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**COST Action CA16107**  
**EuroXanth: integrating science on *Xanthomonadaceae* for integrated plant disease management in Europe**

**Minutes of the Online Meeting**  
**“Update on *Pathogen Profiles* for the BSPP journal *Molecular Plant Pathology*”**

**Zoom, 10 November 2020**

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**Minutes of the meeting written by R. Koebnik and reviewed by all participants.**

Attending: Nicolas Chen (FR), Bart Cottyn (BE), Marie-Agnès Jacques (FR, Internal and Financial Monitoring Reporter), Ralf Koebnik (FR, Action Chair), Emilio Stefani (IT, WG4 Leader), Boris Szurek (FR), Joana Vicente (GB, Science Communication Manager), and Carlos Zarate (FR).

On November 10, members of the EuroXanth Core Group and authors of the *Pathogen Profiles* for the BSPP Open Access journal MOLECULAR PLANT PATHOLOGY (MPP) met in a virtual Zoom meeting in order to evaluate the progress on the manuscript and to coordinate the next steps.

At the beginning, Ralf gave an overview about the progress for all six *Pathogen Profiles*, based on the feedback that he had received from the corresponding authors over the last days. Two manuscripts are well advanced and (almost) publication-ready (bean and nut pathogens), two are at an intermediate stage (i.e. most of the text drafted but not polished yet, no figures assembled yet; cassava and strawberry pathogens), and two are still at a relatively early stage (pathogens of ornamentals and rice).

Bean pathogens: The manuscript has been internally reviewed and is ready for submission.

Nut pathogens: The manuscript has been sent for internal review to Marie-Agnès and is expected to be reviewed within one week. The manuscript will then be sent back to the corresponding author with edits, remarks and suggestions.

Cassava pathogens: The text has been drafted by Carlos and reviewed by Adriana and Camilo. It is now under revision by Carlos and will then be revised by the other coauthors. It is expected that the manuscript can be sent for internal review at the beginning of December. Candidate internal reviewers will be contacted in the next days by Boris to ensure that the reviewer is available for this task at the beginning of December.

Strawberry pathogens: Different chapters have been drafted by Bart, Joanna, Jan and Joël. Most critical are at the moment the contributions from Andy Aspin and Jan van der Wolf. Since Jan's availability for this task is currently reduced, the progress is a bit blocked. The internal reviewer, Joana, suggested to help at this stage instead of waiting until the manuscript is ready, thus accelerating the progress.

Rice pathogens: This manuscript is still at an early stage and won't be finished in 2020. There are still questions that need to be clarified rapidly, such as who will be the corresponding author. Sébastien has informed Ralf by email from November 10 that end of March would be the very earliest time that he can imagine a submission.

Pathogens of ornamentals: This manuscript is also at an early stage and won't be finished in 2020, last not least because Bart was/is at the same time involved in writing the *Pathogen Profile* about the strawberry pathogens. Again, as for the strawberry pathogens, Jan is not available yet and will – as soon as possible – first focus on the strawberry pathogens before addressing the ornamental pathogens. Similarly, colleagues from La Réunion (Isabelle, Olivier) are too occupied with other duties and can only work for the *Pathogen Profile* after January 2021. Olivier has informed Ralf by email from November 7 that they intend to submit a manuscript to the MDPI Microorganisms Special Issue (deadline January 31) and suggested a postponed deadline for the *Pathogen Profile* at the end of February.

Considering that it won't be possible to submit all six *Pathogen Profile* in 2020, as initially planned and suggested to the MPP Editor Ralph Dean, Ralf proposed a submission in two waves, each encompassing three contributions. It was discussed and agreed to submit the bean, nut and cassava pathogens in the first wave in December, along with an editorial, and to announce the other three *Pathogen Profiles* for end of March.

