

# Predicting Future *Phytophthora* Outbreaks: New tools to identify emerging lineages and track spread.

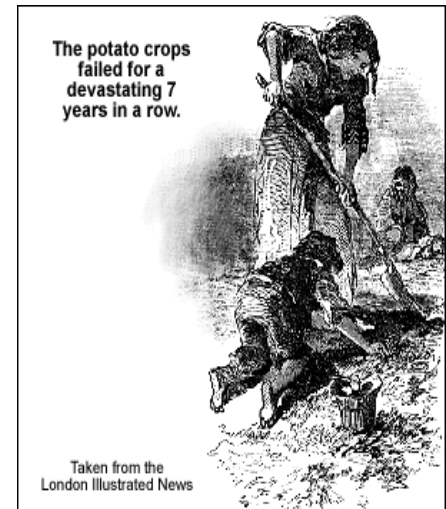
Jean Beagle Ristaino

WNR Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology

Emerging Plant Disease and Global Food Security Cluster

**NC STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Plant Sciences Initiative



# Late blight re-emerging disease: A constraint to potato production worldwide - impacts food security

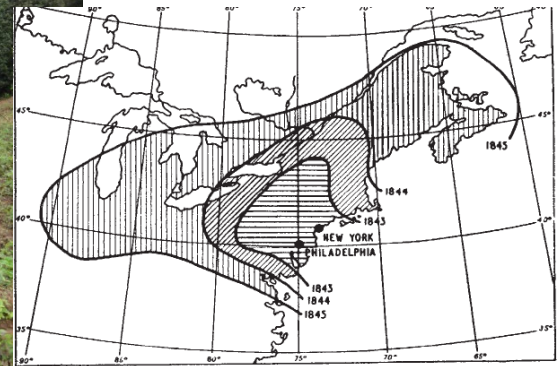


Fig. 1. Approximate extent of potato blight attacks in the United States and Canada during 1843-45 (after Stevens)

Has increased in incidence, geography, host range and virulence

## The persistent threat of emerging plant disease pandemics to global food security

Jean B. Ristaino<sup>a,1</sup>, Pamela K. Anderson<sup>b,c</sup>, Daniel P. Bebber<sup>d</sup>, Kate A. Brauman<sup>e</sup>, Nik J. Cunniffe<sup>f</sup>, Nina V. Fedoroff<sup>g</sup>, Cambria Finegold<sup>h</sup>, Karen A. Garrett<sup>i,j</sup>, Christopher A. Gilligan<sup>f</sup>, Christopher M. Jones<sup>k</sup>, Michael D. Martin<sup>l</sup>, Graham K. MacDonald<sup>m</sup>, Patricia Neenan<sup>n</sup>, Angela Records<sup>o</sup>, David G. Schmale<sup>p</sup>, Laura Tateosian<sup>k</sup>, and Qingshan Wei<sup>q</sup>

Edited by Barbara Valent, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, and approved April 7, 2021 (received for review November 30, 2020)

Plant disease outbreaks are increasing and threaten food security for the vulnerable in many areas of the world. Now a global human pandemic is threatening the health of millions on our planet. A stable, nutritious food supply will be needed to lift people out of poverty and improve health outcomes. Plant diseases, both endemic and recently emerging, are spreading and exacerbated by climate change, transmission with global food trade networks, pathogen spillover, and evolution of new pathogen lineages. In order to tackle these grand challenges, a new set of tools that include disease surveillance and improved detection technologies including pathogen sensors and predictive modeling and data analytics are needed to prevent future outbreaks. Herein, we describe an integrated research agenda that could help mitigate future plant disease pandemics.

emerging plant disease | plant pathology | food security

- Need for surveillance
- Geospatial Analytics
- Earth Observations-remote sensing
- Sensors for early detection
- Pathogen Risk Modeling
- Data mining past and social media reports
- Phylogenomic surveillance
- Digital Delivery of information to stakeholders

# Overview of main points

- USABlight and has now transitioned into the Plant Aid Database (PaDB).
- Developed a global T BAS tool for Emerging *Phytophthora*'s and SSR phylogeny and querying system to identify emerging *P. infestans* lineages
- Incorporating population genomics into forecasting systems to track spread of *P. infestans* globally and understand hotspots of 1c clade evolution
- Evolution of pathogen effectome in response to host R genes from 100 year of late blight evolution
- Developing a “Marple's” platform using targeted amplicon sequencing to monitor emerging traits of new lineages and changes within US-23 lineage
- Deploying and testing rapid field detection methods using LAMP assays for *Phytophthora infestans*.

# USABlight.org –Disease Surveillance

## Sample Submission

## Alerts and Mapping



**NC STATE** USABlight | A National Project on Tomato & Potato Late Blight

[Home](#) [About Late Blight](#) [Outbreak Map](#) [Report Late Blight](#) [Managing Late Blight](#) [Identify SSR Genotype](#) [Publications](#) [About Us](#)

Welcome to USABlight



Potato field infected with late blight. Image by Jean Ristaino, NC State.

Welcome to USABlight, a national website that acts as an information portal on late blight. You can report disease occurrences, submit a sample for genotyping, observe current and past disease occurrence maps, and sign up for text disease alerts in your area. There are also useful links to a decision support system, and information about identification and management of the disease.



## New Diagnostics



## Fungicide Decision Support Tool

**DSS Daily Email Report**

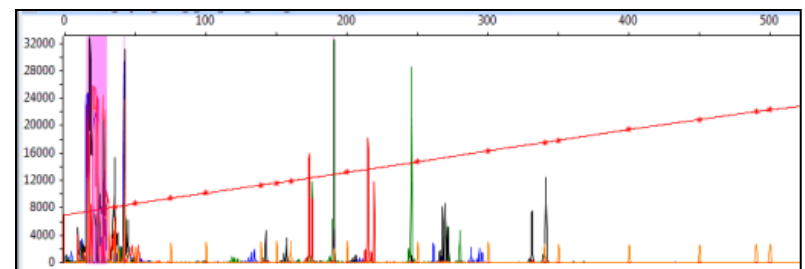
Mills River / ASHEVILLE

Date <sup>1</sup>	8/16	8/17	8/18	8/19	8/20	8/21	8/22	8/23
Blight Units	303	309	316	323	330	337	344	351
Fungicide Units	-91	-92	-94	-96	-97	-98	-99	-100

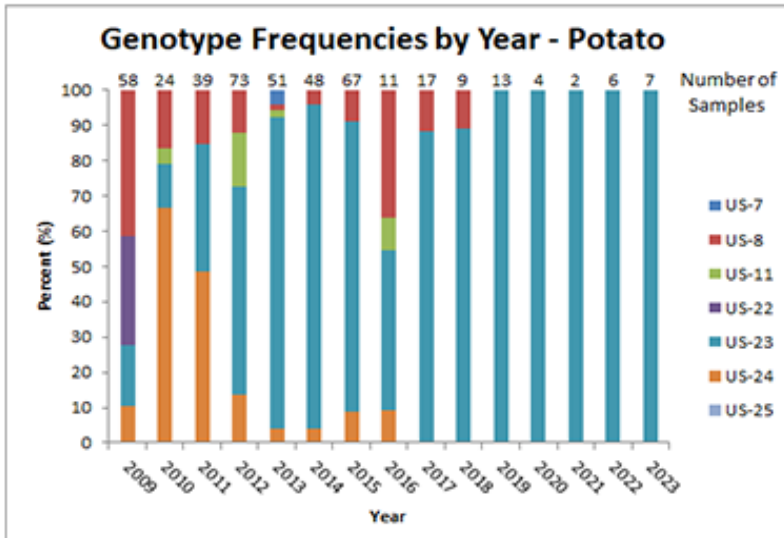
Key:

