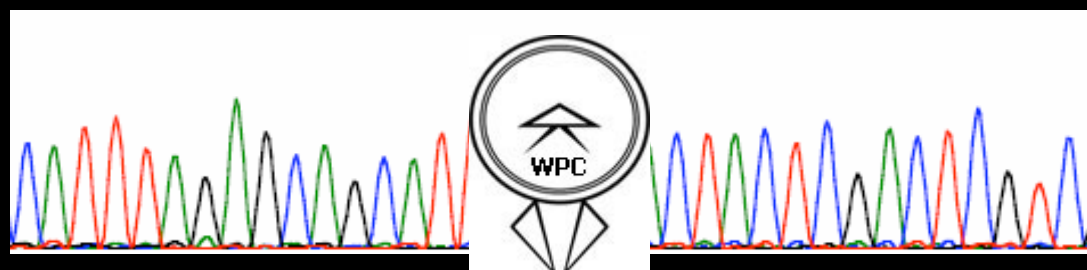


# **The World Oomycetes Genetic Resource Collection (WOGRC) formerly World Phytophthora Collection (WPC): The history, mission, goals and projections for the future**



**Michael D. Coffey**  
University of California, Riverside



United States Department of Agriculture



# Genus *Phytophthora*

## *Phytophthora infestans* Late Blight of Potato (Solanaceous plants)



1840s – Irish potato famine  
DeBary (1861)

## *Phytophthora ramorum* Sudden Oak Death (Ramorum Blight)



BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION

Low Graphics version | Change edition

News Front Page

Last Updated: Thursday, 4 December, 2003, 13:21 GMT

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## Mystery oak killer hits UK trees

By Alex Kirby  
BBC News Online environment correspondent

A disease which has destroyed many thousands of Californian oaks has been found for the first time in several well-loved British tree species.



The fungus strikes: Death is inevitable (Image: Forestry Commission)

It is a fungus called sudden oak death, and till now it had been found only in UK shrubs and a tree native to the US.

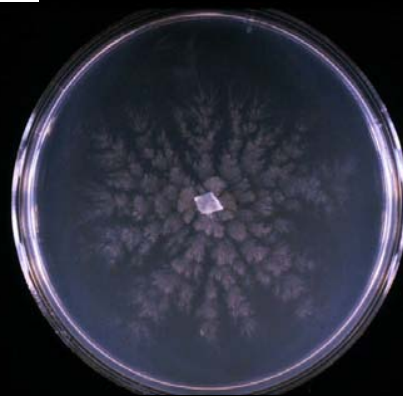
But the Forestry Commission says the disease has now struck beech, horse chestnuts and holm oaks in Cornwall.

There is no known cure for the disease, which kills the bark and is thought likely to affect other species.

The fungus, known as *Phytophthora ramorum*, was first found on one oak species in the western US.

It was discovered last year in garden centres, and there have been subsequent outbreaks in plants including rhododendrons.

BBC SPORT | BBC WEATHER | BBC ON THIS DAY



Features: [Where the Wild Things Are](#) | [An African Son](#) | [Do Tell](#) | [The Mighty Are Falling](#)  
Departments: [Campus Views](#) | [Letters](#) | [News & Notes](#) | [Class Notes](#) | [Apples Remember](#) | [End Notes](#)

## The Mighty Are Falling

By Jeff Hudson

A species of the organism that caused the devastating Irish potato famine is now killing the California oaks.

Something is killing the oak trees—the handsome, long-lived, slope-dwelling trees that are the visual signature on many of Marin County's beautiful and expensive hillsides.

Arborists started noticing dying tanoaks in 1994. By 1996, people were noticing that coast live oaks were dying as well. And so were the black oaks.

The foliage would turn brown, and sap would ooze from the bark on the trunk. Seemingly healthy trees could become dead trees within a matter of weeks.

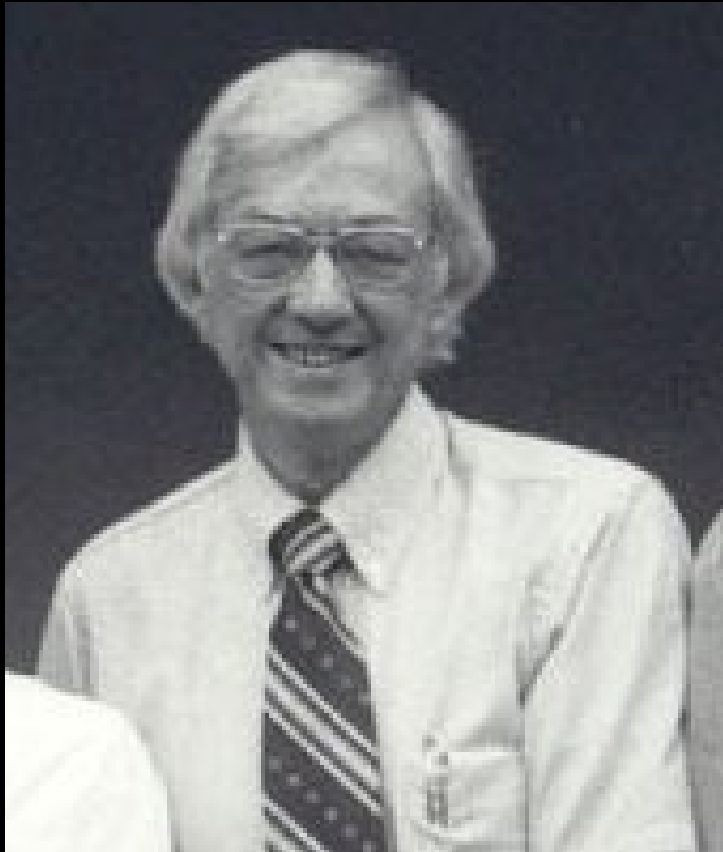
The newspapers soon gave the phenomenon a name: "Sudden oak death." But what was causing the trees to die? Some thought a number of different bugs might be found at the base of it all. Others thought it was even a symptom of climate change.





# WPC founders

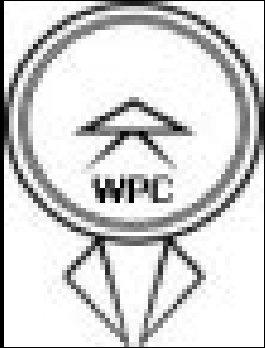
**D.C. Erwin**



**G.A. Zentmyer**



Source: Michael D Coffey



## World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC)

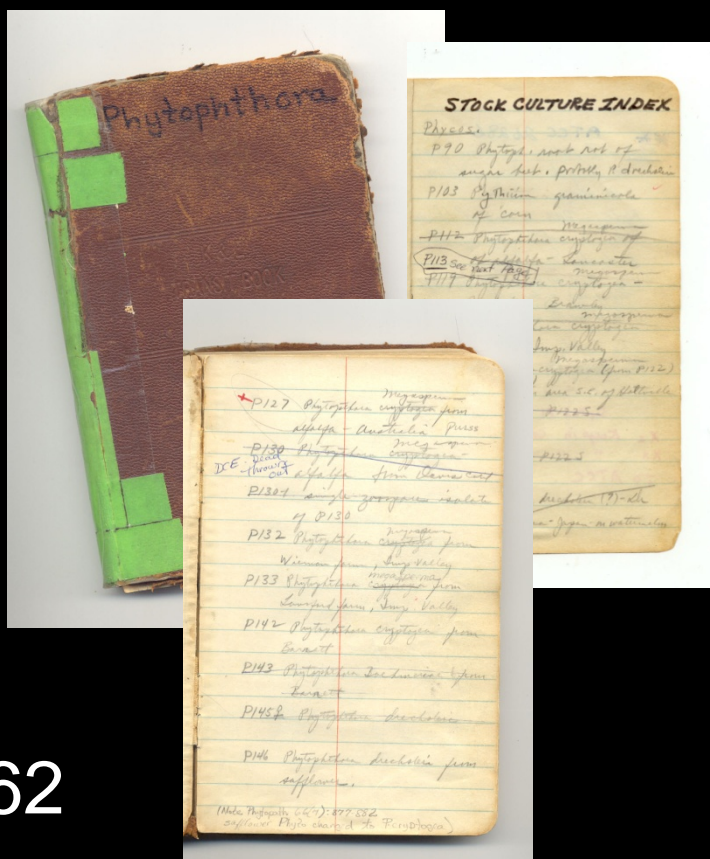
The origins of this important collection were in the research works of Professor Erwin and Professor Zentmyer at the University of California, Riverside

Erwin collected mainly isolates from alfalfa (lucerne)

Zentmyer isolates of *P. cinnamomi*  
and *Phytophthora* species from cacao

## WPC founders

D.C. Erwin



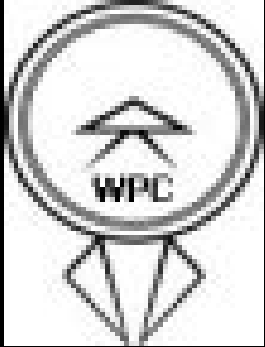
1962

G.A. Zentmyer



1965

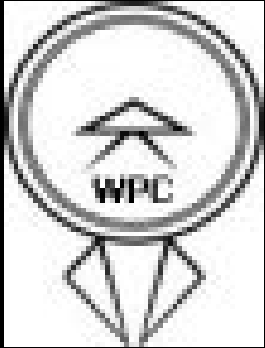
Source: Michael D Coffey



## World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC)

In 1962, the first accessions of the World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC) were placed in glass culture tubes and a great adventure began.

The oldest deposition of the existing cultures is P0127, an isolate of *Phytophthora medicaginis* from Australia



## World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC)

There was also a limited attempt to accumulate representative species of the genus.

