The global burden of plant disease tracks crop yields under climate change

Thomas M. Chaloner[1], Sarah J. Gurr[1,2] and Daniel P. Bebber[1*]

[1] Department of Biosciences, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4QD, UK

[2] Department of Biosciences, Utrecht University, Paduallaan 8, Netherlands.

* Correspondence to d.bebber@exeter.ac.uk, tel. +44 1392 725851

Abstract

Global food security is strongly determined by crop production. Climate change will not only

affect crop yields directly, but also indirectly via the distributions and impacts of plant

pathogens that can cause devastating production losses. However, the likely changes in

pathogen pressure in relation to global crop production are poorly understood. Here we show

that disease risk for 79 fungal and oomycete crop pathogens will closely track projected yield

changes in 12 major crops over the 21st Century. For most crops, yields are likely to increase

at high latitudes but disease risk will also grow. In addition, the USA, Europe and China will

experience major changes in pathogen assemblages. In contrast, while the tropics will see

little or no productivity gains, the disease burden is also likely to decline. The benefits of

yield gains will therefore be tempered by the increased burden of crop protection.

Main text

Plant pests and pathogens exert a growing burden on crop production around the world [1,2].

The burden can be measured directly in yield losses or indirectly in the social, environmental

and economic costs of control [1]. Like all species, crop pests and pathogens have particular

tolerances to, or requirements for, particular environmental conditions [3]. These tolerances

define their ecological niche, which determines the geographical regions and periods of the

year that allow pests and pathogens to proliferate and attack crops [3]. As climate changes,

suitable conditions for pest outbreaks shift in time and space, altering the threats that farmers

face and the management regimes required for their control [4]. Modelling the pattern and

process of future changes in pest and pathogen burdens is therefore a key component in

maintaining future food security [5].

Latitudinal range shifts of pests and pathogens are expected as the planet warms and

populations track their preferred temperature zones [4]. Spatial movements in geographical

distributions and temporal shifts in phenologies of wild populations are among the clearest

signs of anthropogenic global warming [6]. Though distribution data for crop pests and

pathogens are noisy and incomplete [5], similar changes have been detected for hundreds a

species of pests and pathogens over recent decades [7]. Increasing burdens of insect pests at

high latitudes, and decreasing burdens at low latitudes, have been projected using ecological

niche models (ENM) [8]. ENMs attempt to reconstruct the environmental tolerances of species

from contemporary climates within the observed species range using statistical models [9].

Alternatively, species' responses to microclimate can be directly measured, and these

responses incorporated into physiologically-based models of species performance [10]. Such

mechanistic models are commonly used to project future crop yields [11], and models have also

been developed for some plant diseases [12,13]. However, we know little about how plant

disease pressure is likely to change in future, nor how these changes will relate to crop yield

responses to climate change. Here, we analyse temperature response functions for host

infection for a suite of fungal and oomycete plant pathogens, and model the likely shifts in

infection risk globally for the 21st Century. We compare climate-driven changes in infection

risk with projected changes in crop yields to reveal how the global burden of plant disease

will impact upon crop productivity.

Projected crop yield changes

Yields of both temperate and tropical crops are projected to increase at higher latitudes over

the 21st Century (Figs. S1-S4). We compared current (2011-2030 mean) and future (2061-

2080 mean) yields projections from three crop models (LPJmL, GEPIC, PEPIC) employing

four GCMs (GFDL-ESM2M, HADGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR, MIROC5) under the

RCP6.0 representative concentration pathway. Carbon dioxide fertilization effects were

included but potential irrigation was not. The major commodity crops of maize, wheat,

soybean and rice, and are considered in all three crop models. Maize yields are projected to

increase at higher latitudes (above approx. 40 °), particularly in North America, in all model

combinations, with yield declines at lower latitudes. GEPIC/PEPIC project substantial maize

yield declines in Central and Latin America except for Argentina, and across Africa and

northern Australia. LPJmL projects no such yield declines. Wheat yields also increase at high

latitudes in all three crop models, with smaller increases at low latitudes in LPJmL and

declines in GEPIC/PEPIC. North America and parts of Eurasia show the largest wheat yield

increases, while GEPIC projects large declines in yield across the tropics. A similar

latitudinal trend is projected for soybean but with little decline in the tropics. Soybean yield

increases are projected across Eurasia in all models, and also Argentina and South Africa in

GEPIC/PEPIC. The latitudinal gradient is less pronounced for rice, with the MIROC5 climate

model suggesting a large increase in yield in the Southern hemisphere. MIROC5 is more

likely than other climate models to lead to large yield increases for several crops in the

Southern hemisphere.

