

# On the occurrence of entomopathogenic fungi and probable gut inhabiting yeast in vine mealybug *Planococcus ficus* (Signoret) (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae).

Sobre a ocorrência de fungos entomopatogénicos e de leveduras hipoteticamente residentes no intestino da cochonilha-algodão-da-vinha, *Planococcus ficus* (Signoret) (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae)

Lav Sharma<sup>1</sup>, Laura Torres<sup>1</sup>, Fátima Gonçalves<sup>1</sup>, Susana Sousa<sup>2</sup>,  
Guilhermina Marques<sup>1</sup>

Corresponding author: [lsharma@utad.pt](mailto:lsharma@utad.pt)

<sup>1</sup>CITAB – Centre for the Research and Technology of Agro-Environmental and Biological Sciences, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, UTAD, Quinta de Prados, 5001-801, Vila Real, PORTUGAL, [www.utad.pt](http://www.utad.pt); <sup>2</sup>Agronomy Department, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, UTAD, Quinta de Prados, 5001-801, Vila Real, PORTUGAL.



# MEALYBUGS

- The mealybug family (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae).
- 2020 species from 300 genera (Ben-Dov & Miller, 2012)
- Name 'mealybug' from white mealy wax.
- Mealybugs are all phytophagous (Vieux *et al.*, 2013).



All Images from Daane, *et al.*, 2008 Vineyard managers and researchers seek sustainable solutions for mealybugs, a changing pest complex. California Agriculture, 62: 167-176.

# MEALYBUGS IN VINEYARDS

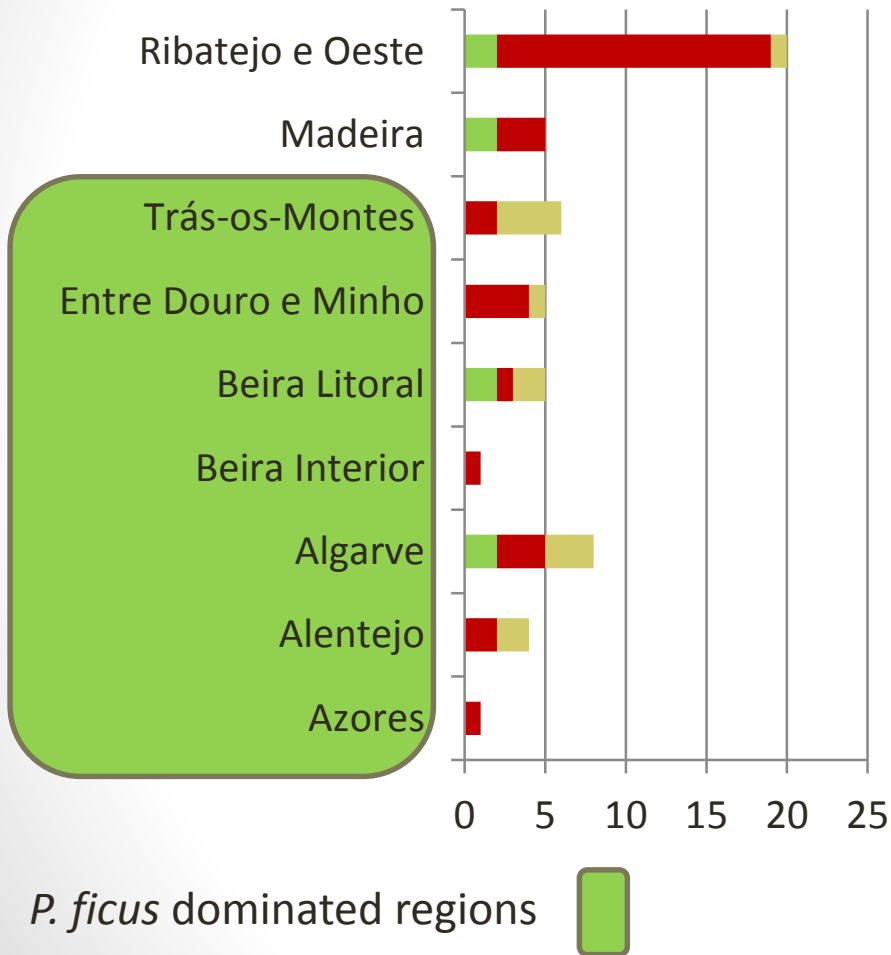
SPECIES AND AUTHOR	ORIGIN	CURRENT PRESENCE
<i>Pseudococcus Maritimus</i> (Ehrhorn)	Nearctic	North America
<i>Pseudococcus viburni</i> (Signoret)	Neotropic	Australia, Europe, New Zealand, N. America (California), South Africa , S. America
<i>Pseudococcus longispinus</i> (Targioni-Tozzetti)	Australasia	Australia, Europe, New Zealand , California, S. Africa, S. America
<i>Pseudococcus calceolariae</i> (Maskell)	Australasia	Australia, Europe, New Zealand , N. America, S. Africa, S. America
<i>Planococcus citri</i> (Risso)	Palaearctic	Australia, Europe, New Zealand , N. America, S. Africa, S. America
<i>Planococcus ficus</i> (Signoret)	Palaearctic	-discussed later-
<i>Dysmicoccus brevipes</i> (Cockerell)	Indo- Malaya	Australia, Africa, Asia, Middle East, S. America ( Brazil )
<i>Ferrisia gilli</i> (Gullan)	Nearctic	California
<i>Maconellicoccus hirsutus</i> (Green)	Indo- Malaya	Australia, Africa, Asia ( India ), Middle East, S. America, Mexico, California