- below threshold
- blight unit threshold exceeded  $\geq 30$
- fungicide unit threshold exceeded  $\leq -15$

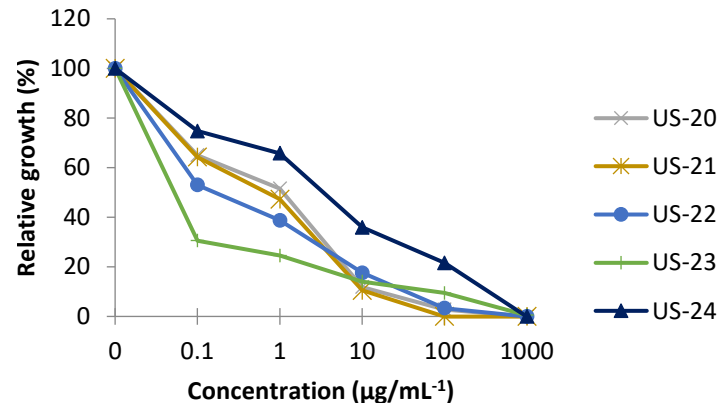
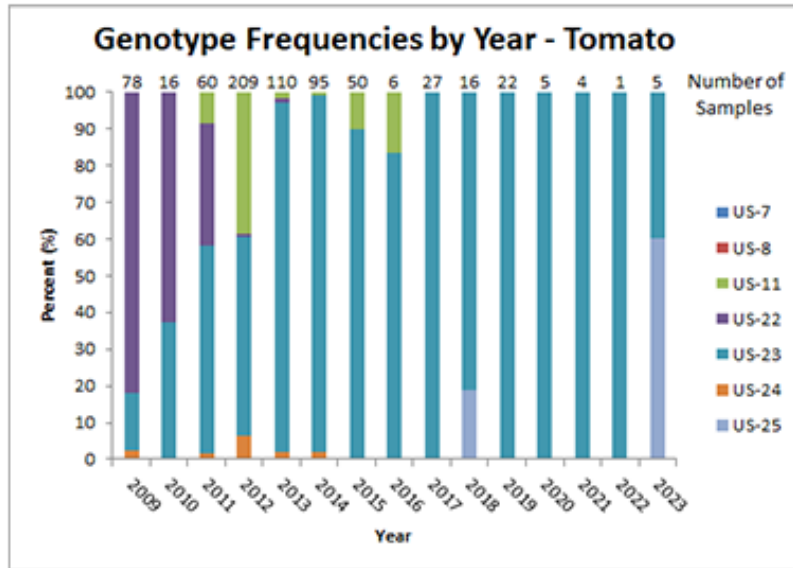
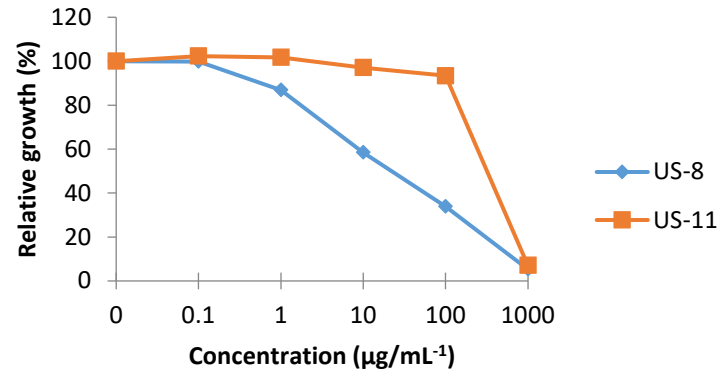
## Genotyping



# Evolution of lineages that differ in resistance to fungicides 2009-2023



- US-23 found on both tomato and potato -metalaxyl sensitive
- US-11 Tomato – west coast - mefenoxam resistant
- US-8 declined on potato - mefenoxam resistant



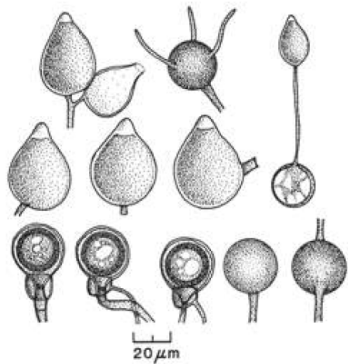
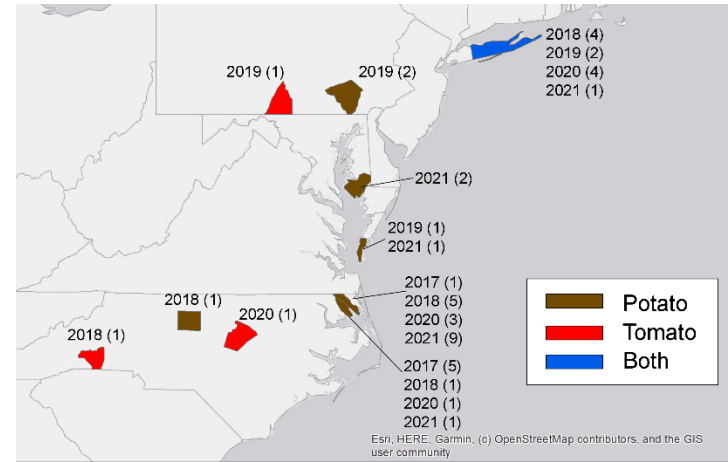
All lineages sensitive to azoxystrobin, cyazofamid, cymoxanil, fluopicolide, mandipropamid

-Saville, A. and Ristaino, J. B. 2019. *Phytopathology* 109:614-627.

-Saville, A. et al. 2015. Fungicide sensitivity of US genotypes of *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary to six oomycete-targeted compounds. *Plant Dis.* 99:659-666.

# Late blight look-alike

## *Phytophthora nicotianae* – 27-30 C , less late blight on potatoes



*P. nicotianae*



Figure 1. Morphology of *Phytophthora nicotianae* (= *Phytophthora parasitica*). Upper row, Papillate, ovoid sporangia; germinating chlamydospore. Middle row, Papillate, ovoid sporangia; germinating oospore. Lower row, Oogonia with amphigynous antheridia containing oospores; terminal and intercalary chlamydospores. (Courtesy A. Vaziri; Reproduced from Erwin and Ribeiro, 1996) [Click image to see larger view.](#)

# PlantAid database

A new dashboard for late blight and other emerging plant diseases (Cucurbit downy mildew- *P. cubensis*, SOD - *P. ramorum*)