With Zentmyer's retirement in 1979 some of the accessions were sent to ATCC which provided them with a core collection

Many cultures were lost at this point due to the difficulty of maintaining them using traditional methods such as preservation under mineral oil

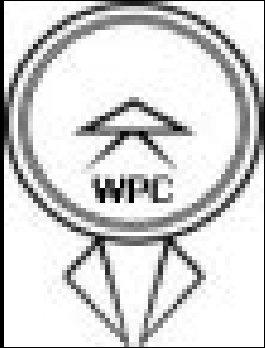




## CRYOPRESERVATION of the World Phytophthora Collection (WPC) 1981-2008

In 1986 a major development was the provision of funds by the  
UC Genetic Resources Conservation Program  
(UC GRCP) for Imperiled Microbial Collections to allow the WPC  
to be stored under liquid nitrogen using  
cryogenic techniques

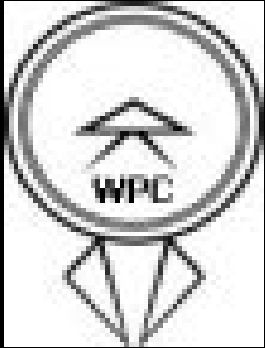
UC GRCP was terminated in June 2008



World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC)  
A part of the WOGRC

The WPC has grown in stature over the last 25 years increasing in size from 600 to over 9500 accessions of *Phytophthora* (August 2008) of the more than 95 species which represent our current taxonomic information on this most important oomycete genus

Many of the accessions have been intensively studied over the years and thus the WPC is not only unique in size but also in terms of its importance as a genetic resource



Pythium species Genetic Resource Collection  
A part of the WOGRC

This collection has grown in stature over the last 20 years increasing in size from 30 to over 900 accessions of *Pythium* (August 2008) representing more than 97 species.

DNA from many of the accessions has been extracted and retained in the WOGRC DNA Bank and thus the Pythium Collection is not only unique in size but also in terms of its importance as a genetic resource

# *Phytophthora* Species

- ▣ 95 plus species described
- ▣ variability in morphological traits
- ▣ limited morphological traits
- ▣ atypical isolates
- ▣ isozymes, mtDNA RFLP
- ▣ ITS sequences
- genomics, multilocus analysis and  
phylogenetic species

# Waterhouse Groups

▣ papillate

▣ paragynous I

▣ amphigynous II

▣ semipapillate

▣ paragynous III

▣ amphigynous IV

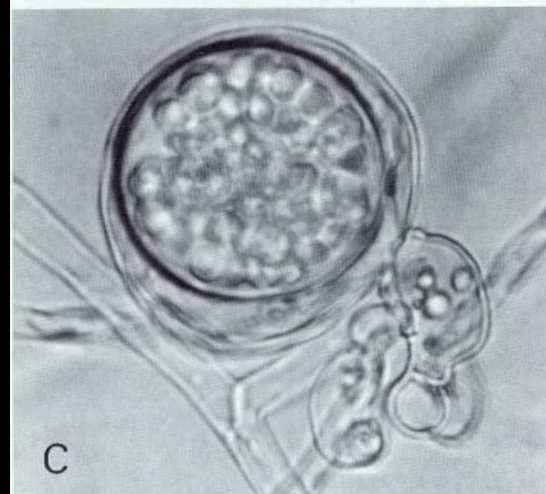
▣ nonpapillate

▣ paragynous V

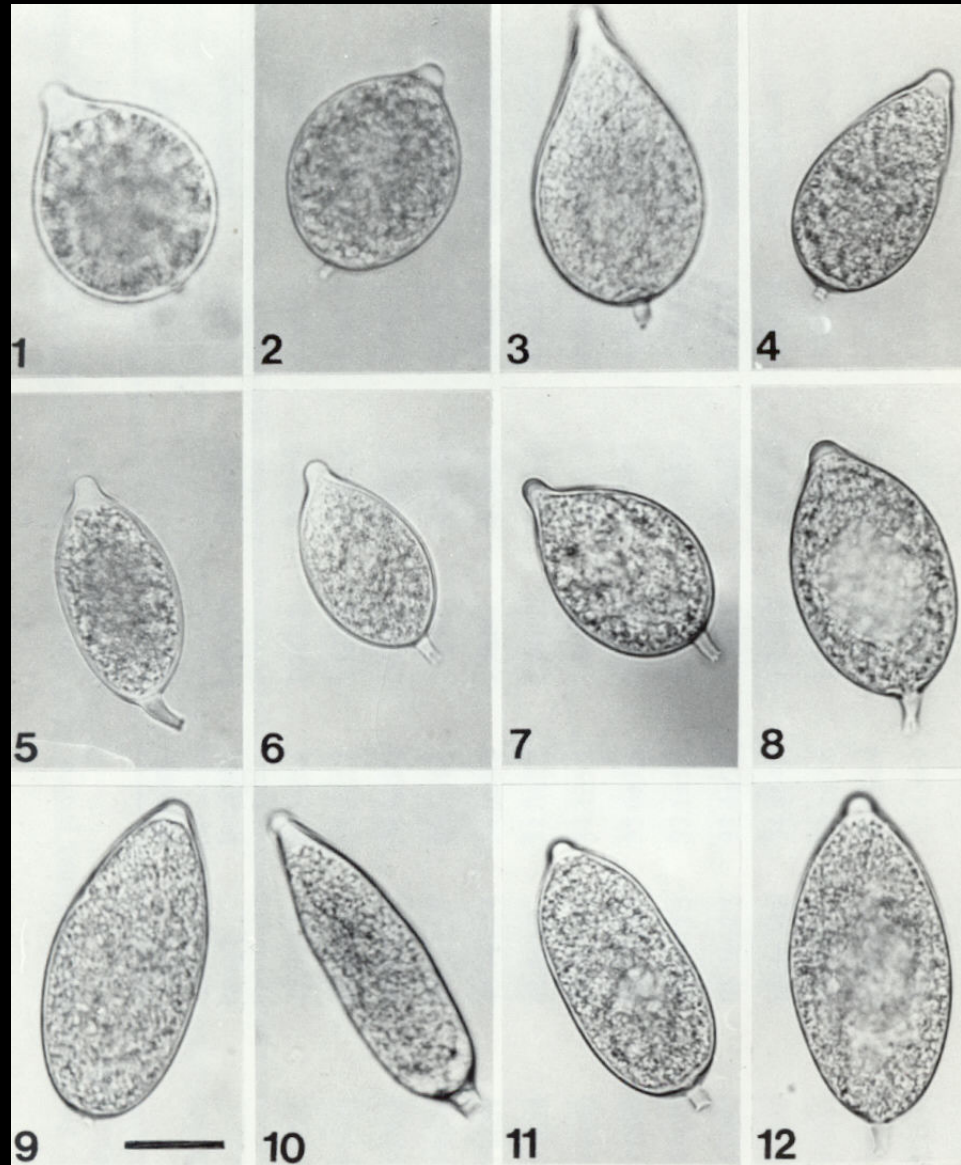
▣ amphigynous VI



# Amphigynous versus Paragynous Antheridium

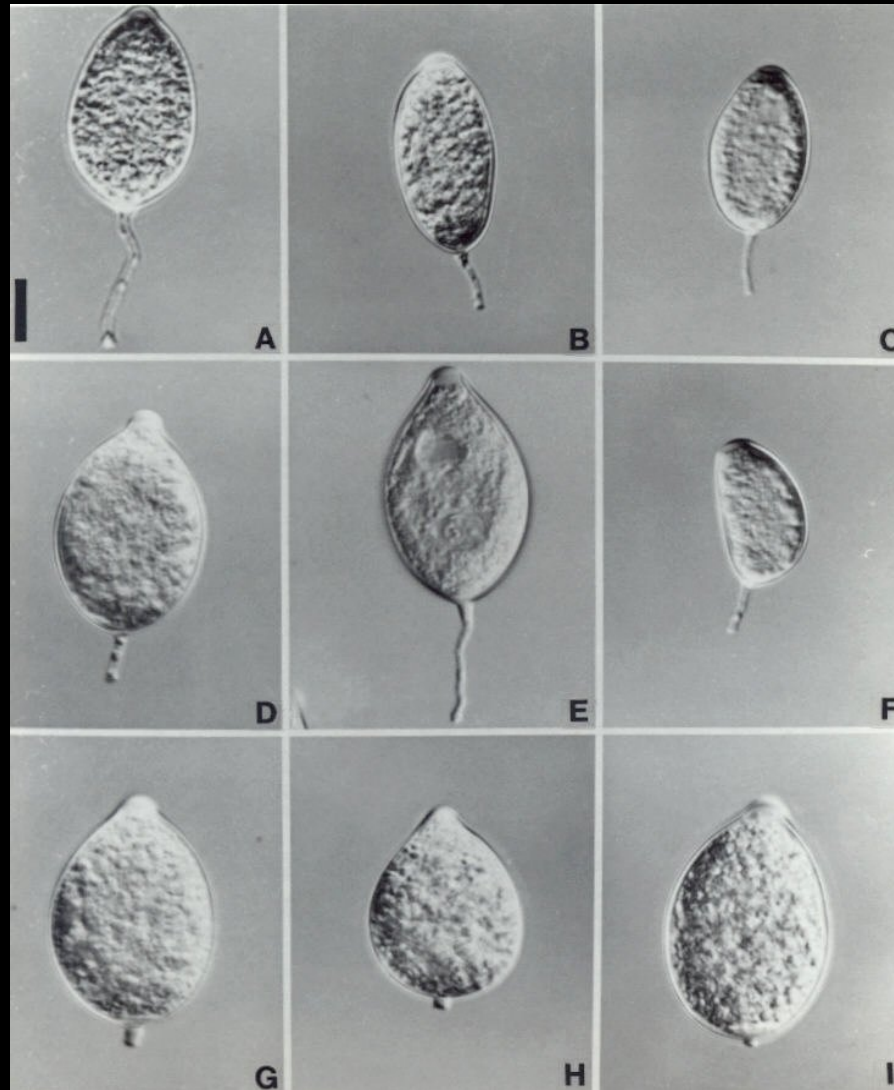


# Sporangial Morphology



palmivora

Pedicel  
Length  
and  
Sporangial  
Dimensions



# Multilocus Phylogeny – a population genetics approach

- ▣ type species v. global population
- World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC at UCR)
  - ▣ emphasis on the use of genetic traits
  - ▣ how many isolates need to be studied to characterize a species?
  - ▣ what methods need to be used?