# VINE MEALYBUG: *Planococcus ficus*

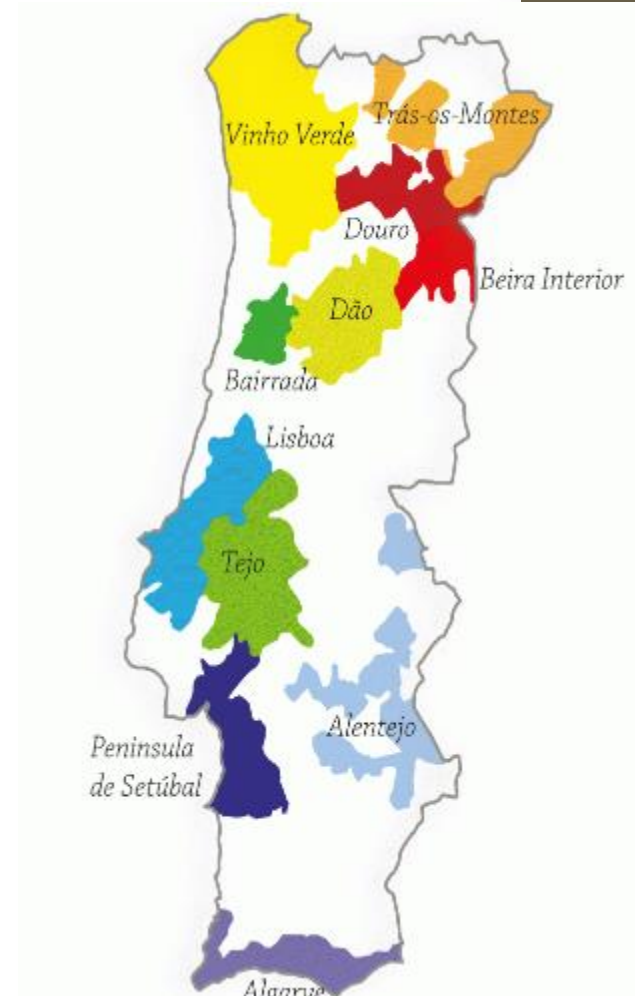
- Very small (> 5 mm), soft-bodied insects.
- Piercing, sap-sucking mouthparts.
- Produce honeydew encouraging the growth of sooty mold on grapes.
- Moreover, feeds on subtropical and tropical crops and common weeds.
- Transmitting plant viruses,
  - a) Grapevine virus A (GVA),
  - b) Grapevine virus B (GVB),
  - c) Grapevine leafroll-associated viruses (GLRaV) (Iasur-Kruh *et al.*, 2014)
- Mediterranean regions of Europe, Africa, Middle East and Argentina  
California and Mexico