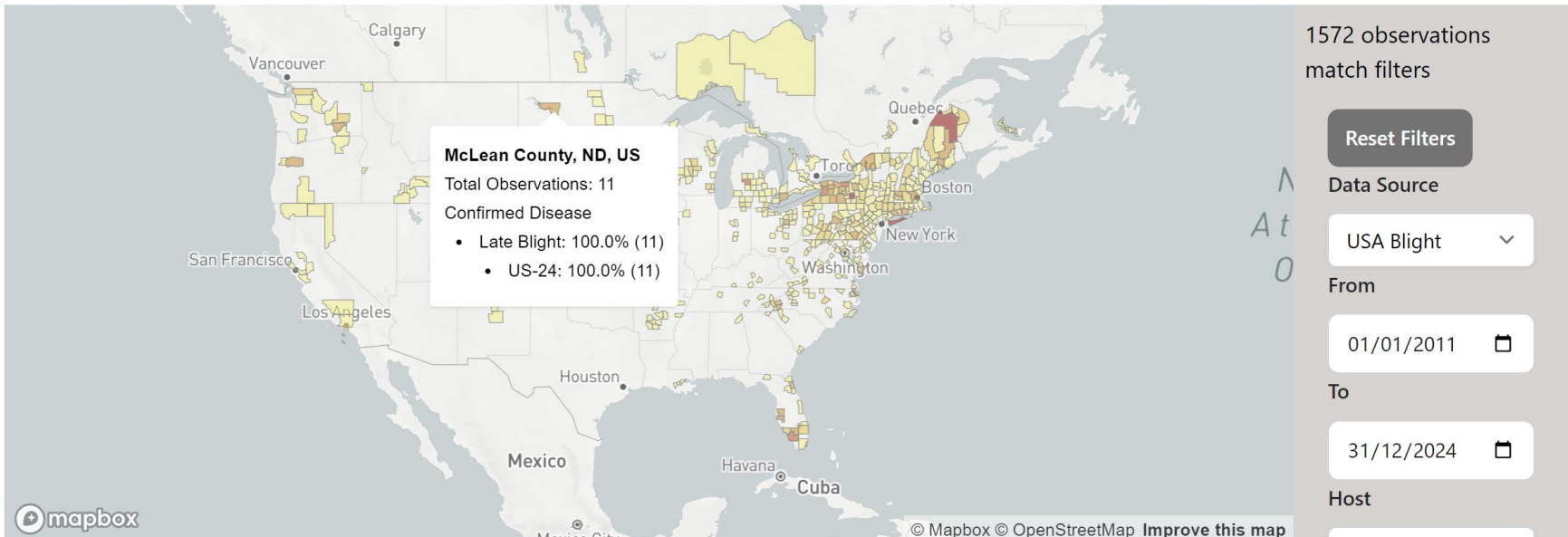


Chris Jones

Register Log in



## Confirmed Disease Observations



- Center for Geospatial Analytics- now managing USABlight
- Incorporate more real time updates from in field detection sensors
- Incorporate population genomics tools into mapping platform



# Developed an open T-BAS phylogenetic framework for “Emerging *Phytophthoras*” using multilocus genotyping

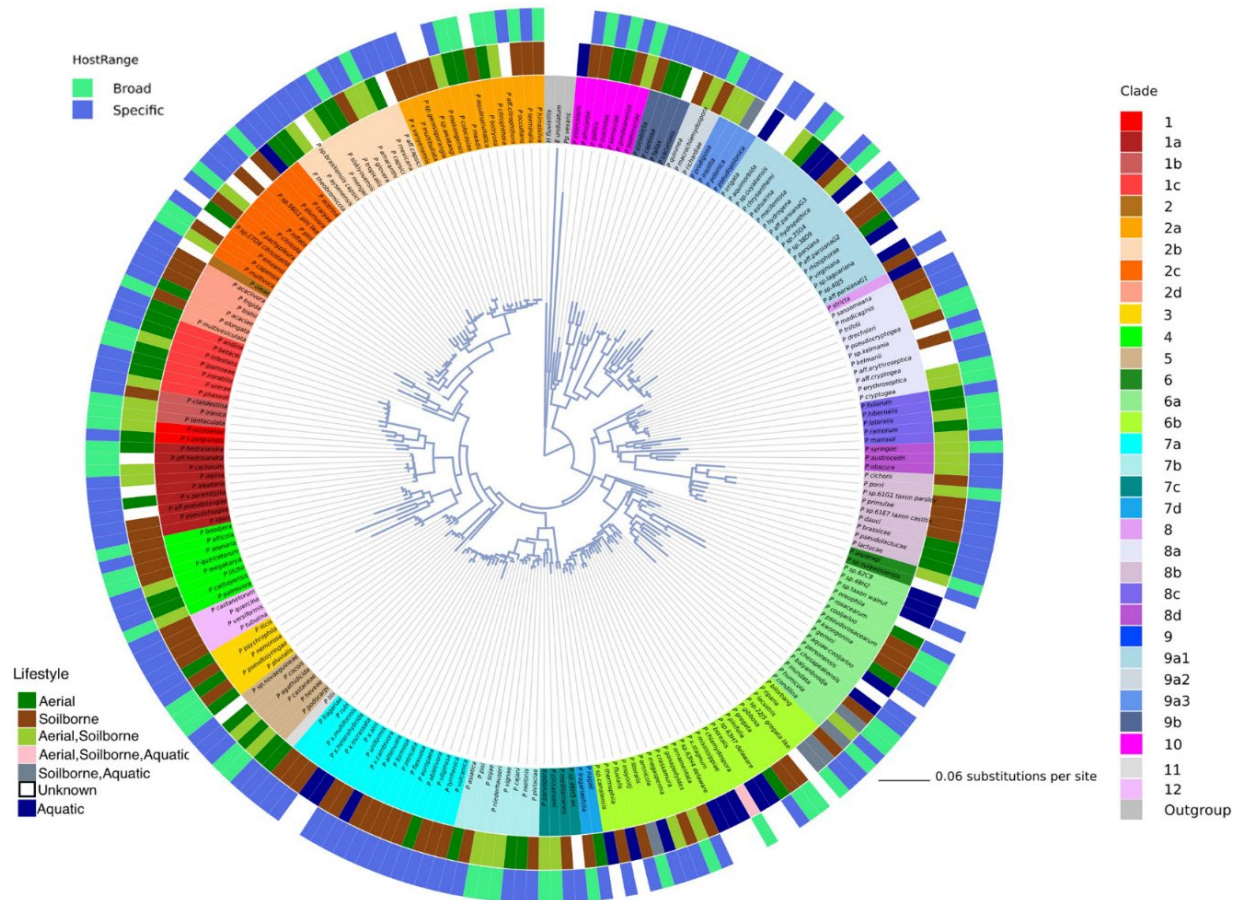
Genus level tool - uses multilocus sequences  
196 species of *Phytophthora*