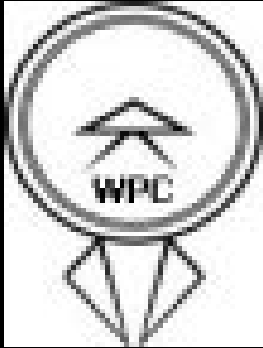
# A population genetics approach

Type species **versus** global  
population

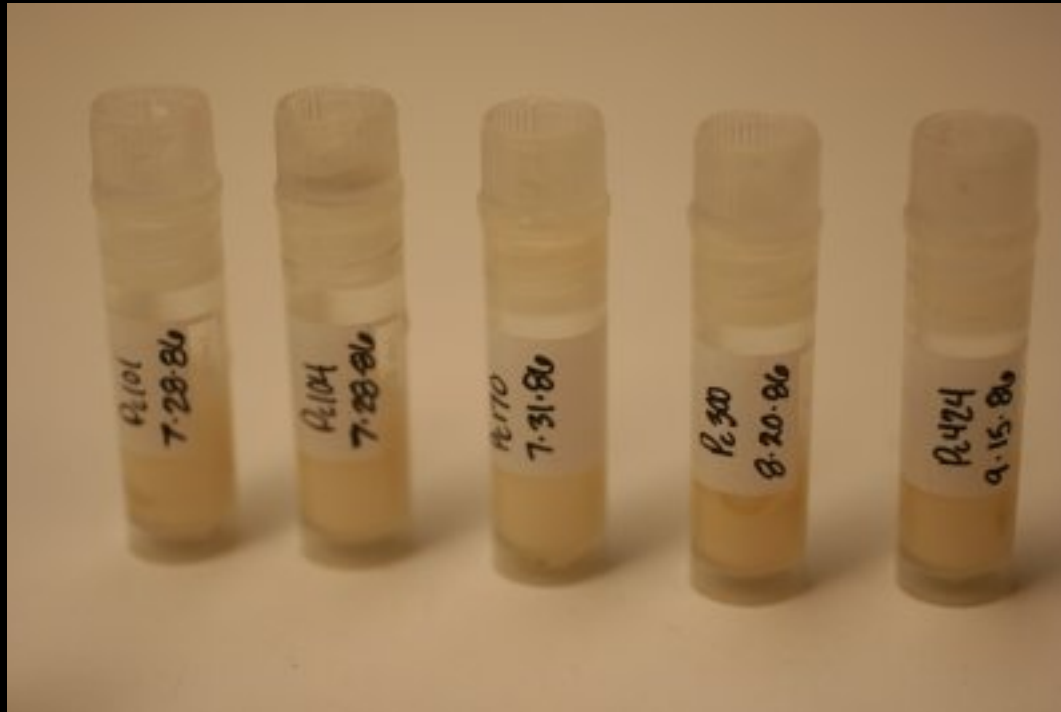
World Phytophthora Genetic  
Resource Collection

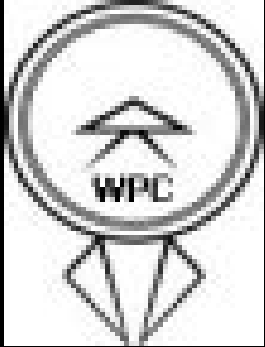


# THE FREEZING PROCESS



## Cryostorage of isolates at the WPC





## World Phytophthora Genetic Resource Collection (WPC)

For long-term storage of *Phytophthora* cryogenic temperatures are essential

temperatures below the glass transition temperature of water

This is the temperature at which all biological activity ceases, and is generally accepted as  $-130^{\circ}\text{C}$

Biological and chemical activity can persist as long as water activity exists, however below  $-130^{\circ}\text{C}$  all activity ceases

The basic process involves the following steps:

Equilibration of the sample with a cryoprotectant (DMSO) at room temperature to permit uptake of the solution

Cooling of the samples at  $\sim 1$  to  $2^\circ\text{C}$  per min to  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , then 10 min at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , followed by  $\sim 1^\circ\text{C}$  per min down to  $-10^\circ\text{C}$

Following thermal equilibration of the samples prior to ice crystal growth, the temperature is then dropped further to  $-44^\circ\text{C}$

Finally, the samples are cooled very rapidly from  $-44^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-120^\circ\text{C}$  in  $\sim 10$  min

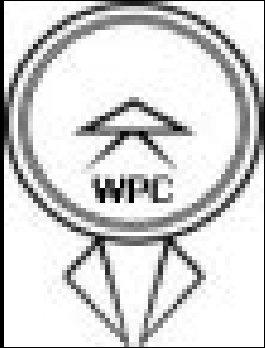
Taylor  
Wharton  
8K



Liquid or  
Vapor-phase



# THE DNA BANK



## Phytophthora DNA Bank

ARCHIVAL DNA SOURCES stored at -86C in ultrapure water

DNA 'dilution' tubes (~10ng/uL) prepared from the  
ARCHIVAL DNA SOURCE

These are stored at -20C in low TE

Freeze dried material stored at -70C as the  
**Frozen Mycelium Inventory**  
from which to make fresh DNA extractions

# Current Activities at the WPC



- Live cultures (~9500)
- DNA Bank (~6000)
- Frozen Mycelium (~6000)
- Databases (ITS ~2000)
- Molecular and Integrated Phylogeny
- Diagnostics Research
- Workshops and Training

# MOLECULAR PHYLOGENY AND DIAGNOSICS

# Multilocus Phylogeny – a population genetics approach

What methods need to be used?

ITS 1 and 2

B-TUBULIN

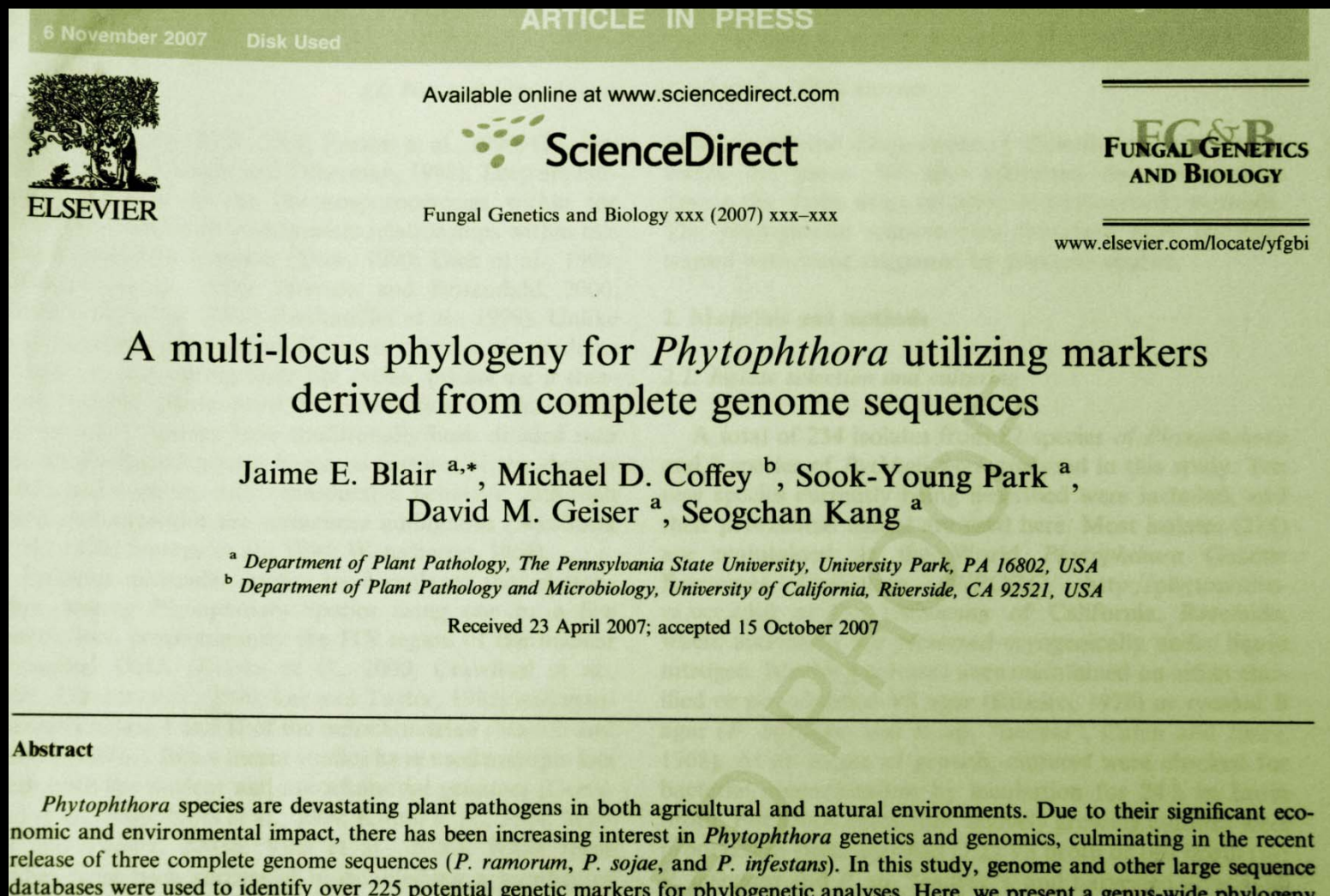
LARGE SUBUNIT (LSU, 28S)

Cox1, Cox2

Multilocus Phylogeny



# A genus-wide phylogeny for *Phytophthora* utilizing complete genome sequences



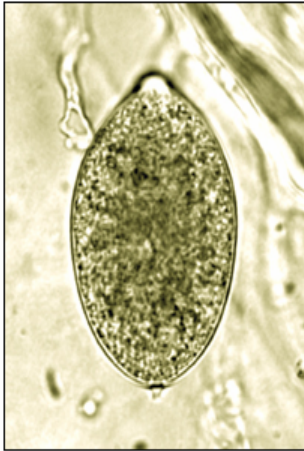
# Genome Resources...