Triggered by a question from Monika to Ralf by email from November 9 about the role of the internal reviewer and how this person qualifies (or not) as a co-author, Ralf took the opportunity to explain this point. It had been discussed and recorded in the Minutes of the February workshop in Brussels, that "it will be the duty of that colleague to carefully check and improve (if necessary) the manuscript and to make sure that the Deliverables are properly addressed" and that "this internal revision will justify co-authorship of the revising colleague". Ralf strongly argued that revision should always justify co-authorship independent of the actual amount of work. He considered it otherwise hard or even impossible to measure the amount of work that would justify co-authorship, which of course also depends on the quality of the manuscript. Moreover, the person won't know in advance how much work it will be, and even reading the manuscript is already work. Last not least this procedure is also a way to acknowledge all the input of the colleagues over the last months who collectively make all this happen. To remind, the purpose of the internal review is (i) to make sure that the EuroXanth Deliverables are properly addressed (i.e. diagnostics, biology of the pathogen, genetic resistances, disease management, (ii) to harmonise the contributions and (iii) to improve the overall quality of this series of *Pathogen Profiles*. Specifically, this remark concerns the following Deliverables:

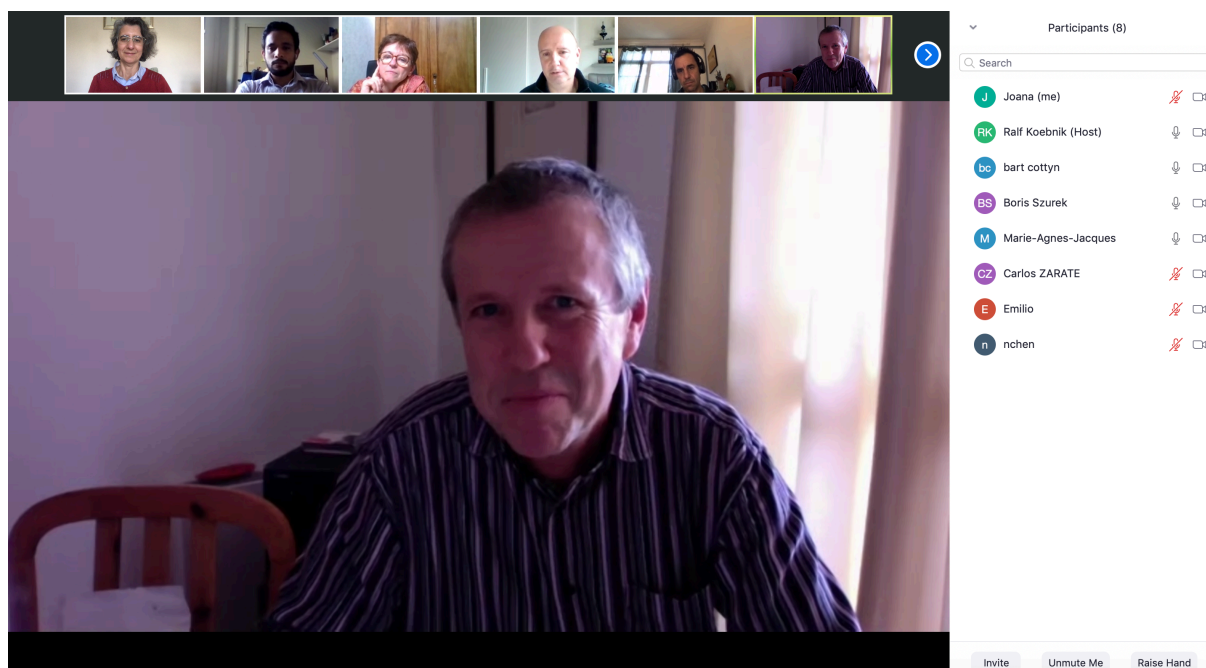
5. Protocols for detection of *Xanthomonadaceae* listed as quarantine organisms in Europe (EPPO A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests) (WG1)
6. List of molecular markers useful to study the genetic diversity and population structure of plant-associated *Xanthomonadaceae* (WG1)
9. Protocols for resistance and pathogenicity screening of the most important crop species and bacterial strains covered by the EuroXanth COST Action (WG2 & WG3)
10. Repertoire of important candidate bacterial factors in the microbe-eukaryote interaction at different steps of the infection/dissemination cycle (WG2)
11. Inventory of plant resistance genes, allelic variants and quantitative trait loci (QTL) in crop species that are effective against infection by members of the *Xanthomonadaceae* family (WG3)
12. Recommendation of disease control measures based on a better understanding of the microbe-eukaryote interaction and the effects of bio-control approaches on pathogen populations (WG4)

It was unanimously agreed to stick to the rule that the internal reviewer will become a co-author of the manuscript. Ralf suggests that the corresponding author reminds the internal reviewer of his/her responsibility once the manuscript is sent out for internal review.