Allison Coomber Ignazio Carbone Jean Ristaino

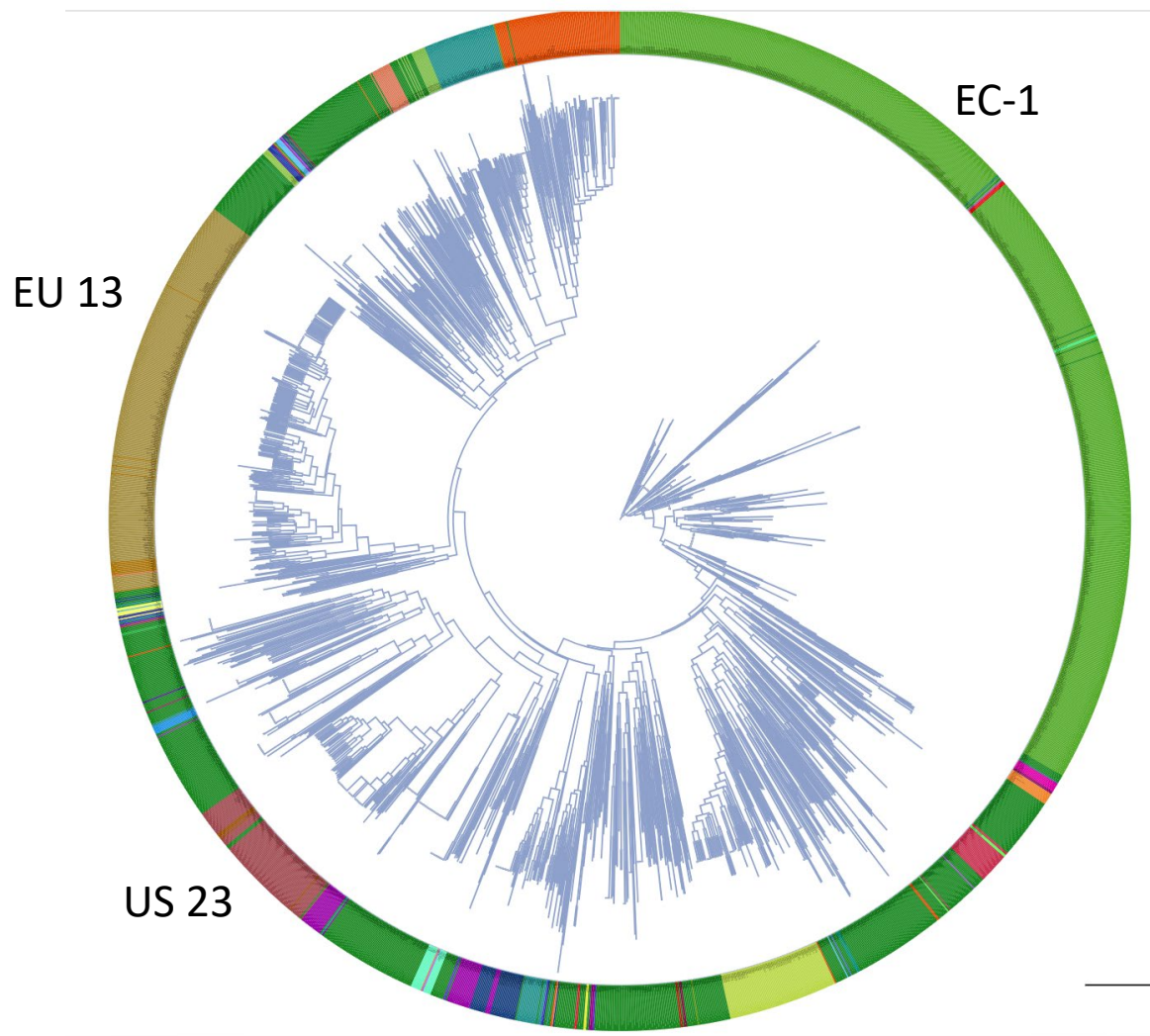
- 8 nuclear loci
- 192 species
- 33 informal taxa
- Inferred with RaxML

Loci included
28S
60SL10
Btub
EF1a
ENL
HS90
ITS
TigA



Allison Coomber, Amanda C. Saville, Ignazio Carbone, Jean B. Ristaino. 2023. An open access T-BAS phylogeny for emerging *Phytophthora* species. Plos One: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0283540>

# Developed a global T Bas SSR phylogeny and querying system to identify emerging *P. infestans* SSR lineages



David Cooke



Ignazio Carbone



Allison Coomber



Amanda Saville

[https://tbas.cifr.ncsu.edu/tbas2\\_3/pages/tbas.php](https://tbas.cifr.ncsu.edu/tbas2_3/pages/tbas.php)

# Open global *P. infestans* T BAS SSR phylogeny

**Search:**

Leaf name

**Highlighted taxa**

**Layout**

Rectangular

Radial

**Format**

Name list

CSV (sequences)

CSV (specimen metadata)

CSV (unknowns specimen metadata in OTUs)

NEXUS

PHYLIP

FASTA

Aligned

Not aligned

All queries within OTUs

MSAViewer

**Sequence**

**Analysis mode**

Separate

Concatenated

Remove taxa with no data

Remove sites with all gaps

Remove Exset or trimAl (threshold=0.30) exclusions

**Display**

CSV (specimen metadata)

tbas.cifr.ncsu.edu/tbas2\_3/show\_seq2.php

Strain_name	Pi4B	Pi04	Long	PinfSSR6	Pi02	Lat	Country	Microsats	PinfSSR11	Pi63	PinfSSR2	PinfSSR-
PPA046	213/217/0	166/170/0	-75.75188889	244/258/0	266/266/0	-10.76494444	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PPA044	213/217/0	166/170/0	-75.73250556	244/258/0	266/266/0	-10.76272222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PPA043	213/217/0	166/170/0	-75.73250556	244/258/0	266/266/0	-10.76272222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PPA041	213/217/0	166/170/0	-75.73250556	244/258/0	266/266/0	-10.76272222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PPA042	213/217/0	166/170/0	-75.73250556	244/258/0	266/266/0	-10.76272222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PCA027	213/217/221	166/170/0	-78.415	244/250/0	266/266/0	-7.3125	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP113	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.48194444	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.3055	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1108	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56344444	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377305556	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1107	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56344444	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377305556	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1106	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56344444	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377305556	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1105	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56344444	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377305556	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1103	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56327778	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377222222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0
PP1104	213/217/0	166/170/0	-79.56327778	244/254/0	266/266/0	-5.377222222	Peru		341/355/0	270/273/279	173/177/0	288/290/0

**Country**

- Algeria
- Australia
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Britain
- Cameroon
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Ireland
- Italy

