



Submission and Formatting Guide

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Manuscript Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies:

- that the work described has not been published before;
- that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else;
- that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institution where the work has been carried out.

Neither the publisher nor the society will be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

Article Types

Tropical Plant Pathology considers for publication Original Articles, Short Communications, Reviews, and Letters to the Editors.

Original article

These are full-length papers describing original research with the following sections:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Material and methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Authors' contributions
- Data availability statement
- Acknowledgements
- References

Short communication

A straightforward manuscript reporting results that do not warrant a full-length article but that stand on their own (not a preliminary work). The manuscript should present the following sections:

- Abstract
- Main text
- Authors' contributions
- Data availability statement
- Acknowledgements
- References

Review

Reviews can be of three types: narrative literature reviews, systematic reviews, and systematic reviews with meta-analyses. A special category of Review is called **Disease Profile**, which presents a summary of

significance, etiology, symptomatology, epidemiology and management of a new or emergent disease; more details on [Disease Profile Call for Papers here](#).

Authors are encouraged to include illustrations, tables and charts. It should describe the latest research and discuss gaps and opportunities future work. Prior to submitting a Review, send via email to the Editorial Office a pre-submission inquiry with a tentative title, abstract and evidence of author's experience in the topic (list of references).

Letter to the Editor

This category includes points of view, commentaries or criticisms relating or responding to recently published items of interest to plant pathologists. Discussion on political, social and ethical issues and novel scientific ideas of interest to the journal's broad readership are also welcome.

Minimum Requirements for Consideration

- Manuscripts should contain disease and/or plant pathogen data. However, manuscripts that solely report plant diseases/pathogens occurrence for the first time in a region or new hosts are not accepted.
- Controlled environment as well as field experiments should be conducted twice at different times unless the research results are from surveys or of non-quantitative nature. Lack of evidence of experimental replication of experiments and failure to adhere to our [experimental and statistical considerations](#) will be grounds for immediate rejection. Data and code/scripts sharing is strongly encouraged for promoting transparency and reproducibility.
- Studies on screening or evaluation of the efficacy of synthetic/natural products (fungicides, biocontrol agents, plant extracts, etc.) must include field data from replicated experiments and provide additional information on modes of action. Simple comparison of treatment efficacy is not accepted even as short communication. The latter requirement can be waived if the results are based on meta-analysis using multi-site and multi-year datasets and contribute novel information for management.
- Studies that are limited to screening of pathogen populations for drug/fungicide resistance should include *in vitro* and, depending on the case, molecular data.
- Studies on the screening of plant host genotypes for disease resistance should not be limited to ranking locally-adapted genotypes (that are more appropriated for agronomy or crop breeding venues). These studies must provide sufficiently novel information on the mechanisms of disease resistance or other aspects of broader interest to the international plant pathology community rather than local extension agents or farmers.

- Submissions must adhere to the manuscript formatting guidelines. **See also in this document:** [Manuscript preparation](#) and [References](#).
- Authors should make sure the manuscript is written in good quality English. Non-native English speakers are encouraged to seek external language editing services if needed.

Submission and Required Files

- The corresponding author, having all files prepared (see below), should submit the manuscript via the Editorial Manager Online system: <http://www.edmgr.com/tppa>.
- Please note that at least three author-suggested reviewers are required to complete the submission. These reviewers should be selected in an ethical and unbiased way.
- For a new submission, a single file (.doc or .docx) containing the manuscript text, tables and figures is sufficient. There is no need, at the submission stage, to upload high-quality figures (PNG and TIFF) or tables as separate files.
- Authors are encouraged to add a cover letter in the specific field or alternatively as a PDF document, during the submission process. Do recall that a nice cover letter can help to make a good first impression to your work. [See here](#) guidelines on how to write a cover letter.
- Digital files of high-quality true-color (ideally as JPEG or JPG) and charts or maps (ideally as PNG) should be uploaded after the manuscript is fully revised and getting close to acceptance. In any case, the typesetting team will further contact authors if any of the uploaded or embedded figures in the .doc file are of poor quality.
- Electronic supplementary material should be uploaded separately. **See also in this document:** [Electronic supplementary material](#).