Eight further temperate and tropical annual crops are considered in LPJmL. Cassava yields

increase under all four GCMs within 40 ° of latitude, driven by large increases in India.

However, all four GCMS suggest a smaller increase within 10 °N, caused by a yield decline

in northern Brazil. Peanut, pea, rapeseed, sugarbeet, and sunflower show increases at all

latitudes, with the largest increases at higher latitudes. Millet also show increases at high

latitudes, but yield declines at low latitudes. There are no consistent differences among the

four GCMs for any of the crops. Results for sugarcane are more variable. Mean yield change

projections suggest declines in Brazil and other Latin American countries, and in Southeast

Asia, but an increase in the USA and in East Africa. Previous analyses based on the more

extreme RCP 8.5 scenario similar yield increases with latitude latitudes, but more severe

declines for some crops at low latitudes [14].

Total projected crop production change is difficult to estimate because the spatial

distributions of planted areas are impossible to predict, due to the influence of socioeconomic

and cultural factors on planting choice. However, if production is calculated from projected

yield changes on an estimate of current crop production, increases in production are expected

for many crops (Fig. S5). Global wheat, cassava, rapeseed and sunflower production are

predicted to increase by all models. LPJmL, and two climate models driving GEPIC/PEPIC,

predict increases for rice. All models except HADGEM2-ES predict global soybean

production increases (see Methods for analysis of soybean production). None of the crop

models unequivocally project declines in production for any crop. In summary, crop models

project global production increases driven primarily by yield increases at high latitudes, even

without changes in cropping patterns to match shifts in areas likely to be most productive.

Projected pathogen pressure changes

Could these yield increases be offset by increasing pathogen pressure? Infection rates by

plant pathogens are strongly determined by abiotic conditions, including temperature [3]. We

estimated relative infection rates of 79 fungal and oomycete plant pathogens, for which

minimum, optimum and maximum infection temperatures were available in the literature [3]

(Fig. 1, Table S1). We chose to model experimentally-derived infection temperature

responses rather than the more commonly-measured growth in culture, because *in planta*

responses differ substantially from *in vitro* responses [3]. Essentially, the temperature range for

infection is narrower, and optimum temperature lower, than for growth in culture. However,

for two important pathogens, *Magnaporthe oryzae* (causing rice blast) and *Zymoseptoria*

tritici (Septoria tritici blotch of wheat), infection temperatures were not available therefore

we used lesion development and growth in culture temperatures, respectively. Optimum

infection temperatures varied from 10.5 to 34.67 °C among species (median 22.0, IQR 19.36

- 25.00). As global temperatures rise (Fig. S6), infection risks (and distributions) of these

pathogens should shift latitudinally [4].

Fig 1. Summary infection cardinal temperature for 79 plant pathogens included in this study.

(a) Cardinal temperature geometry determined by estimated T_{min}, T_{opt}, and T_{max}, as well as

Equation S1. Pink line refers to temperatures within $T_{range(0.5)}$ of the infection cardinal

temperature for an example pathogen. (b) Points refer to T_{opt}, bars refer to T_{range}. Colour refers

to T_{opt}. Blue and red refer to cool- and hot-adapted pathogens, respectively. Pathogen ID in

Table S1.

Defining pathogen burden as the number of pathogens with high infection risk (relative rate ≥

0.5) for their hosts in a particular location (Figs. S7, S8), we found that the overall change in

burden decreases at low latitudes, and increases at high latitudes, by the end of the 21st

Century under RCP 6.0 (Fig. 2a). Europe and China are particularly vulnerable to increasing

pathogen burden, while Brazil, sub-Saharan Africa, India and Southeast Asia are likely to

have reduced disease burdens. Rapid global dissemination by international trade and

transport [15] means that these pathogens are likely to reach all suitable areas that are not yet

affected (Fig. S9).