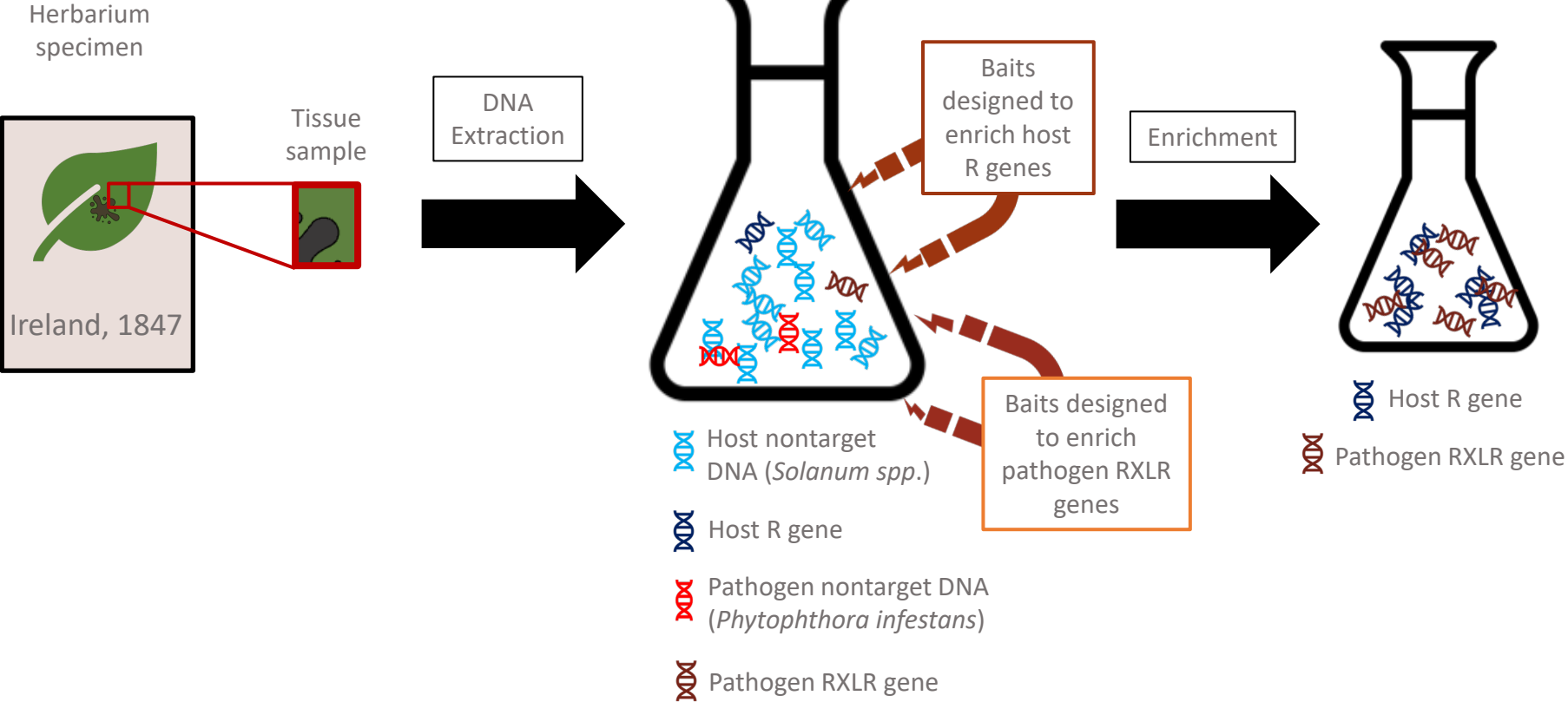
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**Taxa selected: 13**  
 Removing taxa with no data  
 Removing sites with all gaps  
**Taxa with no sequence data**      **Locus**  
**Taxa with sequence data Locus**  
**Locus Sites Constant Variable**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1.9 substitutions p

# Targeted effector and R gene sequencing



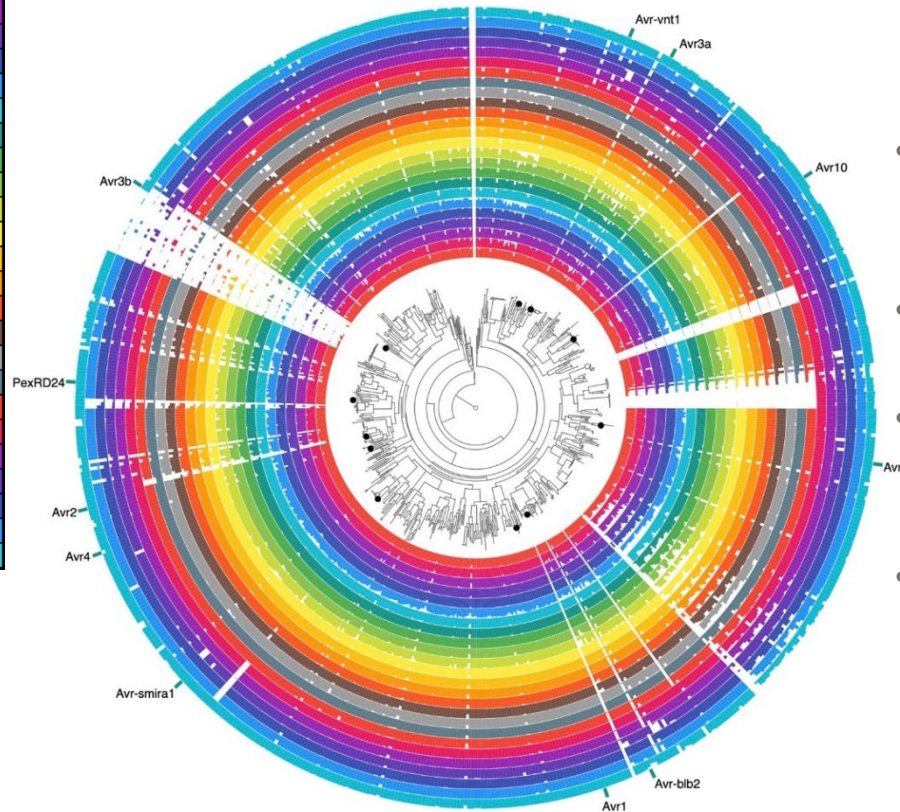
Allison Coomber, Amanda Saville, Jean Ristaino



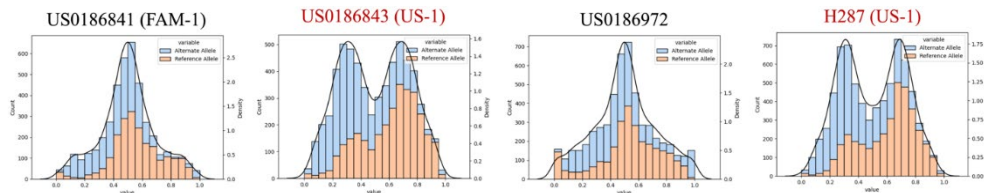
Coomber, A. Saville, A., and Ristaino, J. 2024. Evolution of *Phytophthora infestans* on its Potato Host since the Irish Potato Famine . Nature Communications Pending