Pre-analysis Workflow

After submission, the Journal Editorial Office Assistant performs an operational check and may contact the author asking for clarifications or adjustments. Next, a screening Editor will pre-analyze the submission prior to assigning an Associate Editor to check whether:

- the manuscript falls within the journal scope;
- the minimum requirements are met;
- the results are novel and contribute to advance the field;
- the language quality is acceptable;
- the manuscript format is prepared following our Instructions for Authors.

In case issues that prevent the Editor from assigning an Associate Editor are detected, the manuscript will be either rejected without review or sent back to authors for revision before review, depending on the type and extent of the problem.

Experimental and Statistical Considerations

The following instructions should be used as a guideline/outline. Researchers should ideally consult with a statistician before designing an experiment and analyzing the data.

- When conducting observational or planned research, choose the most appropriate hypothesis tests for categorical or continuous variables and/or characterize the variability (uncertainty) by means of confidence intervals. These procedures are required to provide evidence of the robustness and reproducibility of the research findings.
- In *Material and Methods*, describe the details on how the data were collected including sampling design and size, the number of experimental units (replicates), randomization, blocking and balancing. **It is imperative that all experiments are repeated at least once and that explanation is provided whether and which criteria were used to pool the data from two experiments for analysis.** For field experiments, at least two trials should be conducted. These can be two years/seasons or two distant sites (different environment) within the same year/season. Manuscripts without evidence of proper design and repetition in time will be rejected.
- When analyzing the data, select the most appropriate inferential methods according to the number of groups compared (two or more), independence (non-paired or paired data), type of factor (quantitative or qualitative), and nature of the response variable (continuous, count, categorical or nominal).
 - When comparing two groups, report *P*-values using proper t-tests (non-paired or paired) or the equivalent non-parametric tests if assumptions for parametric tests are not met. Alternatively (or additionally), provide 95% confidence intervals for visual inference or calculate the effect-size, in the form of absolute or standardized mean difference between treatments to facilitate interpretation and practical significance of the results.
 - When comparing three or more groups, use parametric analysis of variance (ANOVA) for qualitative data and linear models if the data are continuous (weight, size, area, etc.). For data described as a proportion (incidence), or counts (lesion number) give preference to fit generalized linear models with the appropriate link function to these data. Original data can be transformed prior to analysis, with justifications for the transformation chosen, when using parametric tests. Discrimination among three or more groups can be made using linear contrasts or multiple comparison tests. *Duncan's multiple range test will not be accepted.*
 - Non-parametric tests should be used for ordinal data or disease rating on a 0 to *n* scale (e.g. 1 = no disease, 2 = leaf distortion; 3 = leaf discoloration, etc.). For ordinal ratings

based on disease severity ranges (e.g. Horsfall-Barratt scale), convert the scores to the midpoint of the interval prior to parametric analysis using ANOVA.

- If there are sufficient time points or number of levels of a quantitative factor (ex. concentration, temperature, etc.), do not use a means separation test to discriminate among levels of the factor. Instead, fit linear or non-linear regression models to the data. Alternatively, for time-dependent (longitudinal) data, consider calculate the area under the curve and compare the mean area among treatments using a means separation test.
- For correlation analysis, Pearson's correlation test should be used under the assumption of normality, otherwise, use the equivalent non-parametric method such as Spearman's rank correlation.
- When reporting results of hypothesis tests, give preference to report exact P -values (e.g. t was significant at $P = 0.012$) or use significance levels when P -values are very low ($P < 0.001$). For data to be presented in a table or a plot/graph, make sure to indicate the measure of variability (standard deviation, interquartile range, etc.) or inferential statistics (confidence intervals) for values displayed in a table column (or between parentheses) or as error bars in plots.
- Provide the correct citations to all software and packages used for analyzing and preparing data for presentation.

Nomenclature and Culture Collections

- Nomenclature of scientific names should adhere to current international standards for each class of organisms.
 - Plants: *The International Plant Names Index*, <http://www.ipni.org/index.html>
 - Fungi: *Index Fungorum*, <http://www.speciesfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp>
 - Bacteria: http://www.isppweb.org/names_bacterial.asp
 - Nematodes: <http://www.iczn.org/iczn/index.jsp>
 - Viruses: according to the International Code for Virus Classification and Nomenclature, published by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses - ICTV, <http://www.ictvonline.org>
- Scientific names should be in full the first time they appear in the body of the text and abbreviated and without authorities later. Whenever a scientific name appears at the beginning of a sentence it must be given in full.
- New names for fungi should be deposited in Mycobank, Index Fungorum, Fungal Names or other internationally accepted registration websites and the deposit number informed together with the proposition of the new name.