Pathogen burdens are projected to vary through the year, with the largest increases in North

America, Europe and China during northern-Hemisphere autumn (Figs. 3, S10). Decreases in

pathogen burden are expected at low to mid latitudes in northern-Hemisphere winter, shifting

northwards into higher latitudes during summer. For the pathogens we modelled, India is

expected to see large declines in infection risk over much of the year, with increases in

northern parts of India only in winter. Under increasingly strong greenhouse gas emissions

scenarios, the overall latitudinal patterns of pathogen burden and compositional change in

both Hemispheres remain the same, but their amplitudes increase (Fig. 4). Burdens decline at

low latitudes and increase at high latitudes, while compositional changes peaks at around 10°

and 30-40°.

Fig 2. Average change in (a, b) pathogen burden and (c, d) pathogen turnover under RCP 6.0

across all months. Pathogens restricted by host distributions extracted from EarthStat. White

grid cells contain no hosts in the EarthStat database, and were excluded from the analysis.

Future changes in pathogen burden closely mirror changes in yield by latitude for the

majority of crops (Fig. 5). The majority of rice pathogens in our sample show increased

infection risk across all latitudes, with few showing a widespread decline in the tropics.

While the infection risk of several maize pathogens is expected to increase at low latitudes,

the risk from many others will decline. Maize, millet and sugarcane are expected to undergo

yield declines at low latitudes, but these will be accompanied by declines in infection risk

from many of their pathogens. Soybean, sunflower and wheat show little yield gain in the

tropics, while experiencing reduced infection risk from a number of pathogens. Conversely,

both yields and pathogen burden increase strongly with latitude. Cassava pathogen burden

generally increases near the equator. Overall, high latitudes will see increasing potential crop

yields while simultaneously facing a larger burden of fungal and oomycete pathogens.

Fig 3. Impact of RCP and pathogen restriction method on change in pathogen burden and

turnover. Red and blue indicate increases and decreases in pathogen burden, respectively.

Darker pink indicates larger changes in pathogen turnover. Pathogens restricted by estimates

of host distributions extracted from (a) EarthStat and (b) MIRCA2000. Fewer pathogens

included in (b) due to fewer host distributions available.

Fig. 4. Impact of RCP on change of pathogen burden and species turnover. (a, c, e, g) Northern

hemisphere. (b, d, f, h) Southern Hemisphere.

Changing climate will affect not only the number of pathogens able to infect crops, but also

the compositions of pathogen assemblages (Figs. 2cd). Overall, the largest changes in

pathogen species composition will occur at high latitudes in the northern Hemisphere,

particularly in Europe, China and central to eastern USA. Large changes are also expected in

the Sahel, but this region, like much of Brazil, India and southeast Asia, will see declines in

overall burden. Hence, the change in pathogen assemblage in these areas is unlikely to pose a

major threat to production. Europe, China and Peru are highlighted as regions where both

overall burden and species turnover are greatest. These regions will therefore experience the

greatest number of emerging, i.e. novel, pathogen pressure. Through the year, two pulses of

pathogen assemblage change are seen at high latitude in the northern Hemisphere, first

around April, second around September (Fig. 3). The largest changes in species composition

are expected in October and November in northern USA and Canada, Europe, and northern

China (Figs. 3, S13). The largest changes in the Sahel are seen during April and May, while

the largest changes in India are seen during May and June.

Fig 5. Changes in crop yield and pathogen infection rate under RCP 6.0. Major crops shown

in the first row. (mai) maize, (ric) rice, (soy) soybean, (whe) wheat, (cas) cassava, (mil)

millet, (nut) peanut, (pea) pea, (rap) rapeseed, (sgb) sugar beet, (sug) sugar cane, and (sun)

sunflower. Red and blue indicate increases and decreases in pathogen infection rate,

respectively. Green and brown indicate increases and decreases in crop yield, respectively.

For major hosts, colour saturation for each crop model (LPJmL, GEPIC, PEPIC) climate

model (GFDL-ESM2M, HADGEM2-ES, IPSL-CM5A-LR, MIROC5) combination was set to

1/12. For other hosts, colour saturation was set to 1/4 as only the LPJmL model was used.