# *P. infestans* effector evolution since the famine

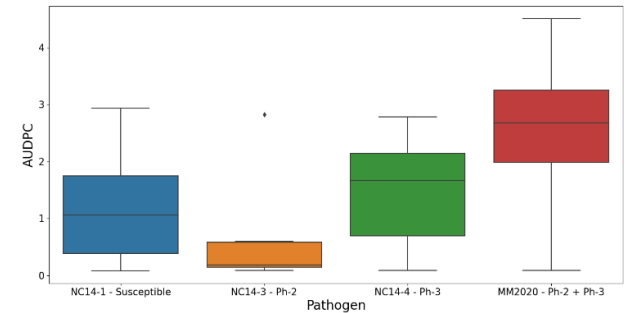
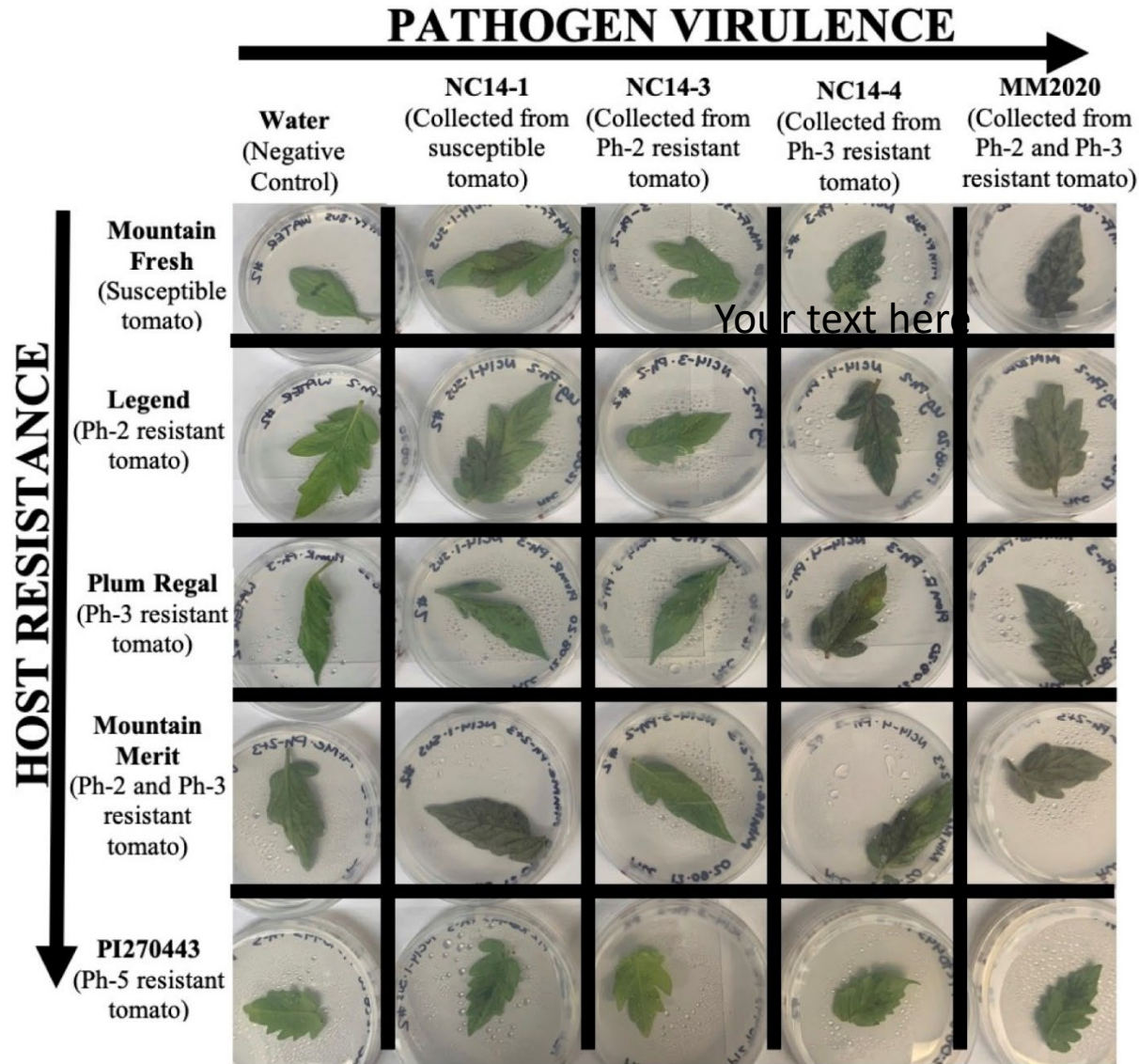
H246 (1845)	
K47 (1846) [FAM-1]	
K8 (1847)	
H256 (1849) [FAM-1]	
K53 (1852)	
K52 (1855)	
US0186686 (1855) [FAM-1]	
K41 (1879) [FAM-1]	
K81 (1879) [FAM-1]	
US0186680 (1880) [FAM-1]	
US0186932 (1880) [FAM-1]	
US0186842 (1896) [FAM-1]	
H227 (1909) [FAM-1]	
US0186979 (1915) [FAM-1]	
H281 (1916) [FAM-1]	
US0186868 (1918) [FAM-1]	
US0186928 (1934) [FAM-1]	
US0186929 (1935) [FAM-1]	
US0186841 (1937) [FAM-1]	
H287 (1948) [US-1]	
US0186843 (1943) [US-1]	
US0186972 (1948)	
K126 (1952) [US-1]	
IMI53089 (1953) [US-1]	
US0186956 (1954) [FAM-1]	



- **Expansion** of effectors over time
- Avr3b was the only cloned effector not present in Famine era samples but did appear in the mid 1900s
- Expansion coincides with the spread of genotype US-1 in 1930-50s
- FAM-1 lineages were diploid, US-1 triploid- ploidy changed
- AL virulent, **resistance-breaking allele of Avr1 found in FAM 1 lineages**
- Although *R1* resistance had not yet been deployed in cultivated potatoes during the Famine era, **the FAM-1 lineage already possessed the ability to overcome the first resistance gene that would later be deployed by breeders.**



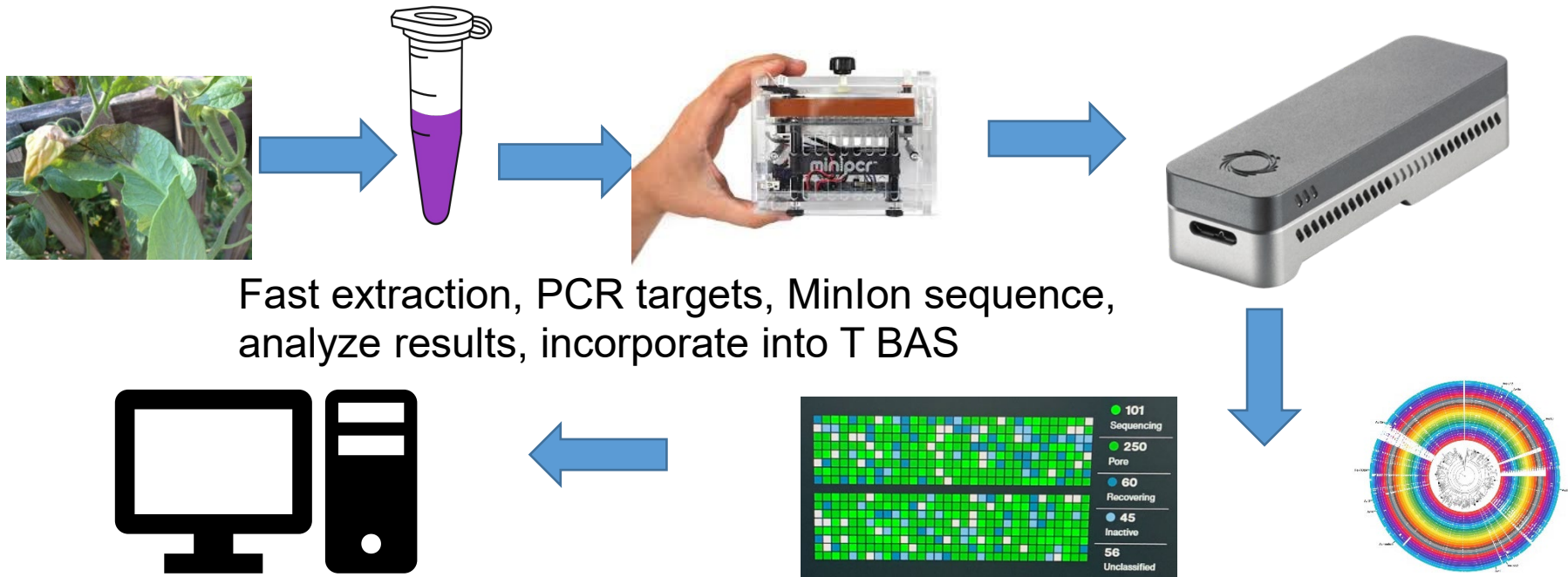
# US-23 differs in virulence on tomato-Resistance breaking strain MM2020



Phytopathology: in review

# Developing a “Marple's” platform using targeted amplicon sequencing to monitor emerging traits of new lineages and changes within US-23 lineage

- US - 23 clonal lineage widespread and sensitive to mefenoxan.
- All US 23 are not the same- differ in virulence and host specificity.
- Need better phenotypic markers and genotyping to guide management
- Resistance breaking strains of US-23 *P. infestans* can overcome Ph 2+3 genes in tomato
- Species and lineage id
- Fungicide sensitivity markers CesA3 (mandipropamid resistance, Blum et al. 2010); OSBP (oxathiapiprolin resistance, Mboup et al. 2021)
- Key effectors (e.g. AVR3a/b, PexRD24 plus more), other traits?