- Source and deposit of cultures and herbarium specimens should be indicated.
- Voucher cultures and specimens documenting their research as well as nucleotide sequences should be deposited at certified or recognized international institutions.
- Accession numbers and place of deposit must be indicated in the text.

Technical Names, Numbers and Unit system

- Only technical names or names of active ingredients should be used. Do not use commercial names of products or of the companies which produce them. Chemical formulas should be written on one line and follow standard nomenclature.
- The international system of units (SI) should be used, such as mg, g, m, mm, L, mL, μ L, h, min, s, mol, kg/ha. If a non-standard abbreviation is to be used, it should be defined in full when cited in the text for the first time.
- Numbers nine or below must be written out except as part of a date, a fraction or decimal, a percentage, or a unit of measurement. Use Arabic numerals for numbers larger than nine. Avoid starting a sentence with a number, but if doing so write the number out.

Manuscript Preparation

Manuscript text should be presented in double-spaced paragraphs and 12-point font size throughout all sections, including references. Lines should be numbered consecutively. Page margins should not be too narrow (2.5 cm preferably).

Title page

The title page should include:

- A concise and informative title.
- The name(s) of the author(s): first and last names in full.
- Corresponding author name and e-mail address.
- The affiliation(s) of the author(s).
 - Use superscript numbers to indicate affiliation.
 - Affiliation should include, in this order, department, institute, zip code, city, state/province, and country.
 - Multiple affiliations for an author can be used if that is the case or when the author has moved. In this case, use the primary affiliation where the work was performed and the "present address".

- Names of institution, department, etc. when originally in Roman alphabet should be written in the original language. Do not translate institutional names to English, unless there is an official English name.

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 300 words and not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references.

Keywords

Please provide three to six keywords; do not repeat words already present in the title. Order by scientific names (italicized) of hosts and/or pathogens and other keywords, all in alphabetical order.

Main text and sections

- a. Note that the naming of the main sections of the text (Introduction to Discussion) is required for Original Articles only, not for Short Communications, although the order of the elements is the same. For Reviews and Letters to Editor, subheadings lead to better organization and facilitate reading. The text of the subheading should be short, non-redundant and specific to the content.
- b. *Introduction*: Description of the significance and background that led to the study, justification, hypothesis which is being tested, if applicable, and objectives.
- c. *Material and Methods*: Detailed description of the materials and procedures used in the research in a way that enables other researchers to repeat exactly the work if willing to do so. Authors should specifically:
 - i. separate and name subsections for better organization;
 - ii. not include trademark symbols when citing commercial products;
 - iii. deposit and provide reference numbers of DNA sequence data;
 - iv. explain thoroughly the data analysis procedures, ensuring they are correct and reproduced;
 - v. consider making raw data and computational codes available at a repository (or uploaded as supplementary information) for reviewers and latter for readers upon acceptance.
- d. *Results*: This section describes the obtained data and results in a concise, straightforward manner. As general guidelines:
 - i. whenever the case, begin text presenting inferences based on hypothesis tests;
 - ii. avoid repetition of methodology and do not state the significance of results;

- iii. call out data tables and figures with data sequentially. These may appear either embedded in the document right after the paragraph they are called out, to facilitate review. No need to be placed at the end of the manuscript or a separate file.
- e. *Discussion*: The findings of the study should be placed in the context of relevant literature. It must not read as literature review with ideas and statements included solely to increase the size of the manuscript.
- f. *Author contribution statement*: see next section.
- g. *Data availability statement*: see [here](#)
- h. *Acknowledgments*: a single paragraph to thank people and institutions that provided technical, financial and intellectual support.
- i. *References*: listed alphabetically and following our formatting standards. **See also in this document:** [References](#).

Author Contribution Statement

Authors must provide a short description of the contributions made by each listed author (please use initials). This should be placed after the Acknowledgements. See examples on ([Authorship Principles](#)).