Colour saturation for each pathogen was set to 1/10 (min = 3, max = 15 pathogens per host,

Table S2).

We validated our models against current known pathogen distributions (Fig. S9, Table S3).

Temperature-related infection risk alone gave high false positive rates (predicting pathogen

presence in regions where the pathogen is currently unreported). Restricting predicted

distributions by host distributions improved overall model fit, reducing false positive rates

and increasing true negative rates. High false positives rates were more likely in countries

with low per capita GDP (Fig. S9), indicating an under-reporting bias in developing

countries[5].

Model limitations

Our analyses are limited by the availability of infection temperature responses in the

published literature. These are not a random sample of all known fungal and oomycete plant

pathogens. Given that the historical research focus on plant pathogens has been in developed

countries at high latitudes [16], our sample is biased towards pathogens which have evolved to

infect hosts optimally in cooler climates (Fig. S14). However, our sample does include

pathogens able to infect both tropical and temperate crops (Figs. S7, S8), hence this bias does

not preclude conclusions being drawn for tropical pathogens.

We did not attempt to model intra-specific variation in temperature response functions, but

such variation does exist [17,18]. However, analysis of historical pathogen distributions indicates

that range shifts have occurred in line with expectation suggesting that temperature

adaptation is slow in comparison with climate change [7]. We employed infection temperatures

rather than the more commonly-measured growth in axenic culture [3], for all but two

pathogens which were included because of their importance in agriculture [1]. The distinction

is important because growth in culture has a wider temperature range for most pathogens [3],

and models based on growth in culture would suggest a wider geographical range than

models based upon infection dynamics.

We only considered temperature as a determinant of infection rates. Infection by many fungal

and oomycete plant pathogens is promoted by wet conditions [19]. Multi-model mean

projections for precipitation to the end of the 21st Century suggest that precipitation will

increase significantly in boreal regions and decrease significantly around the Mediterranean,

with smaller and less certain changes elsewhere even under a high-emissions scenario [20].

Thus, there appears to be no major change in hydrology that would alter our overall

conclusions on latitudinal shifts in pathogen burden. In addition, global observations[21] and

field-scale experiments[22] suggest that temperature is the most important determinant of

fungal distributions and activity.

We did not include potential future changes in crop phenology. Warming is expected to

extend the growing season of temperate crops by a few days by the end of the 21st Century,

while increasing temperatures may reduce the length of the growing season in tropical crops

[23]. As our seasonal modelling was conducted using monthly crop calendars, the influence of

altered growing seasons on our results is likely to be small. Finally, we did not include

potential future changes in crop distributions. The socioeconomic factors leading to changes

in future crop distributions are challenging to predict [24], and differing future land use

scenarios are beyond the scope of the present analysis.

Future crop yields have been modelled using only plant physiological responses to abiotic

conditions. We analysed pathogen temperature physiology to understand how indirect, biotic

responses to climate change could impact production. We have shown that crop disease

burdens will track crop responses, increasing at higher latitudes where climate change is

expected to boost yields. Furthermore, the suite of crop diseases that farmers face in some of

the world's most productive regions will change dramatically. Agriculture must prepare

accordingly if any potential benefits of climate change on crop yields are to be realized.

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Author contributions

234   DB and TC developed the concept, collated the data, conducted the analyses and prepared the

235   figures. DB wrote the manuscript with contributions from TC and SG.

Methods

Crop yields

Annual crop yield projections from 2006-2099 were obtained from the Inter-Sectoral Model

Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP, www.isimip.org). The crop models were LPJmL [11], GEPIC

[25] and PEPIC [26]. GEPIC and PEPIC are derived from the EPIC agricultural yield and water

quality model [27]. Each of these crop models was driven by four global circulation models:

MIROC5 [28], HadGEM2-ES [29], GFDL-ESM2M [30] and IPSL-CM5A-LR [31]. Annual crop yield

estimates under RCP 6.0, with CO_2 fertilization and no irrigation, were obtained for all

available crops at 0.5 ° spatial resolution. GEPIC/PEPIC modelled maize, rice, soybean and

wheat. LPJmL additionally included cassava, millet, pea, peanut, rapeseed, sugarbeet,

sugarcane and sunflower. Yield differences between the 2060 – 2080 mean and 2010 – 2030

mean were calculated per grid cell.