## Evolutionary Relationships

JGI

*Phytophthora sojae* v1.0

Search | BLAST | Browse | GO | KEGG | KOG | AdvancedSearch | Download | Info Home **HELP!**



*Phytophthora ramorum*, photo courtesy of Matteo Garbelotto, UC Berkeley

*Phytophthora* is a genus of the Oomycetes (water molds) which, through convergent evolution, have similarities to fungi. However, oomycetes are not fungi (as had been earlier thought), but are part of Stramenopiles, a kingdom distinct from plants, fungi, and animals that also includes diatoms and golden-brown and brown algae, such as kelp.

Fifty-nine species of *Phytophthora* are recognized. They attack hundreds of different plant species, including many crops, costing tens of billions of dollars in damage per year. Genome sequencing efforts at JGI have focused on two species, *Phytophthora sojae* and *P. ramorum*. *P. sojae* has been developed as a model species for the genus, having in place excellent genetic and genomics resources (including genetic maps, BAC libraries, and EST sequences), as well as having a well organized community of researchers. The particularly virulent *P. ramorum* is now destroying coastal oaks in California (causing "Sudden Oak Death"), attacks black oak, shreve oak, and tan oak, as well as a variety of shrubs that inhabit the oak ecosystems, and threatens the oak forests in the Sierra Nevada and, potentially, the red oak forests of the east coast



*Phytophthora ramorum*

*Phytophthora sojae*

*Phytophthora infestans*

*Phytophthora capsici*

Other Oomycetes (ESTs):

*Saprolegnia parasitica*

*Plasmopara halstedii*

*Aphanomyces cochlioides*

*Hyaloperonospora parasitica*

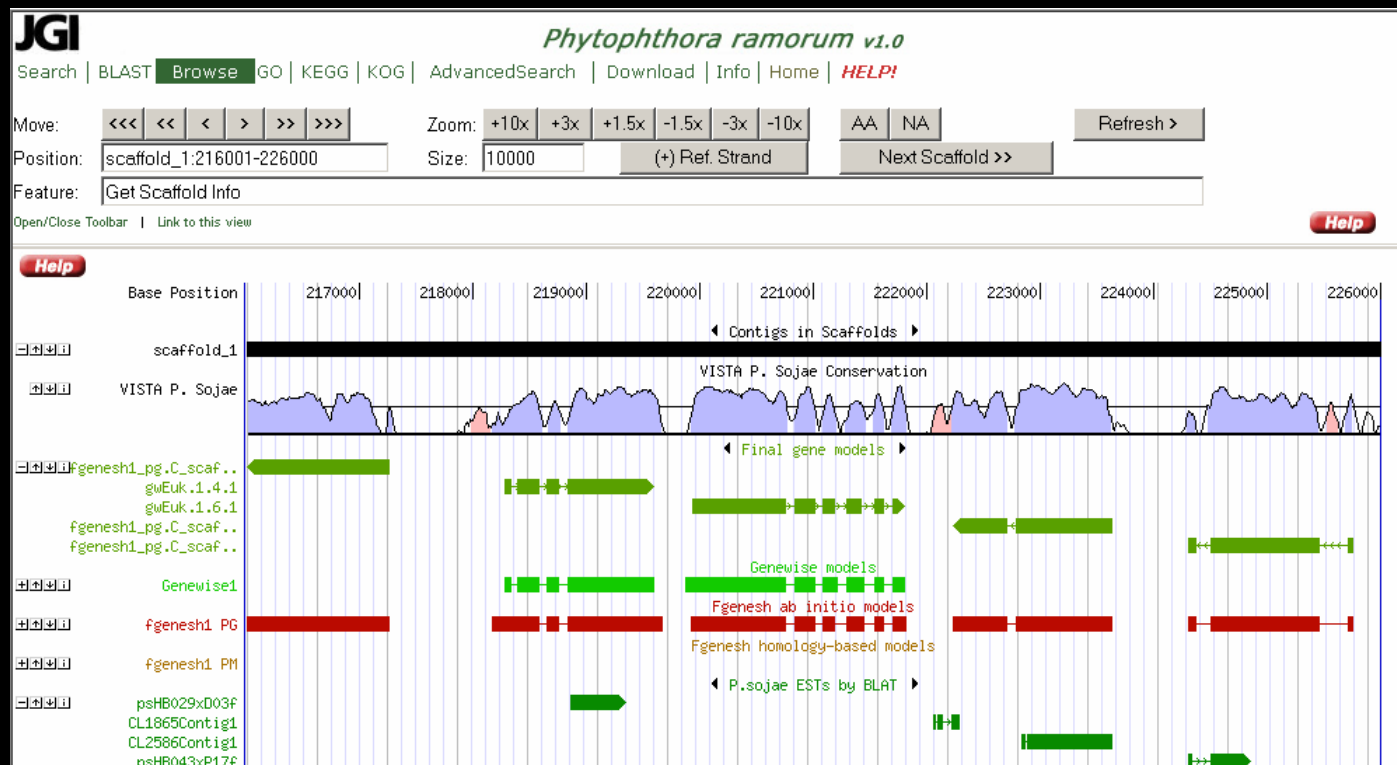
Source: Jaime Blair



# Evolutionary Relationships Among *Phytophthora*

Source: Jaime Blair

## Genome Resources...



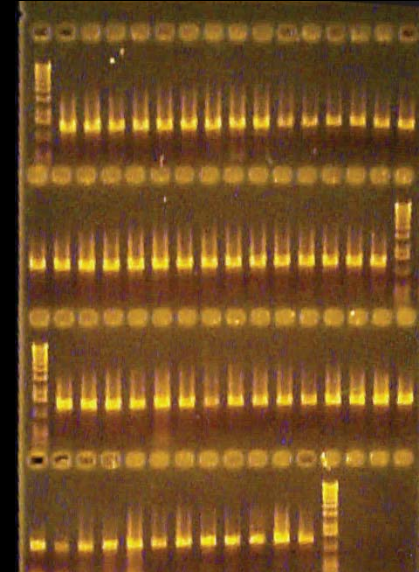
*Utilize Complete Genomes to Design Markers for Genus-wide Phylogeny*

~82 + species, 200+ isolates mainly at the WPC at UC Riverside

## Marker Selection

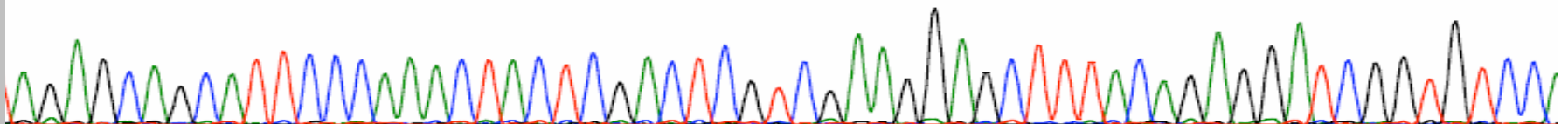
- ~225 loci identified as potentially informative
- Primers designed for 27 potential markers
- 16 produced PCR products, sequence data