# MEALYBUGS IN PORTUGUESE VINEYARDS



- Key pest
- Occasional pest
- Potential pest



Map Source: Pinterest.com



# CONTROLLING *P. ficus*



- **Chemical control:**

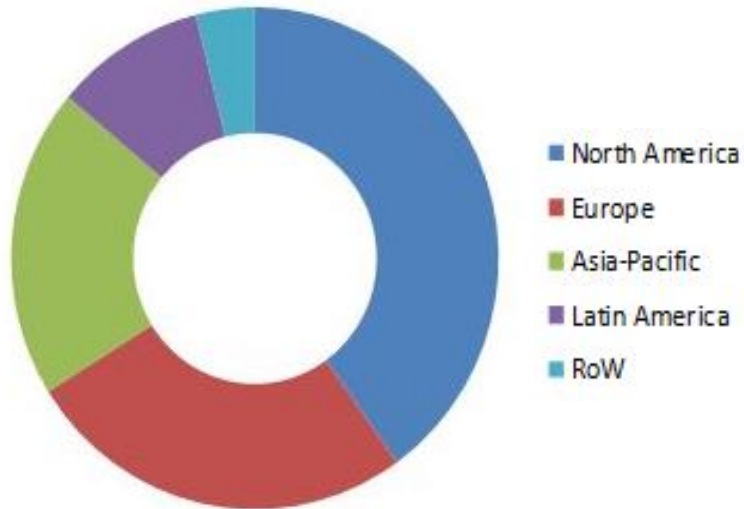
- a) short-residual organophosphates (e.g. mevinphos); or
- b) delayed dormant organophosphates (e.g. chlorpyrifos) (Daane *et al.*, 2006)

## Problems:

- a) Hiding inside crevices where chemicals do not reach for e.g., under the bark and on the roots (Walton & Pringle, 2004).
- b) Unwanted killing of natural parasitoids (Mgocheki & Addison 2009).
- c) Hydrophobic waxy secretions interferes with insecticide penetration (Franco *et al.*, 2009)

# ENTOMOPATHOGENS

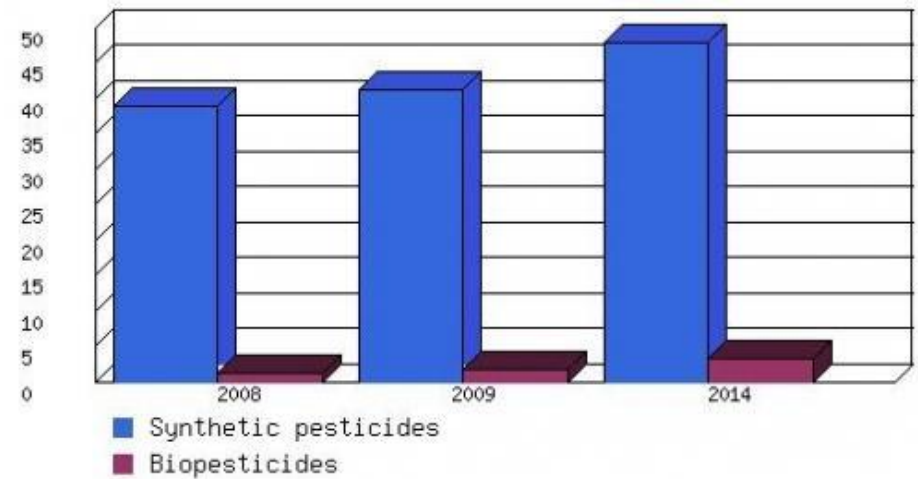
Organisms killing insect pests. For e.g., bacteria, fungi, nematodes and virus.



Biopesticides Market Share, by Geography, 2013

Growth at 16.0%

\$4,369.88 million by 2019.