Data Availability Statement

All original articles must include a Data availability statement. Data availability statements should include information on where data supporting the results reported in the article can be found including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. By data we mean the minimal dataset that would be necessary to interpret, replicate and build upon the findings reported in the article. We recognise it is not always possible to share research data publicly, for instance when individual privacy could be compromised, and in such instances data availability should still be stated in the manuscript along with any conditions for access. Data Availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

1. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]
2. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

3. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
4. Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.
5. All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].
6. The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].

More examples of template data availability statements, which include examples of openly available and restricted access datasets, are available: [Data availability statements](#).

References

General instructions

Only articles that are published or available online (Online First, Online Early, Early view, etc.) in peer-reviewed journals may be cited. Please note that citation of **thesis, conference proceedings or technical reports is no longer accepted**. When referencing a personal communication from a non-author of the manuscript, authors must provide appropriate evidence (e-mail). Authors may cite unpublished data of their own. In this case, provide author's initials and last name followed by "unpublished data".

Citation

- Must follow the author/date style, without a comma separating the elements.
 - When information is prominent, author's name is within the parentheses. Example, "An ordinal scale was used to rate disease intensity (Horsfall and Barrat 1945)".
 - When the author is prominent, author's name is outside the parentheses. Example, "On the other hand, Horsfall and Barrat (1945) proposed a simpler ordinal scale with 12 scores following logarithmic increments".
 - For two-authors citation, spell out both names separated by "and" (Horsfall and Barratt 1945)
 - For citations with three or more authors, name the first author followed by "et al".
- Multiple references in the same citation (using parentheses) should appear in chronological order separated by semicolons.
 - For references published in the same year, order them alphabetically within the same year by author's surname.
 - For two or more works by the same author in a citation, list them chronologically, with the years separated by semicolons. (Example: Barreto et al. 2006a; 2006b; 2008).

Reference list

- Journal titles should be abbreviated. For example, use **Trop Plant Pathol**, not Tropical Plant Pathology.
- Ordered alphabetically by the first author surname.
- For multiple references for the same author, ordering is as follows:
 - firstly, as a single author in chronological order;
 - secondly, with only one co-author in alphabetical order by the second author;
 - lastly, references with more than two co-authors, in alphabetical order by the second or subsequent authors.
- In case of more than one publication by the same authors (or authors in the same order) in the same year, add a lowercase letter after the year in alphabetic sequence.

Journal article

Reis RF, Goes A, Timmer LW (2006) Effect of temperature, leaf wetness, and rainfall on the production of *Guignardia citricarpa* ascospores and on black spot severity on sweet orange. *Fitopatologia Brasileira* 31:29-34

Arnold AE, Medjía LC, Kyllø D, Rojas EI, Maynard Z, Robbins N, Herre EA (2003) Fungal endophytes limit pathogen damage in a tropical tree. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 26:15649-15654

Book chapter

Campos VP, Villain L (2005) Nematode parasites of coffee and cocoa. In: Luc M, Sikora RA, Bridge J (Eds.) *Plant parasitic nematodes in subtropical and tropical agriculture*. CAB International, Wallingford. pp. 529-580

Book

Agrios GN (2005) *Plant Pathology*. 5th Ed. Elsevier Academic Press, Amsterdam

Edited book

Kimati H, Amorim L, Rezende JAM, Bergamin Filho A, Camargo LEA (Eds.) (2005) *Manual de Fitopatologia*. Vol. 2. *Doenças das Plantas Cultivadas*. 4 Ed. Ceres, São Paulo

Online reference

CONAB. Cana-de-açúcar, safra 2006 -2007. Available at: <http://www.conab.gov.br/BoletimCana.pdf>. Accessed on October 12, 2008

Preprint

Chaloner TM, Gurr SJ, Bebber DP (2020) The global burden of plant disease tracks crop yields under climate change. Preprint at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.28.066233v1>

Tables

- Tables should always be cited in the main text in consecutive numerical order. They may appear in the main text right after they are called out.
- Tables should be numbered consecutively using in Arabic numerals.
- A concise, but self-explanatory so the table may stand-alone, title should be provided above the table.
- Each column must have a title in the box head.
- Footnotes typed directly below the table should be indicated preferably in lowercase superscript numbers, but lowercase letters may be used when the column titles contain numbers.
- Example table:

Table 1 Basic population parameters, genetic diversity and multilocus linkage disequilibrium of five *Pyricularia oryzae* subpopulations defined according to geographical and cultivar host criteria.