**\*\*Amplify AND Align across genus**



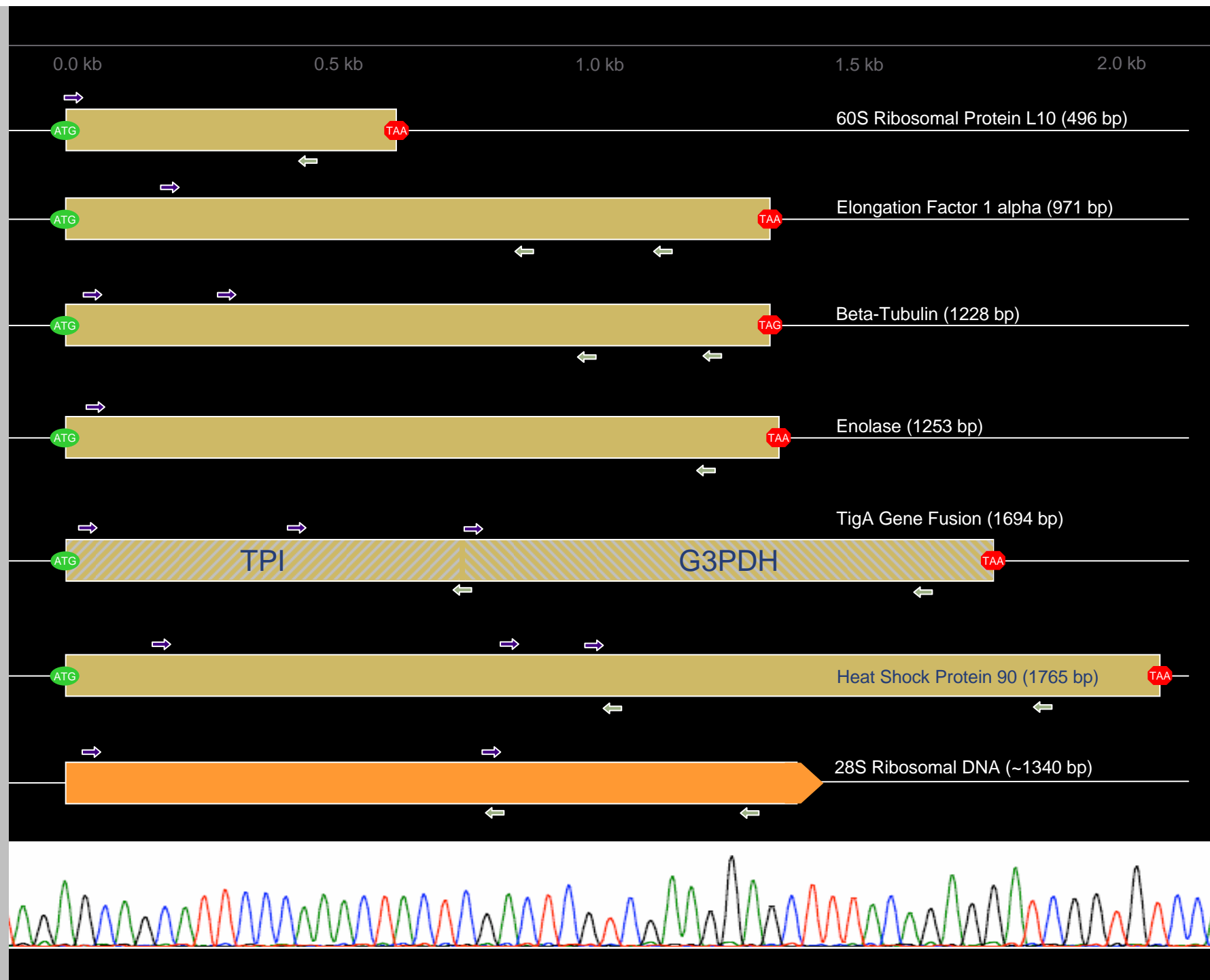
## Marker Sequencing

- 1600+ sequences generated
- 234 isolates representing 84 species
- 7 markers chosen for phylogeny (~7600 bp)

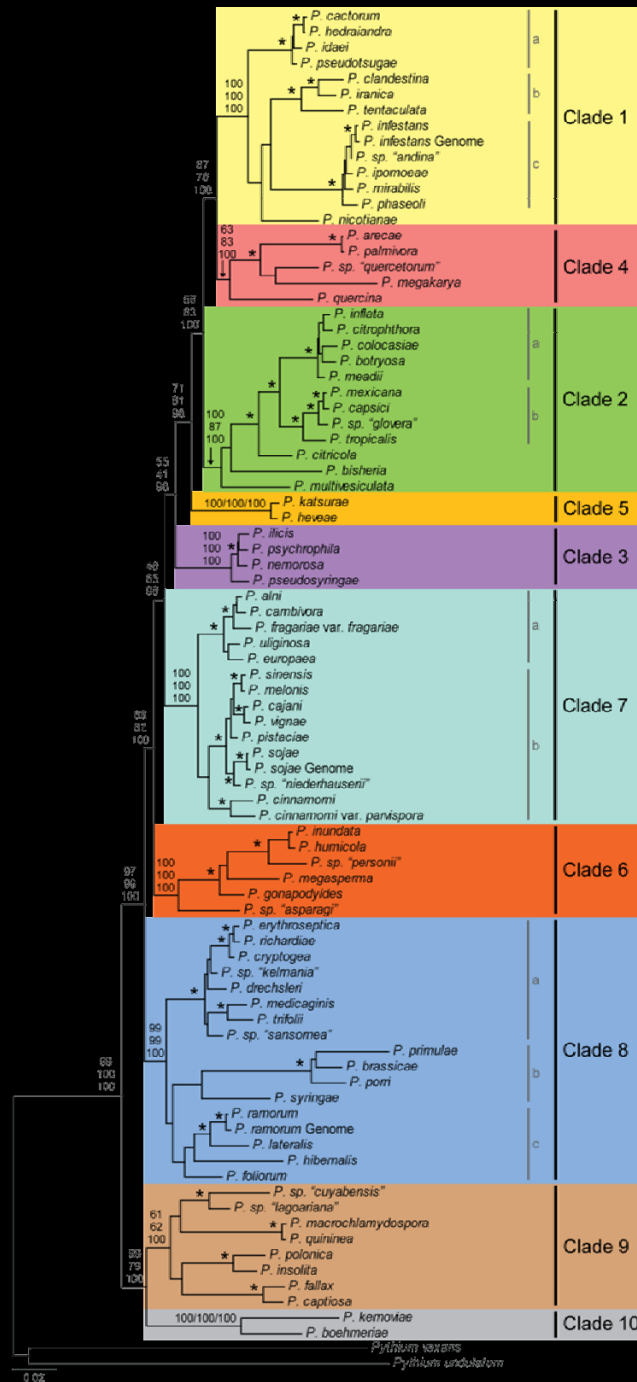




# Phytophthora Phylogeny



# Phytophthora Phylogeny



82 *Phytophthora* sp.  
2 *Pythium* outgroups

24 species not previously analyzed  
(including 10 new species)

10 Well Supported Clades  
Small Inter-Clade Distances

ModelTest – GTR+I+G

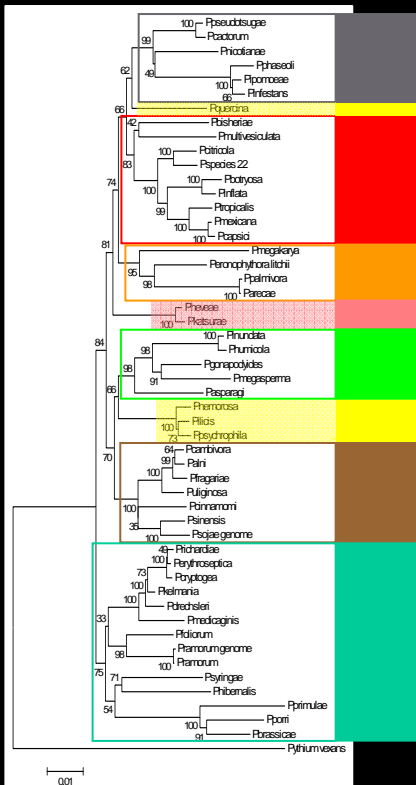
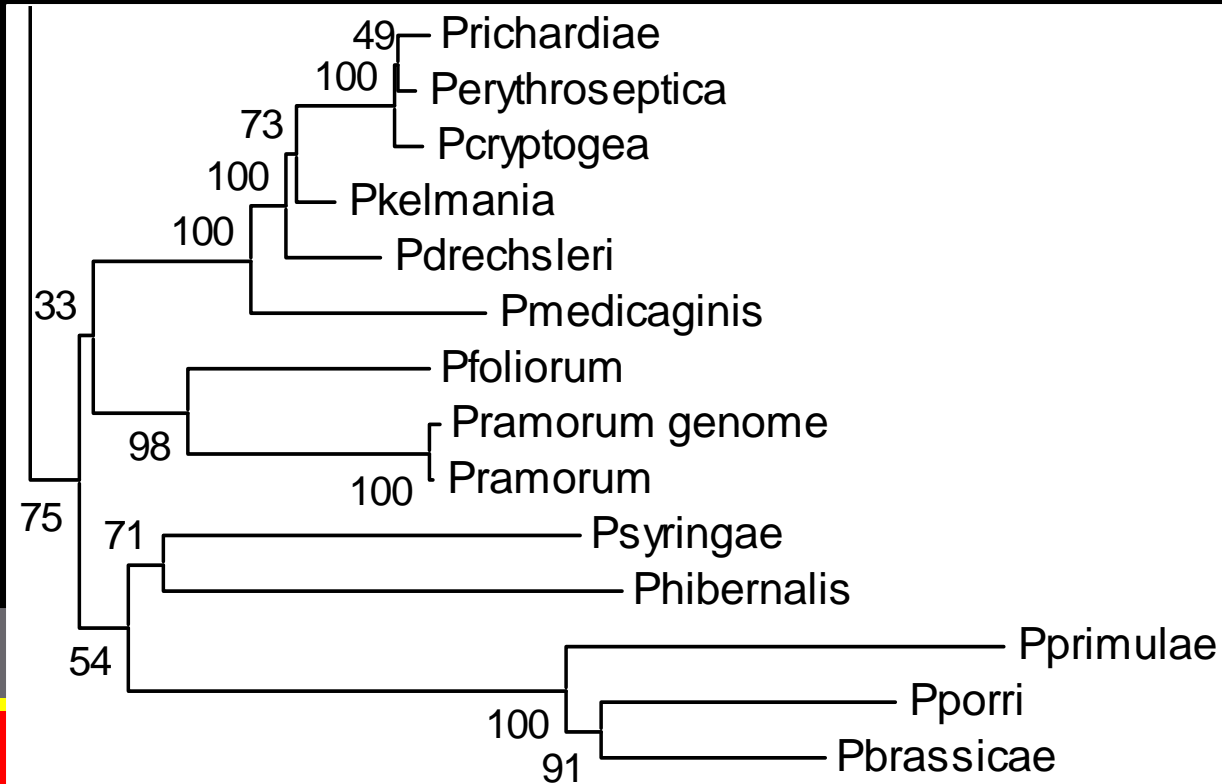
ML – Garli, 1000 bootstraps with ML parameters

MP – PAUP\*, random addition, TBR, 1000 bootstraps

MrBayes – 2 analyses, flat priors, 2 million gen.

BEAST – uniform priors, 5 million gen.