\$1.6 billion in 2009, projected increase:  
\$3.3 billion in 2014

# ENTOMOPATHOGENIC FUNGI (EPF)

Over 700 species from 90 different genera;  
around 170 products from 12 different species are commercialised

## Species for e.g.,

*Beauveria sp.*  
(*B. bassiana* ;  
*B. pseudobassiana*,  
*B. brongniartii*);

*Bionectria ochroleuca*

*Fusarium spp.*

*Metarhizium sp.*  
(*M. anisopliae*, *M. acridum*,  
*M. robertsii*);

*Beauveria bassiana*: Infect 750 insect species approximately.





# AIM OF THE PROJECT



**TO UNDERSTAND DIVERSITY OF FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH CADAVERS OF VINE MEALYBUG *PLANOCOCCUS FICUS* (SIGNORET) (HEMIPTERA: PSEUDOCOCCIDAE) COLLECTED FROM DIFFERENT FARMS OF DOURO WINE REGION OF PORTUGAL.**



# FARMS UNDER INVESTIGATION



Aciprestes



Arnozelo



Farms in study



a) Raposeira



b) Placas

Carvalhas



Granja



Cidro



S. Luis

Vallado



# PROCURING FUNGI FROM CADAVERS

- Spotting mycoses on mealybugs.
- Surface sterilisation by 1% Na-Hypochlorite for 3 minutes.
- Subsequent washings with sterilised water.
- Culturing onto selective media Dichloran Rose bengal Chloramphenicol Agar (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie, Buchs, Switzerland).
- Maintaining pure culture on PDA (Sigma-Aldrich Chemie, Buchs, Switzerland)

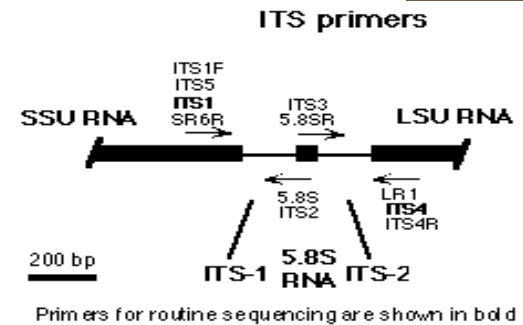


# MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION

- PDA cultures with cellophane sheets.



- DNA extraction using CTAB-lysis buffer.

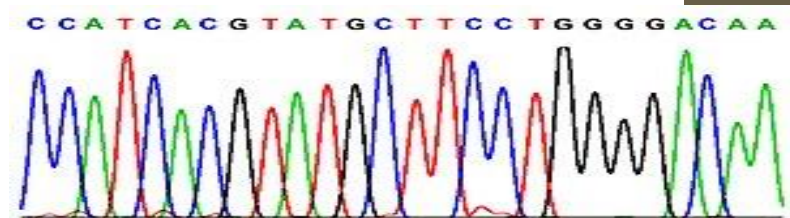


- PCR amplification of ITS region between 18S and 28S rDNA using ITS1+ ITS4 primers (White *et al.*, 1990)



- BLAST the obtained sequence

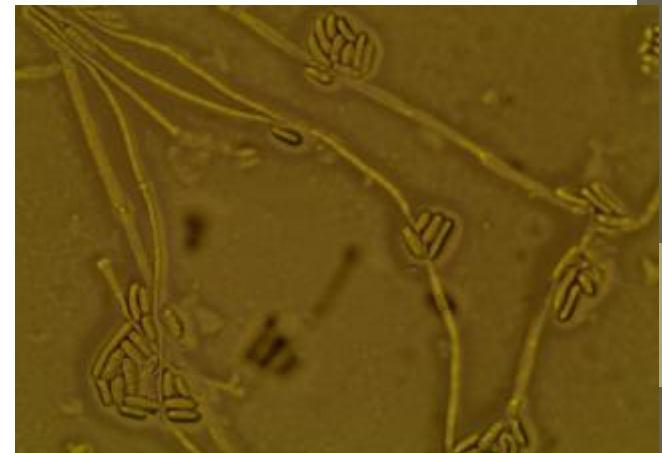
(<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>)