After a brief exchange about xanthomonads that are associated with melon seeds and before finishing the meeting, Ralf mentioned three last points:

1. A reminder about the *MDPI Microorganisms* Special Issue and an invitation for manuscripts.
2. The International Conference on Plant-Pathogenic Bacteria in Assisi (Italy) has been postponed to 2022.
3. The EuroXanth COST Action still intends to have its final conference taking place as an on-site meeting in Serbia, probably at the end of June 2021.

Pathogens	Diseases	Authors (corresponding authors underlined)	Internal reviewer / Status quo
Nut pathogens ( <i>X. arboricola</i> pvs. <i>corylina</i> and <i>juglandis</i> )	Bacterial blight of hazelnut and walnut; Walnut oozing canker	<u>Monika Kałużna</u> (PL), Marion Fischer-Le Saux (FR), Aleksa Obradovic (RS), Joël Pothier (CH), Fernando Tavares (PT), Emilio Stefani (IT)	Marie-Agnès Jacques (FR) / Under internal review
Strawberry pathogens ( <i>X. fragariae</i> , commenting <i>X. arboricola</i> pv. <i>fragariae</i> )	Angular leaf spot of strawberries	Bart Cottyn (BE), Joanna Puławska (PL), Jan van der Wolf (NL), Andrew Aspin (GB), <u>Joël Pothier</u> (CH)	Joana Vicente (GB) / Intermediate progress
Bean pathogens ( <i>X. citri</i> pv. <i>fuscans</i> , <i>X. phaseoli</i> pv. <i>phaseoli</i> )	Common bean blight	Mylène Ruh (FR), Armelle Darasse (FR), Justine Foucher (FR), Martial Briand (FR), Joana Costa (PT), David Studholme (GB), Marie-Agnès Jacques (FR), <u>Nicolas Chen</u> (FR)	Joana Costa (PT) / Ready for submission
Pathogens of ornamental plants ( <i>X. axonopodis</i> pv. <i>poinsetticola</i> , <i>X. phaseoli</i> pvs. <i>dieffenbachiae</i> and <i>syngonii</i> )	Bacterial leaf spot or blight of <i>Anthurium</i> , <i>Dieffenbachia</i> , <i>Philodendron</i> , <i>Poinsettia</i> and <i>Syngonium</i>	Olivier Pruvost (FR), Isabelle Robène (FR), Ralf Koebnik (FR), Jan van der Wolf (NL), <u>Bart Cottyn</u> (BE)	Lionel Gagnevin (FR) and/or Vittoria Catara (IT) / Early stage
Cassava pathogens ( <i>X. phaseoli</i> pv. <i>manihotis</i> , <i>X. cassavae</i> )	Cassava bacterial blight; Bacterial necrosis of cassava	Carlos Zarate (FR), Adriana Bernal (CO), Camilo Lopez (CO), Boris Szurek (FR)	Valérie Verdier (FR) or Claude Bragard (BE) / Intermediate progress
Rice pathogens ( <i>X. oryzae</i> pvs. <i>oryzae</i> and <i>oryzicola</i> )	Bacterial leaf blight and leaf streak of rice	Coline Sciallano (FR), Mathilde Hutin (FR), Florence Auguy (FR), Sébastien Cunnac (FR), Boris Szurek (FR)	Jan Leach (US) / Early stage
Editorial		Vittoria Catara (IT), Joana Costa (PT), Joël Pothier (CH), Jens Boch (DE), Emilio Stefani (IT), Ralf Koebnik (FR)	To be discussed during an online meeting on November 24



Zoom meeting participants. From top left to bottom right: J. Vicente, C. Zarate, M.-A. Jacques, B. Cottyn, B. Szurek, and R. Koebnik (not on the picture: N. Chen and E. Stefani)