## Clade 8



Source:  
Jaime E Blair  
PSU







## Species :: List

There are 84 species

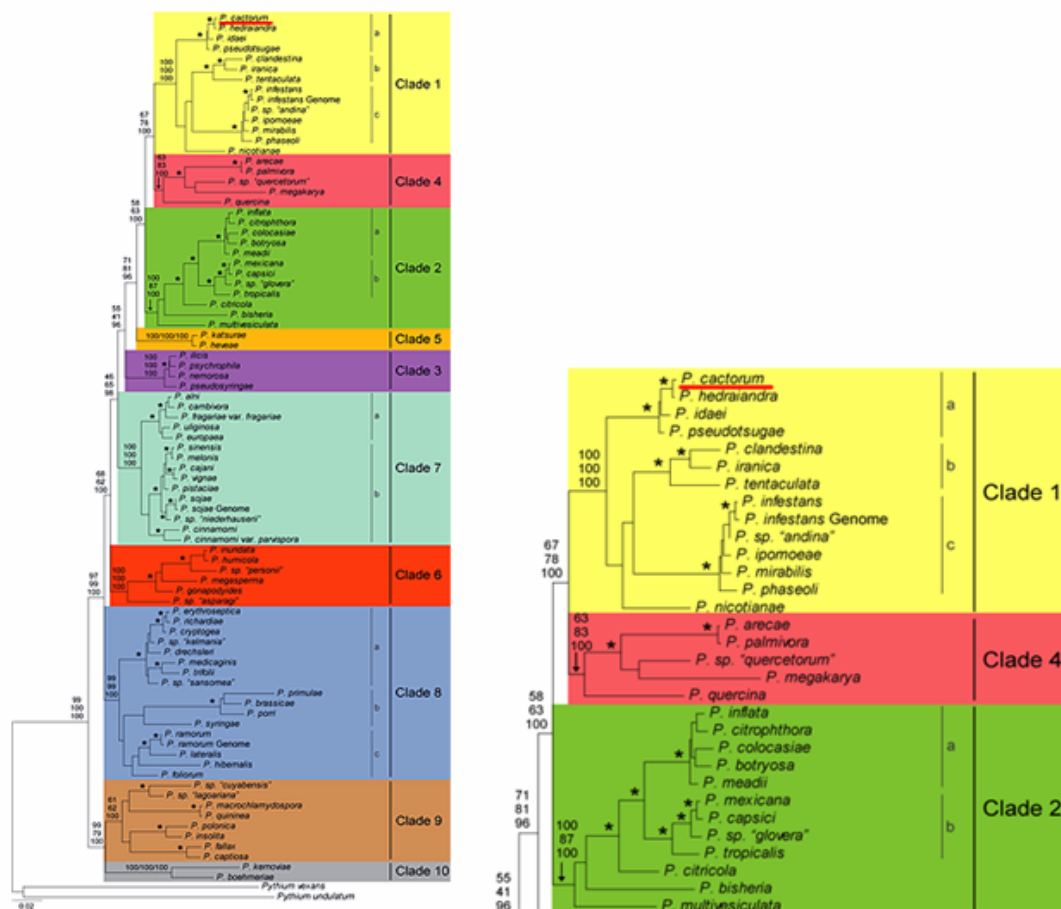
## Species Name

*Phytophthora alni*  
*Phytophthora andina*  
*Phytophthora arecae*  
*Phytophthora asparagi*  
*Phytophthora bishera*  
*Phytophthora boehmeriae*  
*Phytophthora botryosa*  
*Phytophthora brassicae*  
*Phytophthora cactorum*  
*Phytophthora cajani*  
*Phytophthora cambivora*  
*Phytophthora capsici*  
*Phytophthora capitosa*  
*Phytophthora cinnamomi*  
*Phytophthora citricola*  
*Phytophthora citrophthora*  
*Phytophthora clandestina*  
*Phytophthora colocasiae*  
*Phytophthora cryptogea*  
*Phytophthora cuyabensis*  
*Phytophthora drechsleri*  
*Phytophthora erythroseptica*  
*Phytophthora europaea*  
*Phytophthora fallax*  
*Phytophthora foliorum*  
*Phytophthora fragariae*  
*Phytophthora glovera*  
*Phytophthora gonapodyides*  
*Phytophthora hedraiaandra*  
*Phytophthora heveae*  
*Phytophthora hibernalis*  
*Phytophthora humicola*  
*Phytophthora idaei*  
*Phytophthora ilicis*  
*Phytophthora infestans*  
*Phytophthora inflata*  
*Phytophthora insolita*  
*Phytophthora inundata*  
*Phytophthora ipomoeae*

*Phytophthora cactorum*

## Phylogenetic Position within the Genus

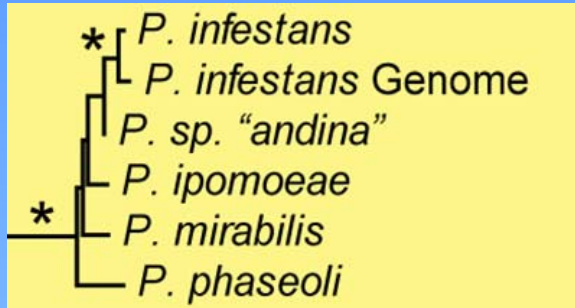
This genus-wide phylogenetic tree contains 83 species, including *Pythium vexans* as the outgroup, and was built using sequences at seven loci (approximately 8700 nucleotides), including 60S Ribosomal Protein L 10, Beta Tubulin, Enolase, Heat Shock Protein 90, Large Subunit rRNA, Tga gene fusion, and Translation Elongation Factor 1 alpha (Jaime Blair et al., unpublished data).


[\[ Click the tree to enlarge it. \]](#)

# CLADE 1 STUDY

- Franklin & Marshall College, Pennsylvania: Jaime E. Blair
- USDA ARS Salinas: Frank Martin