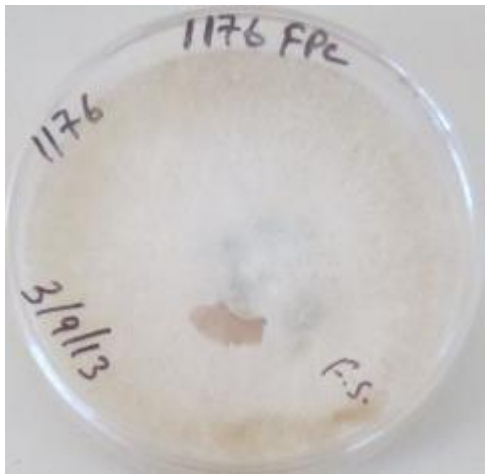


# RESULTS: MICROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION

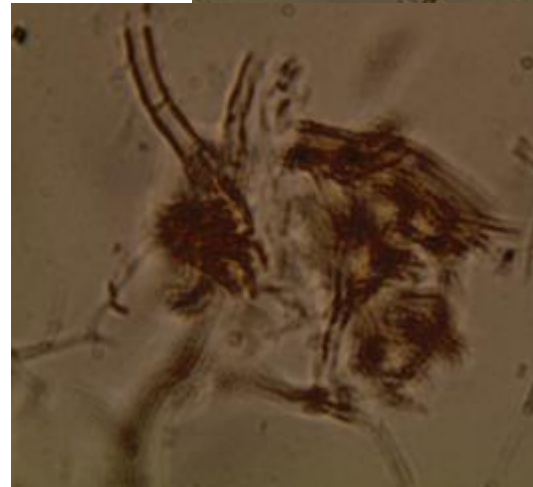
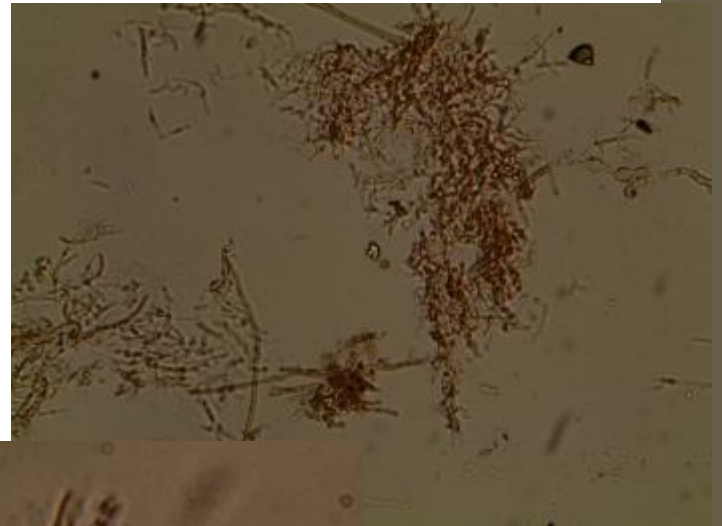
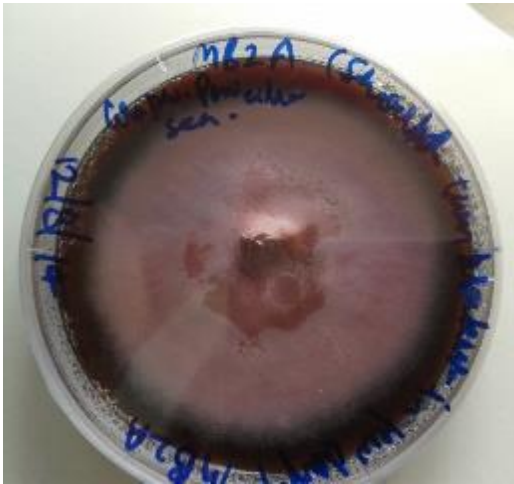
3 isolates of *Fusarium oxysporum* species complex