# Disease Surveillance



Can we detect phenotypic traits early before symptoms occur ?



# Tomato Disease Diagnostics

## LAMP assays for all

- 1.85 billion dollar industry
- NC is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in nation in production with over 4000 acres grown
- Foliar diseases require 15 or more fungicide or pesticide applications



Early Blight- *Alternaria linariae*



Bacterial spot – *Xanthomonas perforans*



Amanda Saville



Tatsiana Shymanovich



Late Blight- *Phytophthora infestans*



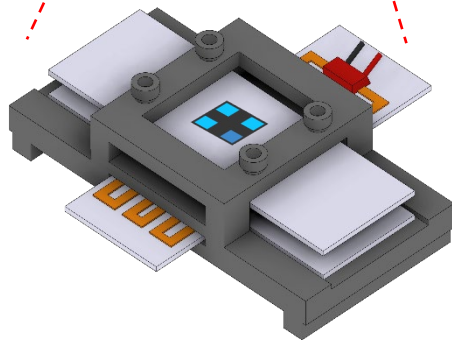
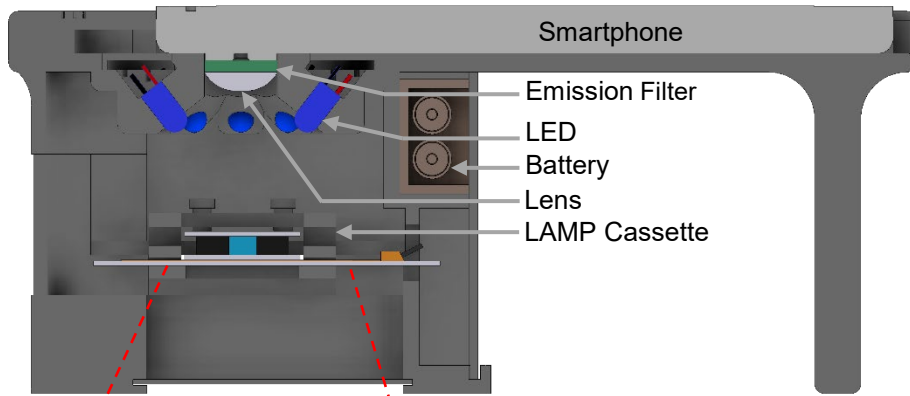
Tomato spotted wilt virus- TSWV

# Deploying and testing LyoBead and smartphone LAMP assays for rapid in field detection of specific lineages of *Phytophthora infestans*.



Q. Wei Rajesh Paul

## Smartphone Fluorescent Reader

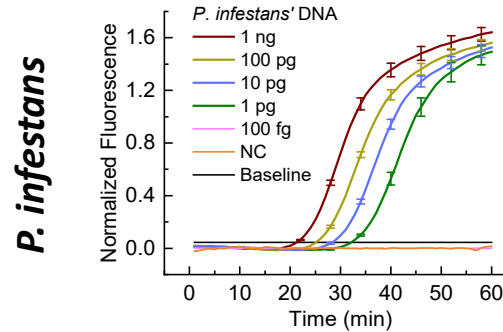


Heated sample cassette

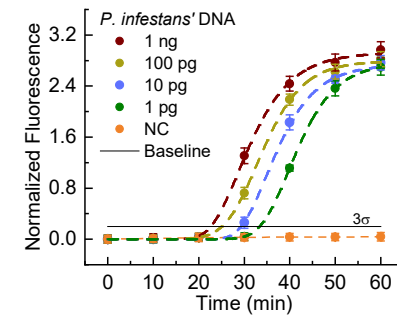


Patterned MN Patch

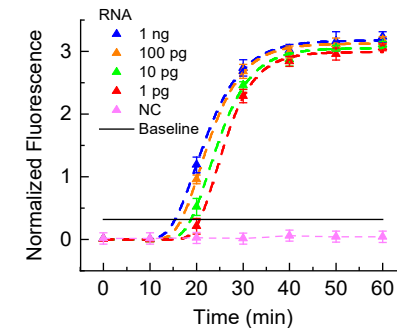
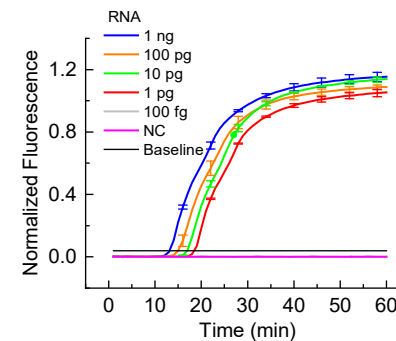
## Benchtop real-time thermocycler



## Smartphone-based Platform



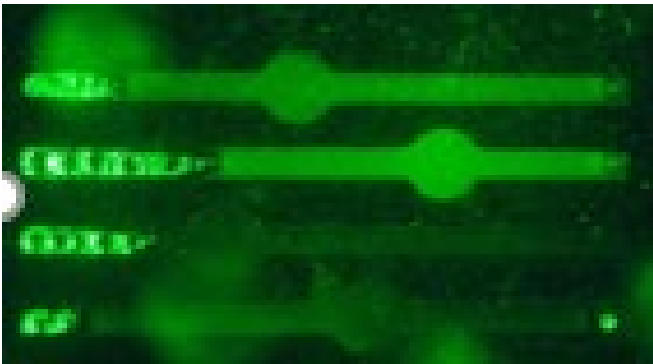
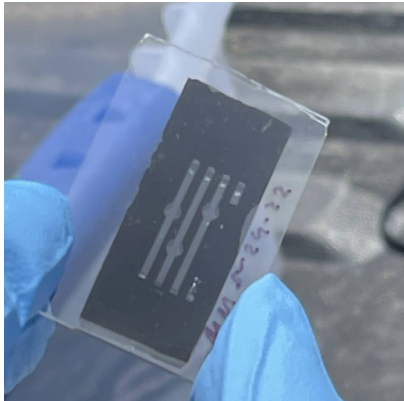
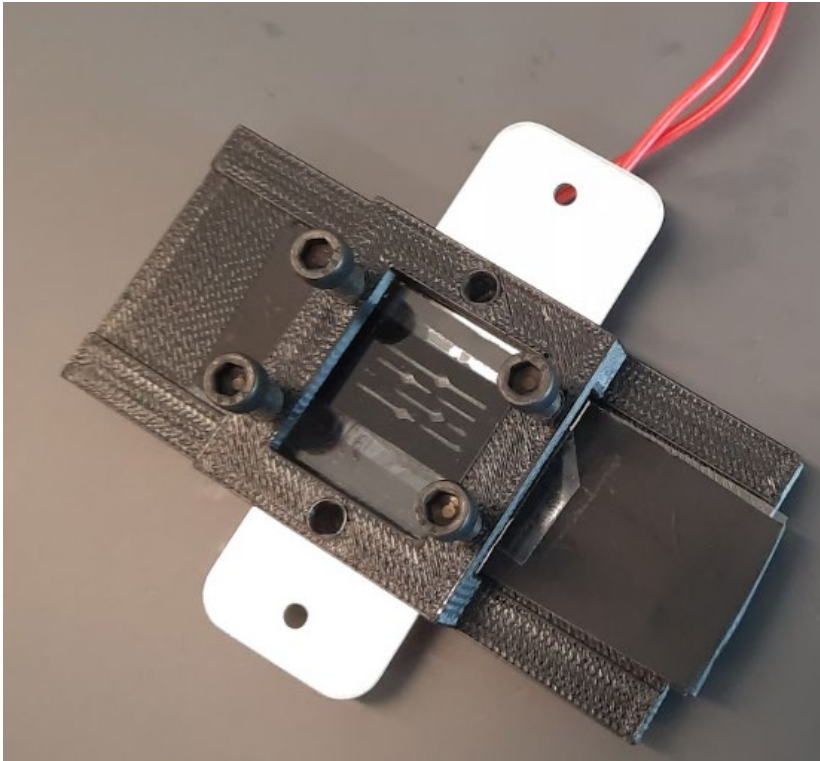
## TSWV