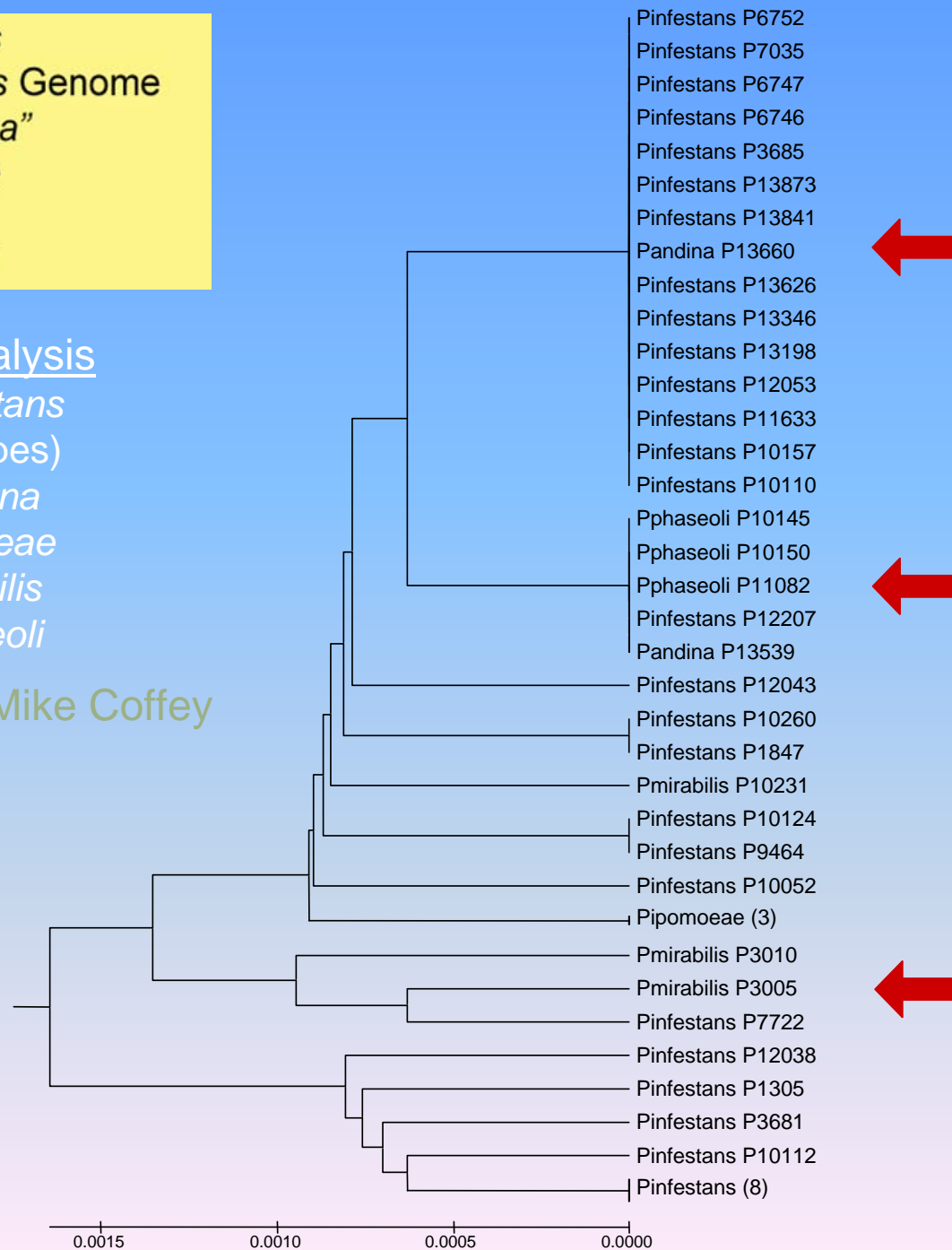
# Intraspecific Diversity



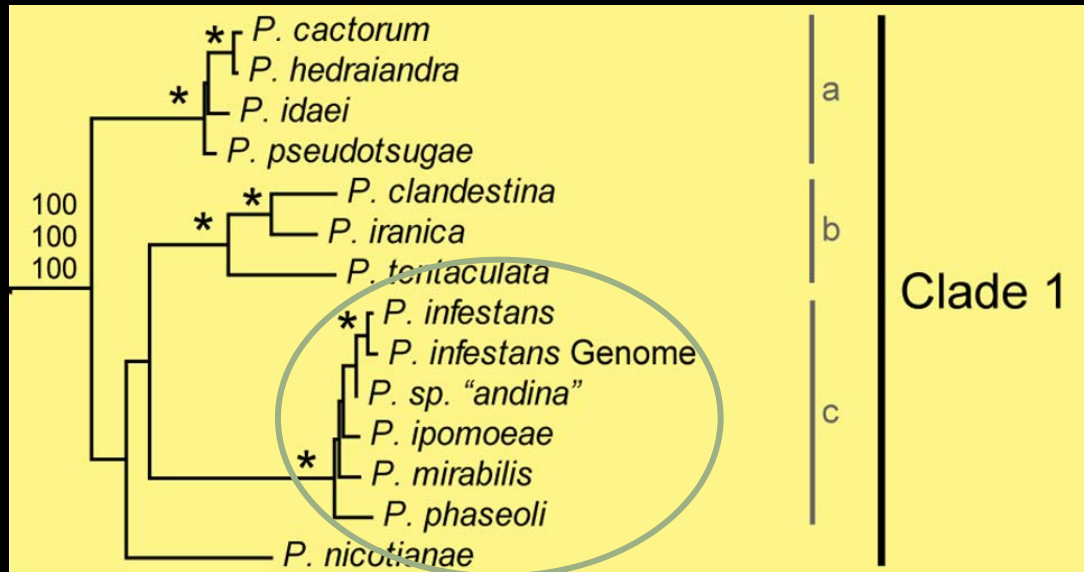
## Initial ITS Analysis

- 219 *P. infestans* (66 haplotypes)
- 13 *P. andina*
- 3 *P. ipomoeae*
- 3 *P. mirabilis*
- 4 *P. phaseoli*

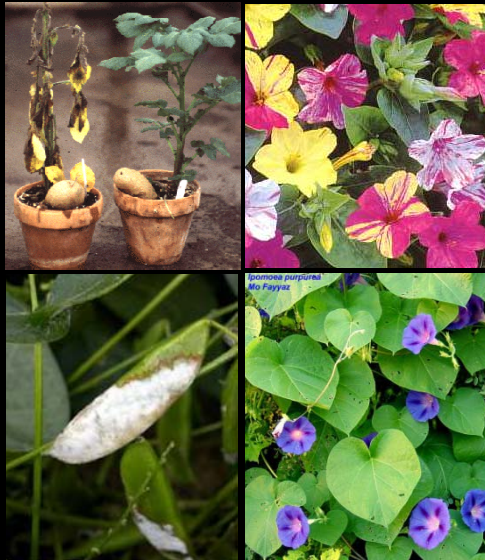
\*Massy Peiman, Mike Coffey



# Intraspecific Diversity



5 "Taxa" = 5 Species?



Initial Observations:

- *P. sp. "andina"* most likely not separate species
- "*P. infestans*" & *P. mirabilis* lineage?
- *P. ipomoeae* and *P. phaseoli* good species

Future Plans:

- Continue sequencing
- Additional isolates, recent collections

WWW.PHYTOPHTHORA.DB.ORG

Home Introduction Database Search & Analysis



**Phytophthora Database Login**

Dear Jaime Blair,  
Welcome to Phytophthora Database.

» I want to **logout** this database.  
» I want to **modify my login information**.

**Run Wizard** Easy to access work process

» Search the database  
» How to use the database

**Welcome to Phytophthora Database**

» About the goals and utility of the database  
» About sequence based search  
» About submission of data  
» Acknowledgements  
» How to save and reuse your favorite data and result

**Phytophthora Database News**

**Current Statistics of the Database**

» 84 Species  
» 1,524 Isolates  
» 3,246 Sequences

**Link to Contributors**



Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory

© 2006-2007 Phytophthora Database

jeb322(Jaime Blair) is logged. Logout Mod Info.

User Authentication  
(analysis “cart”)

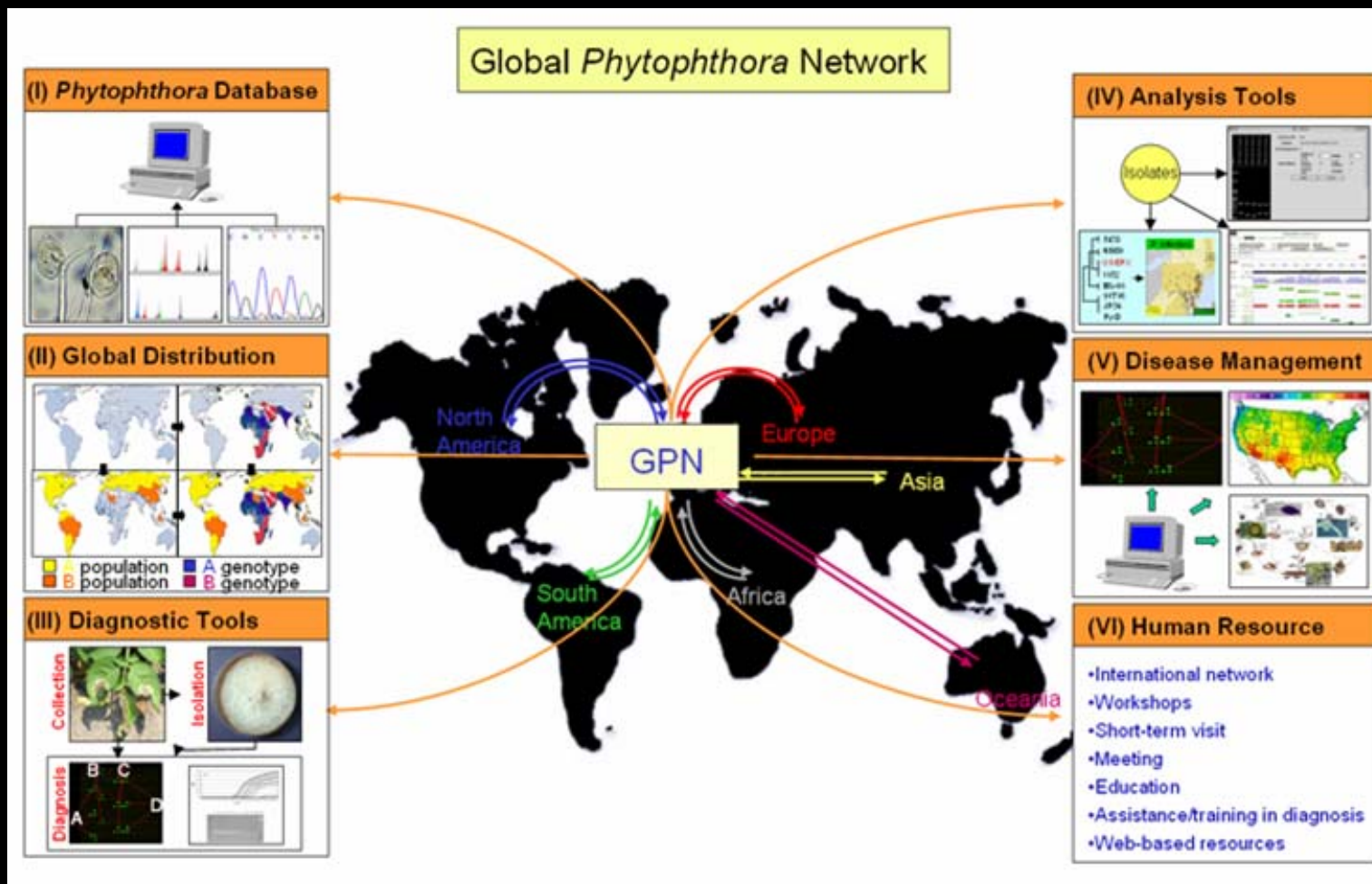
Wizard, Help Menu

Data Submission  
(currently manually curated)

BLAST, ClustalW,  
Phyloviewer,  
Virtual RFLP

**\*\*Bongsoo Park, PSU**





# THE BARCODE PROJECT

Biodiversity Canada Agriculture: André Levesque, Gregg Robideau



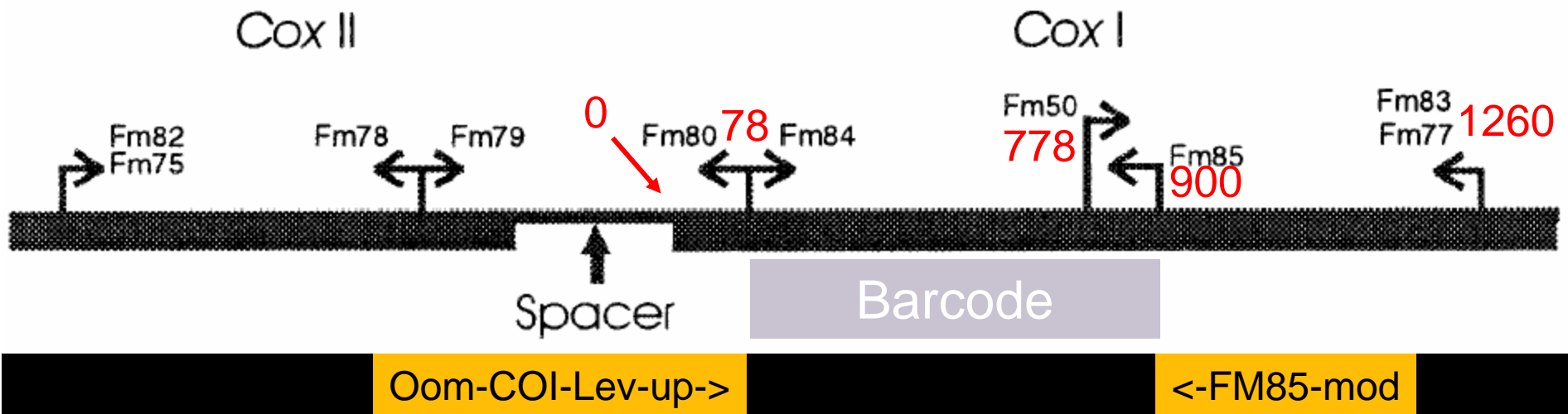
# Oomycete barcoding

Cytochrome Oxidase I (COI)