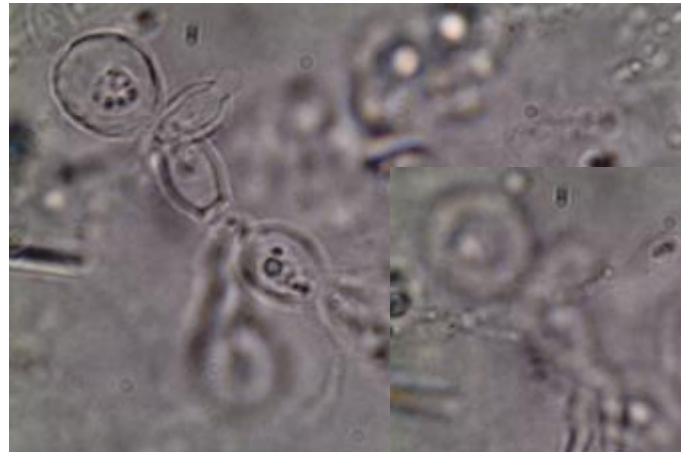
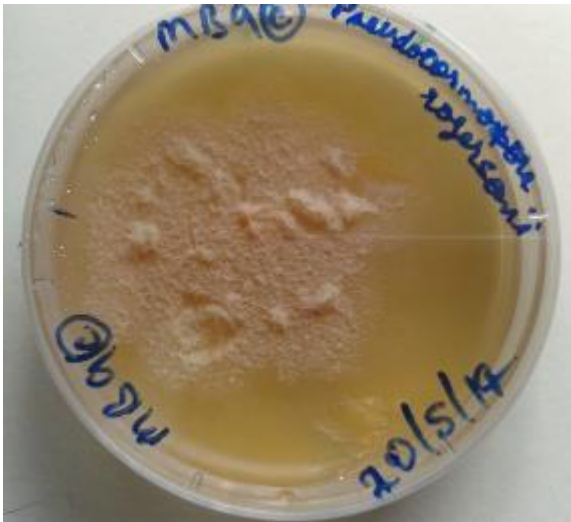
1 isolate of *Fusarium solani* species complex



1 isolate of *Graphium penicillioides*



1 isolate of *Pseudocosmospora rogersonii*



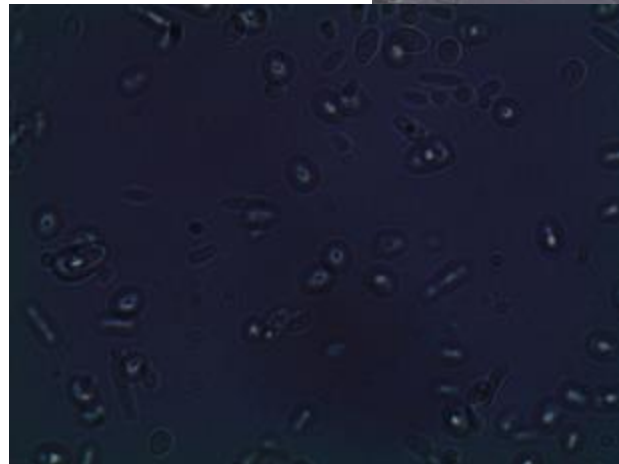
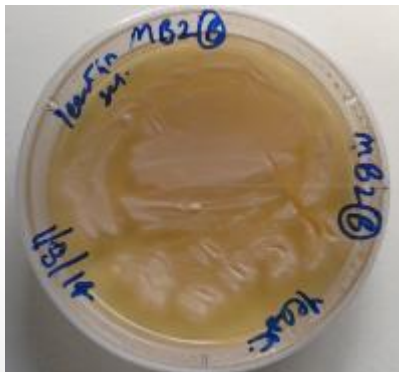
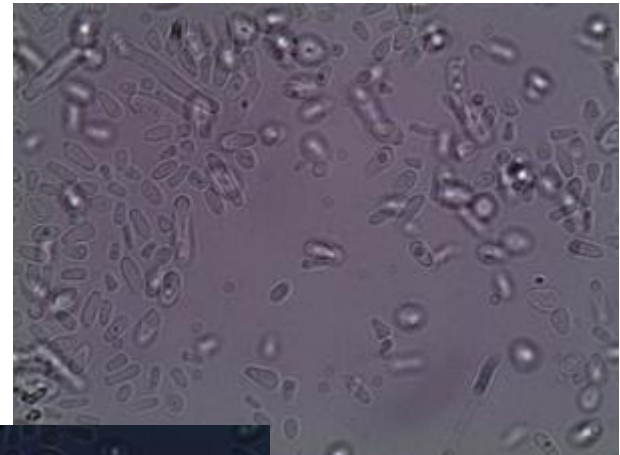