Region	Cultivar	N ¹	MLG ²	eMLG ³	H _E ⁴	N _a ⁵	pN _a ⁶	Clone-corrected data set	
								I _A ⁷ (P-value)	r _D ⁸ (P-value)
West RS	Puitá INTA CL	17	16	16	0.31 ± 0.32	2.5	0.1	0.25 (0.030)	0.05 (0.029)
	Guri INTA CL	17	14	14	0.21 ± 0.28	2.0	0.2	-0.03 (0.55)	-0.01 (0.55)
	BRS Querência	17	16	16	0.46 ± 0.33	3.6	1.2	0.63 (0.001)	0.09 (0.001)
East RS	Puitá INTA CL	25	22	15.5	0.30 ± 0.39	2.3	0.1	-0.17 (0.985)	-0.06 (0.987)
	Guri INTA CL	37	26	13.7	0.41 ± 0.30	3.0	0.3	1.34 (0.001)	0.20 (0.001)

¹ Population sample size

² The total number of multilocus microsatellite genotypes (MLG)

³ Number of expected MLG for a sample size of 17 isolates

⁴ Gene diversity or expected heterozygosity, mean ± standard deviation

⁵ Allelic richness corrected for smaller sample size in each region

⁶ Private allelic richness corrected for smaller sample size in each region

⁷ Measures of multilocus linkage disequilibrium

Table Source: D'Ávila et al. (2016; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40858-016-0101-9>)

Figures

- Figures should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and may appear right after the paragraphs it was called out.
- Legends should be placed below the figure.
- The final size of the figures, when published, will be adjusted to fit one or two columns.
- In case of photographic images, special care must be taken with the quality of the image itself as well as the correct format for ensuring quality is preserved. The commonly used procedure of taking pictures with a digital camera placed above a microscope eyepiece normally yields poor

quality images with shaded periphery that are inadequate for publication. Photographic images are best shared as JPG or JPEG format.

- Details of interest can be shown in pictures with arrows accompanied and explanations of the details in the legend.
- Diagrams, schemes and charts should be used as a visual aid for better understanding text explanation or revealing patterns in the data. Authors should use professional software for producing high quality diagrams and charts for publication. These figures can be embedded in the main text or uploaded separately. During first submission, chart or plot figures should be saved as PNG. Avoid TIFF format that produce excessive large file sizes that are not needed for review.
- Figures published elsewhere are accepted only if extremely necessary, if proven public domain or accompanied by the permission of the copyright owner(s). Please be aware that some publishers do not grant electronic rights for free and that Springer will not be able to refund any costs that may have occurred to receive these permissions. **See also in this document:**
[Permissions.](#)

Example Figures

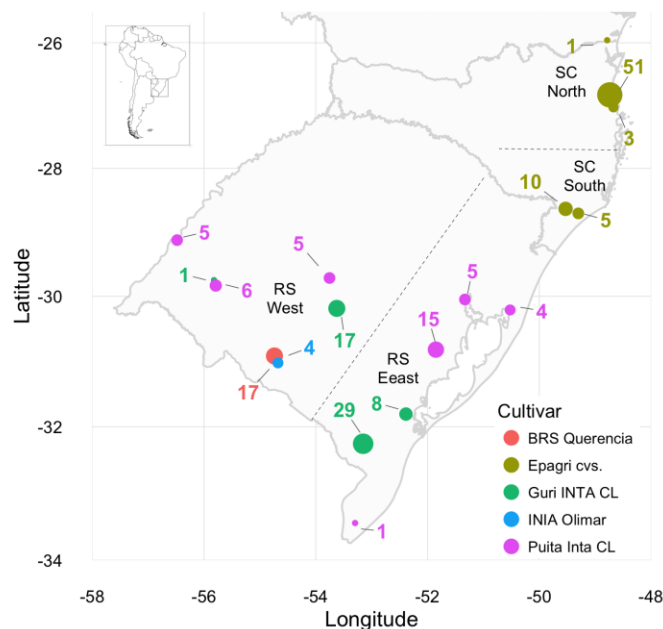


Fig. 1 Geographic origin and number of *Pyricularia oryzae* isolates sampled from different cultivars or group of cultivars (colored circles) across eleven municipalities in the states of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) and three in Santa Catarina (SC). The dashed line indicates separation of two regions in RS and SC state. The size of the circle is proportional to the number of sampled isolates per municipality. Total number of isolates is 187. (D'Ávila et al. 2016; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40858-016-0101-9>)