Good primers designed that amplify a 727bp region of COI

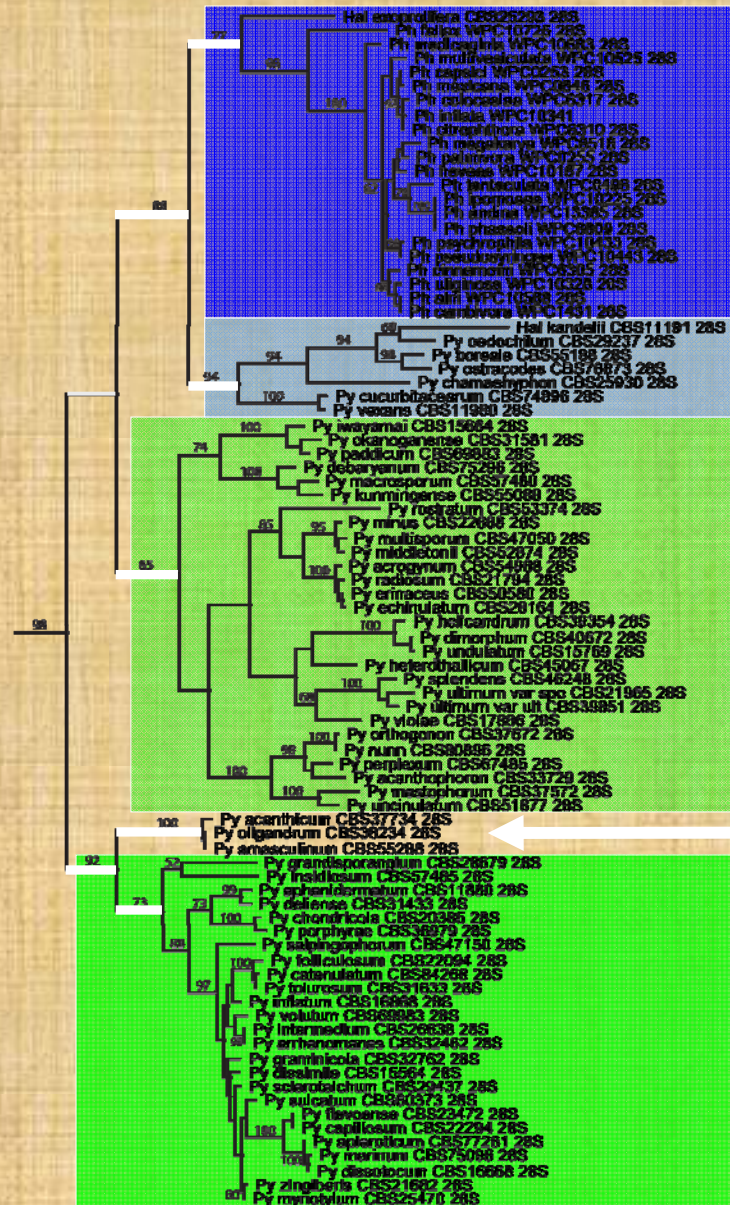
No introns in oomycete COI (as opposed to true fungi)

From G.P. Robideau, A.W.A.M. de Cock, M. Peiman, K. Bala, M. D. Coffey, and C.A. Lévesque. 2008  
André Levesque, Gregg Robideau



**Martin, F. N., and P. W. Tooley.** 2003. Phylogenetic relationships among *Phytophthora* species inferred from sequence analysis of mitochondrially encoded cytochrome oxidase I and II genes. *Mycologia* **95**:269-284.

# 28S Clades: Peronosporales

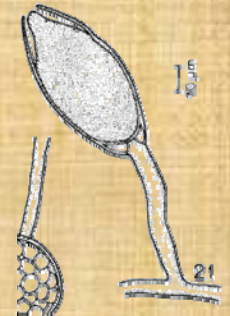


*Phytophthora*

*Pythium* Clade K

*Phytopythium*

globose  
*Pythium*



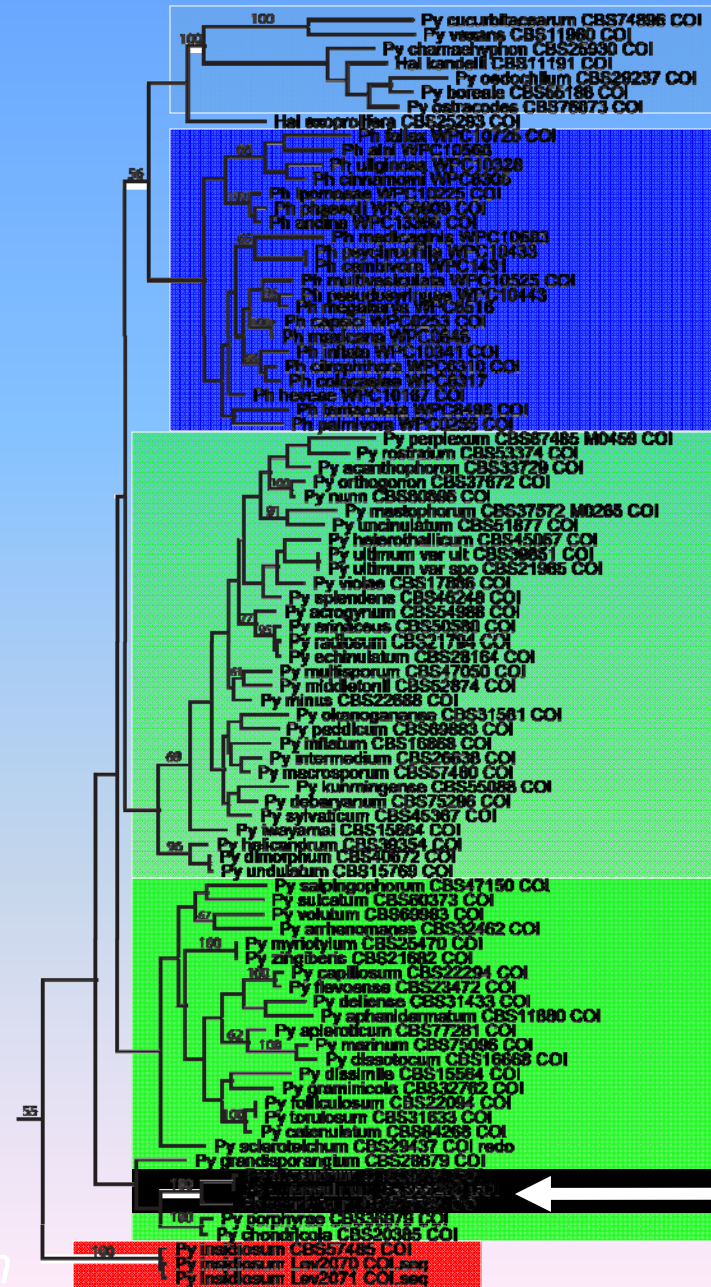
contiguous  
*Pythium*



filamentous  
*Pythium*



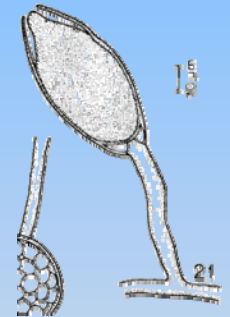
# COI clades: Peronosporales



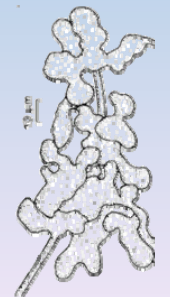
*Pythium* Clade K  
*Phytophthora* gen. nov.

*Phytophthora*  
(WPC)

globose  
*Pythium*



filamentous  
*Pythium*



contiguous  
*Pythium*

# WORKSHOPS

In 22 years the number of accessions in the WPC has grown to ~9500 representing over 95 species. Also represented are accessions representing the 15 described species within the marine genus *Halophytophthora*.

In the last 12 years a concerted effort has been made to add a large collection of *Pythium* species to the cryostorage inventory. In the last two years this effort has grown exponentially and there are now over 900 accessions representing 97 species of *Pythium*

An initial effort has been made to rescue the remnants of the Michael W. Dick Aquatic Phycomycetes Collection (APCC) now held at CABI.

The original mission of the **World *Phytophthora* Collection (WPC)** has been broadened with the accumulation of the phylogenetically comprehensive *Pythium* Collection and will continue with the acquisition of additional genera within the Kingdom Straminipila.

The new name for this collection will be the **World Oomycetes Genetic Resource Collection (WOGRC)**.

The future goals of the WOGRC are threefold:

- 1) maintenance and expansion of a worldwide collection of genera within the Kingdom Straminipila
- 2) development of a DNA Bank to provide DNA for research
- 3) creation of online databases providing phenotype and genotype information on important genera.

# *Phytophthora and Pythium Workshop at NCSU*

2006





# Thank You!

- ▣ Postdoctoral scholars: Masoomeh Peiman,
- ▣ Tatiana Roubtsova, Alexei Kravtsov
- ▣ Lab Assistants: Avneet Brar, Iona Cunningham, Sandra Verdin
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THE END