Ristaino et al., 2020. Comparison of LAMP, real-time and Digital PCR for detection of *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Disease* 104:708-716.

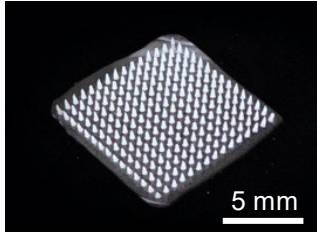
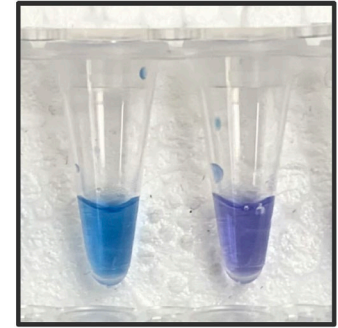
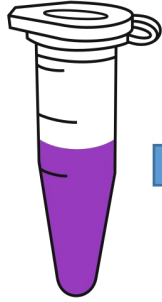
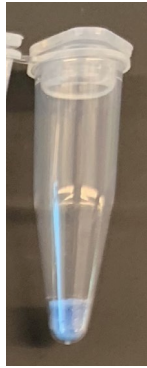
Paul, R. et al 2020. Integrated Microneedle-Smartphone Nucleic Acid Amplification Platform for In-Field Diagnosis of Plant Diseases. *Biosensors and Bioelectronics* 187:113312

# Version 2.0 Smart phone microfluidic LAMP cassette



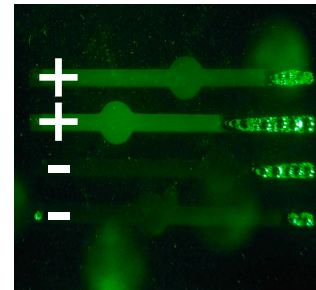
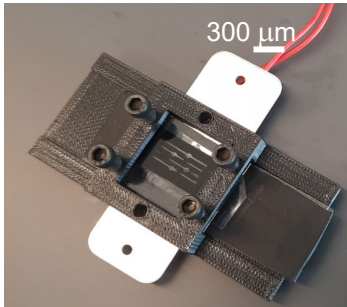
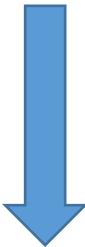


# *P. infestans* LyoBead LAMP



MN extractions followed by 20 min LAMP with lyobeads

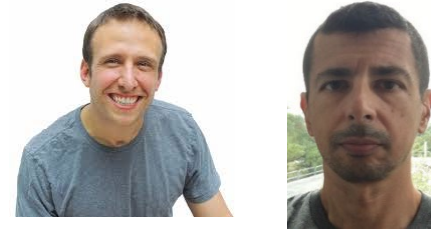
Run reaction on AgDia heat block



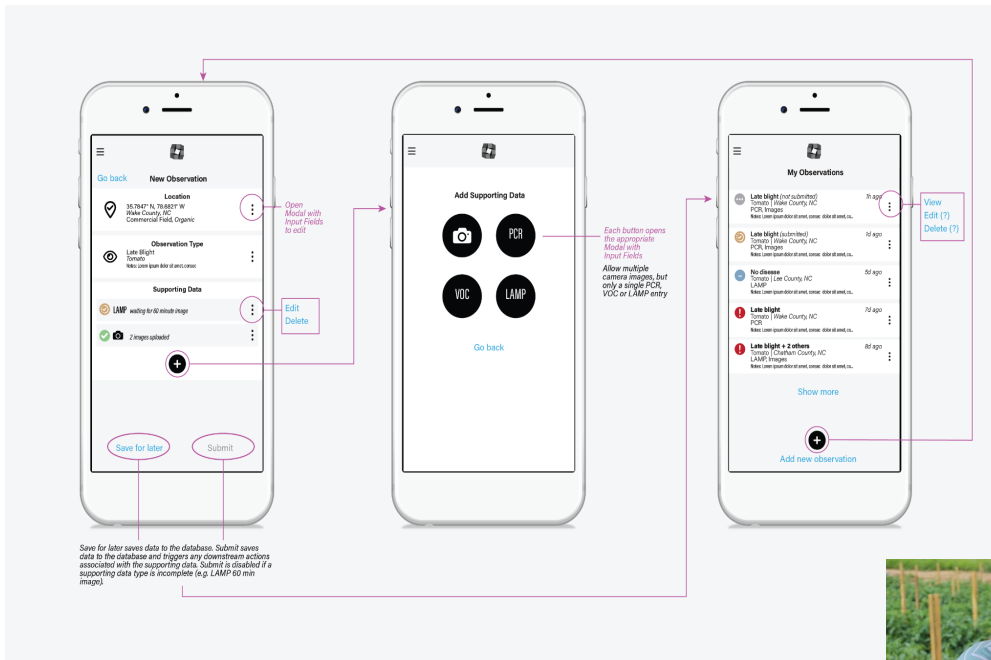
All *Phytophthora*  
*P. infestans*  
Healthy leaf  
NTC

Run reaction on heated smartphone chip  
Visualize a fluorescence change

# Link LAMP data collected in the field with PaDB via a web portal



Chris Jones John Polo



- Image analysis software being trained to read the LAMP cassette results
- Linking sensor data to PaDB platform



## Issues to resolve

How do we scale detection technology?  
What targets do we monitor?-fungicide resistance, resistance breaking strains, host specific lineages, aggressiveness traits

# Summary of what you learned today

- USA Blight and has now transitioned into the Plant Aid Database (PaDB).
- Developed a global T BAS tool for Emerging *Phytophthora's* and SSR phylogeny and querying system to identify emerging *P. infestans* lineages
- Incorporating population genomics into forecasting systems to track spread of *P. infestans* and understand evolution of 1c clade
- Evolution of pathogen effectome in response to host R genes from 100 year of late blight evolution
- Developing a “Marple's” platform using targeted amplicon sequencing to monitor emerging traits of new lineages and changes within US-23 lineage
- Deploying and testing rapid field detection methods using LAMP assays for *Phytophthora infestans*.



J. Ristaino's laboratory website  
<http://ristainolab.cals.ncsu.edu//>



United States Department of Agriculture  
 National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Plant Science Initiative, NC State

