neighboring countries for example Iran (Sohi and Melaki, 2004) and Greece (Kruse et al. 1994; Pavli et al. 2011). No B-type BNYVV infections were found in tested samples in the region whereas the B-type BNYVV (Sohi and Maleki, 2004) was recorded in Iran.

Additionally, BNYVV RNA-5 segment was detected in four samples belonging to Corum, Samsun and Tokat provinces (Figure 1 and Table 2). In a previous study, Kutluk Yilmaz et al. (2016) indicated that BNYVV populations containing RNA-5 is highly widespread in sugar beet production areas in Turkey. Besides this, nucleotide sequencing and phylogenetic analyses showed that RNA-5 of Turkish BNYVV isolates is closer to the J-type BNYVV isolates than the P-type isolates (Kutluk Yilmaz et al. 2016). On the other hand, the J-type widely distributed in Asia (Tamada et al. 1989; Li et al. 2008) whereas it was recorded in a field of Germany (Koenig et al. 2008).

From RNAs of BNYVV, the RNA-3 encoded p25 controls rhizomania symptoms in sugar beet roots and severe symptom expression in Chenopodiaceae hosts (Tamada et al. 1999; Jupin et al. 1992). Besides this, the severity of symptoms in sugar beet was increased by the additional presence of RNA-5 (Tamada et al. 1996; Miyanishi et al. 1999). In this study, two of RNA-5 containing isolates (40 and 103) showed chlorosis type of symptom on the susceptible cv. Arosa, whereas the isolate 150 gave chlorotic lesions+chlorosis type of symptom. Also, the isolate 421 (with RNA-5 segment) gave no visible symptom (Table 1) and its obtained restriction patterns did not exactly fit the band profile of A-type isolates (Figure 3). In the previous study, chlorosis type of symptom has been typically associated with BNYVV (Rush et al. 2006). Also they indicated that some BNYVV-infected plants never exhibited foliar symptoms. Similarly, in the current study, some of BNYVV-infected plants gave no visible symptom (Table 1). On the other hand, it is known that high soil pH and lime (CaCO₃) contents cause chlorosis by affecting nutrient sufficiency in soils (Kutluk and Arli Sokmen, 2007). Kutluk Yilmaz et al. (2010) reported that increasing lime and exchangeable Mg contents of soils increased soil pH and induced BNYVV and *Beet soil-borne virus* (BSBV) infections transmitted by vector *P. betae*, respectively. There are very few published studies about different infection phenotypes of BNYVV populations on sugar beet. Some researchers indicated that the resistant plants after rub inoculation displayed a range of symptoms from no visible lesion or necrotic lesions at the inoculation site, whereas the susceptible plants showed bright yellow lesions (Chiba et al. 2008).

Consequently, the majority of the samples contained A-type BNYVV (80%), but in 20% of the samples, A-type BNYVV with RNA-5 was identified. There was no any interaction found between symptom expression and strain types of BNYVV populations. Moreover, RNA-5 segment did not seem to be directly associated with symptom severity on sugar beet seedlings (rhizomania susceptible cv. Arosa) in bait plants in this study.

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