1 isolate of *Penicillium chrysogenum*



4 isolates of yeast

*Pichia* (= *Meyerozyma*) (anamorph *Candida*) *guilliermondii*





# GLIMPSES INTO PHYLOGENETIC PLACEMENT

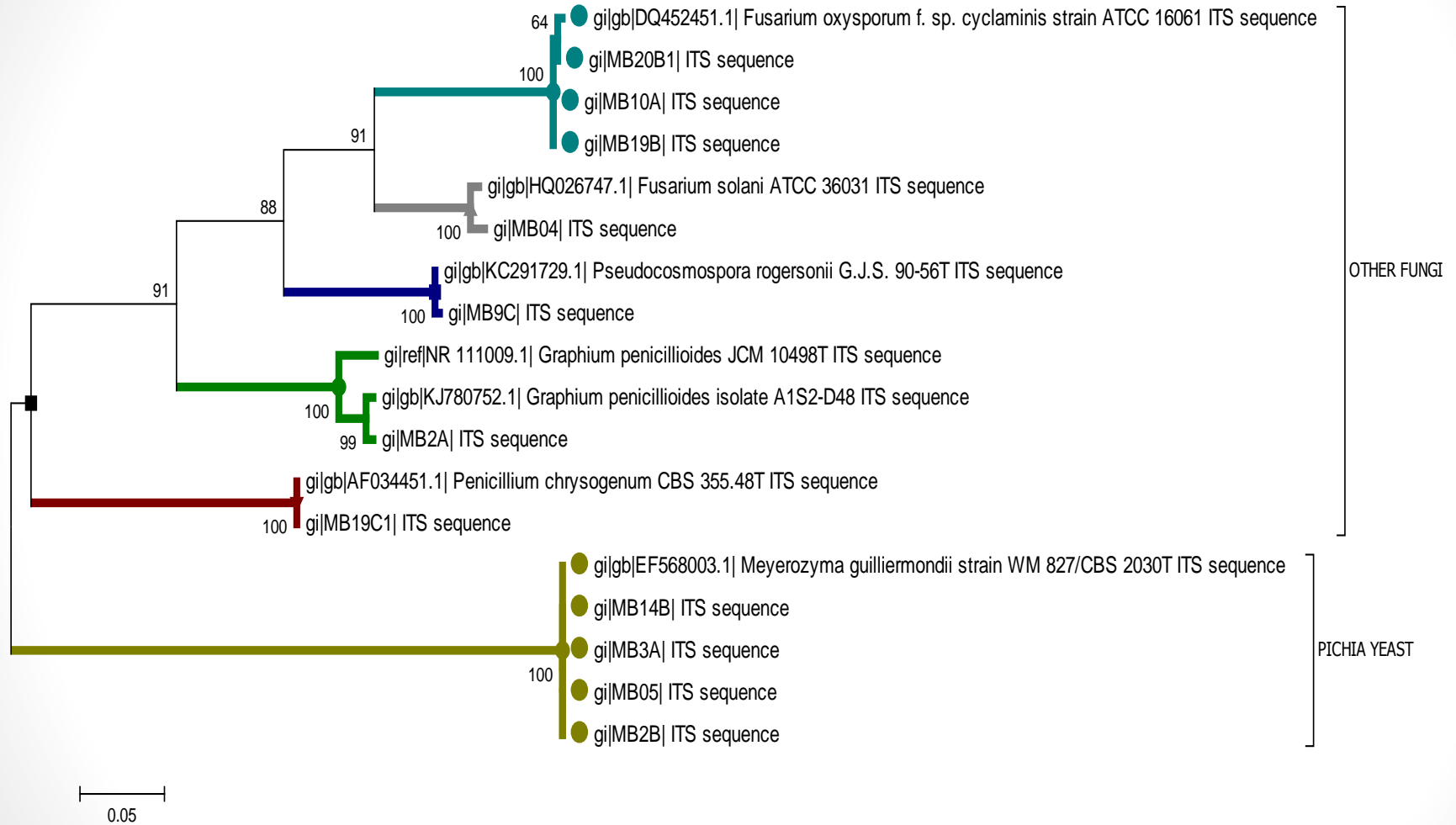


Figure. Molecular Phylogenetic analysis by Maximum Likelihood method The evolutionary history was inferred by using the Maximum Likelihood method based on the Tamura-Nei model [1]. The tree with the highest log likelihood (-2000.5694) is shown. The percentage of trees in which the associated taxa clustered together is shown next to the branches. Initial tree(s) for the heuristic search were obtained automatically by applying Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms to a matrix of pairwise distances estimated using the Maximum Composite Likelihood (MCL) approach, and then selecting the topology with superior log likelihood value. The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths measured in the number of substitutions per site. The analysis involved 18 nucleotide sequences. All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated. There were a total of 380 positions in the final dataset. Evolutionary analyses were conducted in MEGA6.

1. Tamura K. and Nei M. (1993). Estimation of the number of nucleotide substitutions in the control region of mitochondrial DNA in humans and chimpanzees. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 10:512-526.



# DISCUSSION

## Fungal infection on mealybugs:

EPF	MEALYBUG	REFERENCE
<b>Field reports on mycoses</b>		
<i>Cephalosporium</i> sp.	<i>Planococcus citri</i> (Citrus mealybug)	Rogter <i>et al.</i> , 1960
<i>Hirsutella cryptosclerotium</i> sp. nov.	<i>Rastrococcus invadens</i>	Fernández-García <i>et al.</i> , 1990
<i>Neozygites fumosa</i>	<i>Phenacoccus herreni</i> (Cassava Mealybug )	Delalibera <i>et al.</i> , 1990
<b>Laboratory reports on bio-control</b>		