Note on difference between modelled production and FAO reported production from 2006 to

2018 (Figs. S5, S15). For all crops except cassava and sugarcane, modelled total global

production was similar to reported production. For example, for maize the modelled

production was 0.26 – 1.00 of reported production (per year and model), while for soybean it

was 0.98 – 2.26 of reported production. Much of this deviation can be explained by increases

in harvested area for most crops since 2000 (Fig. S15). For cassava, modelled production was

0.10 – 0.14 of reported production, and for sugarcane, 0.004 – 0.009 of reported production.

These differences are caused by a mismatch between locations predicted as suitable for crop

production by the LPJmL model, and the locations allocated to a crop in the Earthstat dataset.

For the LPjML sugarcane model driven by HADGEM2, only 0.38 % of grid cells predicted

to have yields above 30 t ha^{-1} (around half of current global mean yield) in 2006 were also

predicted to contain a minimum of 1 % by area of sugarcane in 2000.

Climate data

Global estimates of current (1970 - 2000 average) and future (2061 - 2080 average) average

monthly temperature at 5 arc minute spatial resolution were obtained from the WorldClim

database (www.worldclim.org) [5/2019]. For future estimates, all global climate models

(GCMs) of Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 2.6, 4.5, 6.0 and 8.5 were obtained

(Table S4) [5/2019]. For each GCM, average future monthly temperature was calculated as

the mid-point of average maximum and minimum monthly temperature, as no average

estimates were available. For each RCP, average monthly temperature was calculated as the

median of all GCMs for that RCP.

Pathogen dataset construction

Estimates of pathogen infection cardinal temperature were extracted from two sources [3,32].

Collectively, only pathogens with at least one minimum (T_{min}), optimum (T_{opt}), and

maximum (T_{max}) estimate for infection cardinal temperature were included. To aid matching

of species between sources, pathogen species names reported in the latter were updated

according to the Species Fungorum database (SFD) (www.speciesfungorum.org) [accessed

April, 2020] (Table S5). If no information was available on the SFD, Mycobank

(www.mycobank.org) was used as an alternative [accessed April, 2020]. Discovery and

sanction author(s) of species were not provided in one source [32], and are not considered here.

Pathogen species names have previously been processed [3] and so were not processed further.

Mean T_{min}, T_{opt}, and T_{max} infection cardinal temperature were calculated for each pathogen

(hereafter referred to as the 'Pathogen dataset'). *Magnaporthe oryzae* and *Zymoseptoria*

tritici are two of the most destructive pathogens of rice and wheat [1], respectively, but

infection temperature estimates are unavailable. We therefore included cardinal temperature

for lesion development of *M. oryzae* [33], and average growth in culture cardinal temperatures

for 18 strains of *Z. tritici* [34]. It was assumed that average cardinal temperature for each

pathogen was identical across all hosts, for each respective pathogen.

The Plantwise database (CABI) [accessed 28/10/2013, by permission] was used to estimate

host range of each pathogen in the Pathogen dataset. To improve matching of pathogen

species names, some names were updated in the Plantwise database, according to the SFD or

Mycobank [accessed 2019 - 2020] (Table S1). All plant-pathogen interaction records for

hosts recorded in EarthStat (http://www.earthstat.org) and MIRCA2000 [35] were extracted

from the Plantwise database. To improve matching of host species, scientific names were

assigned to plant hosts found in EarthStat and MIRCA2000 (Table S6). Pathogens absent

from the extracted plant-pathogen interaction dataset were excluded from the Pathogen

dataset. Consequently, 79 pathogens were included in the Pathogen dataset and hence

included in this study (Fig. 1, Table S1).

Estimating global distributions of pathogen hosts

Two approaches were used to estimate global host distributions for each pathogen included in

the Pathogen dataset. First, for 145 crops (including forage crops, Table S6), global estimates

of average fractional proportion grid cell harvested (5 arc minute spatial resolution) were

obtained from EarthStat (http://www.earthstat.org). Only crops that could be clearly

identified in the Plantwise database were included (i.e. "mixed grain" was not included).