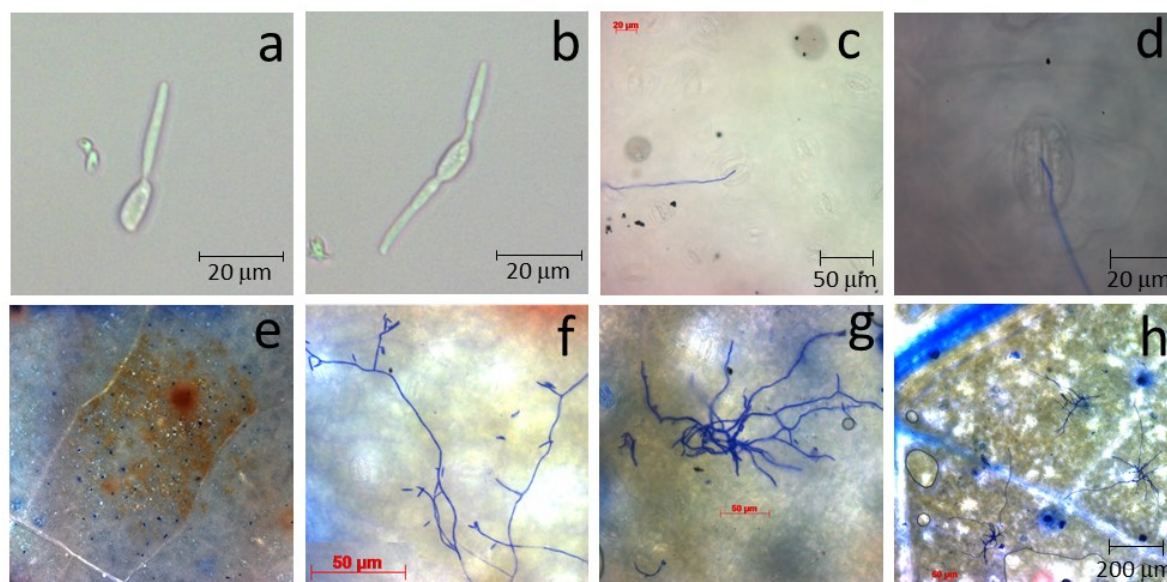


Fig. 3. *Ramulariopsis pseudoglycines* conidia germination giving rise to one (a) or two (b) germ tubes; Germ tube penetration through open stomata (c and d); e) Susceptible cotton cultivar cells collapse at 16 days after inoculation; f) Early sporulation without penetration four days after artificial inoculation in growth chamber with 100% humidity; Conidiophores emerging grouped through stomata at 13 days after inoculation (g and h) (Pictures c-h: Larissa Arrais and Sameer Khanal). (Silva et al. 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40858-019-00308-w>)

Electronic Supplementary Material

Electronic supplementary material may consist of:

- information that cannot be embedded in PDF files such as: animations, video clips, sound recordings;
- electronic form data produced or gathered from other sources for the analysis, of various sizes such as raw experimental data, sequences, spectral data, etc. These data should not be shared as PDF but in the original file: spreadsheet or, database files;
- computational codes in the original format, preferably with sufficient comments that allow anyone to reproduce the analysis;
- before submitting research datasets as electronic supplementary material, authors should read the journal's [Research data policy](#). We encourage authors to upload research data in repositories whenever possible.

Submission

- Supply all supplementary material in standard file formats.
- To accommodate user downloads, please keep in mind that larger-sized files may require very long download times and that some users may experience other problems during downloading.

Numbering

- If supplying any supplementary material, the text must make specific mention of the material as a citation, similar to that of figures and tables.
- Refer to the supplementary files as “Online Resource”, e.g., “... as shown in the animation (Online Resource 3)”, “... additional data are given in Online Resource 4”.
- Name the files consecutively, e.g. “ESM_3.mpg”, “ESM_4.pdf”.

Captions

- For each supplementary material, please supply a concise caption describing the content of the file.

Processing of supplementary files

- Electronic supplementary material will be published as received from the author without any conversion, editing, or reformatting.