<i>Hypocrella hypocreoidea</i> ; <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> & <i>Fusarium solani</i>	<i>Pseudococcus cryptus</i>	Panyasiri <i>et al.</i> , 2007
<i>Isaria farinosa</i>	<i>Planococcus citri</i> , citrus mealybug	Demirci <i>et al.</i> , 2011
<i>Lecanicillium lecanii</i>	<i>Phenacoccus solenopsis</i>	Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 2012

# OBTAINED FUNGI ??

- Many studies reports mortality of Insects from
  - a) *Fusarium oxysporum* &
  - b) *F. solani* (Ali-Shtayeh *et al.*, 2003; Oliveira *et al.*, 2012)
- *Graphium* sp. also found from bark beetles (Wingfield & Gibbs, 1991; Mouton *et al.*, 1994)

# CONSIDERING LESSER EPF AVAILABILITY

- Presence of yeasts in different life stages of *P. ficus*
  - a) *Pichia* (= *Meyerozyma*) (anamorph *Candida*) *guilliermondii*
  - b) *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*
  - c) *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa*

(in this study & *Isur-Kruh et al.*, 2014)

with antifungal actions (*Sharma et al.*, 2009; *Zhang et al.*, 2013).

Other possible factor: Acidic microenvironment (*Ashbolt & Inkerman*, 1990).

# RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

According to our knowledge,

- a) first study on isolation of cadaver associated fungi from *P. ficus*.
- b) first report on isolation of *Pseudocosmospora rogeronii* from Southern Europe.
- c) our hypothesis of *M. guilliermondii* residing in *P. ficus* matched with very recent findings of Lilach Iasur-Kruh and coworkers (Microbial Ecology, 2014)
- d) isolation of another yeast *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa* from eggs of *P. ficus* feeding on grapevine.

# CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS



- Insights into possible microbial biocontrol agents for *P. ficus*.
- FUTURE WORKS:
  - a) To investigate possible roles of isolated yeasts in fungal infection on *P. ficus*.
  - b) To screen the most effective fungus for biocontrol of *P. ficus*.



- OBRIGADO PELA ATENÇÃO