Each crop map was converted to binary presence/absence. If grid cell harvest area fraction

was ≥ 0.00001 (equivalent to 0.1 m^2 ha^{-1}), the host was estimated as present in said grid cell.

If < 0.00001, hosts were assumed absent. These values were chosen to ensure that crops were

estimated as present in grid cells, even if average fractional proportion harvested were

estimated as very small. This approach enabled estimation of global distribution for each crop

in EarthStat.

Second, for 24 crops (Table S6), global estimates of growing season periods (around the year

2000) were extracted from MIRCA2000 at 30 arc minute spatial resolution, and resampled to

5 arc minute resolution using neighbour joining algorithm in package *raster* for R [36]. For

each crop, rainfed and irrigated growing season estimates were combined. This provided

global monthly estimates of global host presence (within growing season) and absence

(outside of growing season), and hence monthly global distribution estimates, at 5 arc minute

spatial resolution for 24 crops.

For each pathogen, global distributions for all recorded hosts were combined, and converted

to binary presence/absence. This provided a single potential geographical distribution of each

pathogen, based on reported pathogen host range (Plantwise) and geographic host

distributions (EarthStat or MIRCA2000) (Fig. S7, S8). For example, if a pathogen was

recorded in the Plantwise database to successfully infect four hosts recorded in EarthStat, any

grid cells that were estimated to contain ≥1 of these hosts (as above) were converted to 1

(present), and grid cells that there were estimated to contain 0 hosts were converted to 0

(absent). This was done independently for host distributions estimated from EarthStat and

MIRCA2000, resulting in two alternative potential geographical distribution of each

pathogen. Where MIRCA2000 was utilised, fewer pathogens were included, due to fewer

included crop species. Further, where host range was estimated from MIRCA2000, the

potential geographical range of a pathogen of estimated each month, due to host growing

season (Fig. S8). Host ranges were assumed independent for each pathogen, i.e. competition

between pathogens for particular hosts was assumed to not occur.

Modelling pathogen temperature suitability

In all analyses, for each pathogen, average monthly temperature (T) suitable for host

infection was assumed to be any temperature within $T_{min(0.5)}$ and $T_{max(0.5)}$ of the pathogens

cardinal temperature, referred to as $T_{range(0.5)}$. $T_{min(0.5)}$ and $T_{max(0.5)}$ refer to temperatures where

a pathogens infection response rate = 0.5 (at T_{opt} the responses = 1, at T_{min} and T_{max} the

response = 0) (Fig. 1, Table S1). Pathogen temperature responses were calculated by a beta

function [37] (Equation S1). If average monthly (i) grid cell (j) temperature ($T_{\{i,j\}}$) fell within a

pathogens $T_{range(0.5)}$, the grid cell was deemed suitable for host infection, and hence the

pathogen was recorded as 'present'. Pathogens were recorded as 'absent' for all other grid

cells.

$$\text{Equation S1:} \, r\left(T_{\{i,j\}}\right) = \left(\frac{T_{max} - T_{\{i,j\}}}{T_{max} - T_{opt}}\right)\left(\frac{T_{\{i,j\}} - T_{min}}{T_{opt} - T_{min}}\right)^{(T_{opt} - T_{min})/(T_{max} - T_{opt})}$$

Model validation

Pathogen presence was calculated for current average monthly temperature estimates utilising

two alternative approaches. In the 'climate-only model', pathogens were not restricted by

host distributions. In the 'climate-host model', pathogens were additionally restricted by host

distributions estimated from EarthStat. In both model iterations, a summary global

distribution of each pathogen was calculated, whereby if a pathogen was modelled as present

in a grid cell (j) during any month (i), then the pathogen was classed as 'present' in that grid

cell (j). Outputs from both model iterations were then compared to observed records of

pathogen presence at country or state scale (hereafter collectively referred to as 'region', 396

regions total), from the CABI Plantwise database. Pathogen names in this dataset were

updated according to the SFD or Mycobank [accessed 2019 - 2020] to improve matching to

the Pathogen dataset (Table S7). Discovery and sanction author(s) of species were not

provided in this dataset, and so were not considered here. 13 pathogens (*Alternaria*

cucumerina, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Cercospora carotae*, *Didymella arachidicola*, *Diplocarpon*

earlianum, *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. conglutinans*, *Fusarium roseum*, *Globisporangium*

ultimum, *Nothopassalora personata*, *Puccinia menthae*, *Septoria glycines*, *Stigmina*

carpophila, and *Wilsoniana occidentalis*) were excluded from model validation, due to an

apparent lack of observational records.

Models were run at 5 arc minute resolution, whereas observed pathogen records were at

regional scale (Fig. S9a, c). Hence, model outputs were summed to regional scale (Fig. S9b,

d). If a pathogen was modelled as 'present' in any grid cell (j) in a region, for any month (i),

the pathogen was modelled as 'present' at the regional scale. Country-level gross domestic

product based on purchasing power parity (GDP (PPP)) and research output (number of

publications) were obtained from the World Bank Data website (data.worldbank.org)

[accessed November 2018]. For the climate-host model, GDP (PPP) and research output were

compared by Welch's Two Sample t-test between countries where (1) both the climate-host

model estimated, and the CABI Distribution Maps of Plant Diseases recorded, a pathogen as

present (true positive (Sensitivity)), and where (2) the climate-host model estimated a

pathogen as present, but the CABI Distribution Maps of Plant Diseases recorded a pathogen

as absent (false positive (Type 1 error)). Where GDP (PPP) and research output were

recorded at country scale, but pathogen records were recorded are state scale, states were

assigned country-level GDP (PPP) and research output.

Changes in global pathogen infection temperature suitability

Pathogen presence was calculated for current and future average monthly (i) grid cell (j)

temperature ($T_{\{i,j\}}$), utilising two alternative host-restriction approaches. First, pathogens

were restricted by host distributions estimated from EarthStat, for each future climate

scenarios (RCP 2.6, 4.5, 6.0, and 8.5). Second, pathogens were restricted by host distributions

estimated from MIRCA2000, and RCP 6.0 was used to estimate future average monthly

temperature. This allowed for comparison between host restriction method on model outputs

of change in spatial patterns of pathogen infection temperature suitability.

For each model, the change in pathogen burden was calculated as the difference in pathogens

modelled as 'present' under future climate conditions, minus those under current climate, for

each grid cell (j), for each month (i). Within a grid cell, increases or decreases in pathogen

burden do not reflect the change of species composition [8]. Therefore, for each model, a

modified Jaccard (J) index (1 - J) of community dissimilarity (species turnover) [8,38] was

calculated to characterize the change in community composition in each grid cell (j), for each

month (i). High pathogen turnover represents high community dissimilarity or high species

turnover, indicating a high change in species composition.

Change in pathogen infection rate under RCP 6.0

Change in spatial patterns of pathogen infection temperature suitability was calculated, as

above, with the following modifications. First, a model was constructed for each host

separately, using MIRCA2000 estimates of host distributions. Second, pathogen infection

rate was not converted to binary presence/absence using $T_{range(0.5)}$. Instead, the change in a

pathogens infection rate was calculated as the difference in infection rate under future climate

conditions, minus that calculated under current climate, for each pathogen, for each grid cell

(j), for each month (i). Only RCP 6.0 was used for future estimates of global temperature. We

used estimates from MIRCA2000 for pulses as a proxy for pea crop (*Pisum sativum*). The

average change of infection rate for each pathogen was calculated at each latitude (5 arc

minute resolution), and then averaged to 5-degree resolution. The calculated average change

in pathogen infection rate was compared to climate change-driven changes in yield for each

crop, respectively. The number of pathogens included for each host is provided in Table S2.

Pathogen sampling bias

Northern and southern latitudinal ranges for plant pests and pathogens were extracted from

the CABI Plantwise database. As above, some pathogen names in this dataset were updated

according to the SFD or Mycobank [accessed 2019 – 2020] to improve matching to the

Pathogen dataset (Table S7) and 13 pathogens were excluded from the analysis, due to an

apparent lack of observational records. Pathogen names were not updated in this dataset if

they were absent from the Pathogen dataset. Northern and southern latitudinal ranges for

pathogens included in the Pathogen dataset were compared to that of all fungi and oomycetes

pathogens for which latitudinal ranges were available.

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