TITLE

Transfer of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *arecae*, and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *musacearum* to *Xanthomonas vasicola* (Vauterin) as *Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *arecae* comb. nov., and *Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *musacearum* comb. nov. and description of *Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* pv. nov.

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ABSTRACT

Recent DNA sequence and other data indicated that several important bacterial pathogens should be transferred into the species *Xanthomonas vasicola* Vauterin 1995. The first objective of this letter is to propose the transfer of *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978 to *X. vasicola* Vauterin 1995. The second objective is to give a clear overview of the different evolutionary lineages that constitute the species *X. vasicola*, in the light of recent genomics analyses. These analyses also indicate that strains described as [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] (Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell 1990; Coutinho and Wallis 1991) fall within the species *X. vasicola* Vauterin 1995. Furthermore, the sequence of its *gyrB* gene suggested that *X. campestris* pv. *arecae* (Rao and Mohan 1970) Dye 1978 is closely related to the type strain of *X. vasicola*. Note that in this manuscript pathovar names that have no valid standing in nomenclature are presented with square brackets as is standard.

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59 # LETTER TO THE EDITOR

60 The genus *Xanthomonas* comprises gamma-Proteobacteria that collectively cause disease on more
61 than 400 species of plants (Hayward 1993), though some species and strains are apparently non-
62 pathogenic (Vauterin et al. 1996) and some have been isolated from clinical samples such as skin
63 microbiota (Seité, Zelenkova, and Martin 2017). Historically, taxonomy of *Xanthomonas* was tied to
64 the plant host of isolation (Vauterin et al. 1995), with the genus being split into large numbers of
65 species, each defined by this single phenotypic feature (Dye 1962). Subsequently, most of the
66 species were transferred (lumped) into a single species, *X. campestris*, because the organisms could
67 not be distinguished from one another by phenotypic and physiological tests (Lapage et al. 1992). As
68 a temporary solution, and to help to maintain a connection with the historical and plant pathological
69 literature, these nomenspecies were designated as pathovars within *X. campestris*, each defined by
70 host range or disease syndrome (Dye et al. 1980). More recently, DNA sequence comparisons and
71 biochemical approaches revealed that some of the host ranges of pathovars of *X. campestris* were
72 not correlated with inferred phylogenies (Parkinson et al. 2007, 2009; Rodriguez-R et al. 2012).
73 There have been heroic advances to improve the taxonomy of the genus as a whole (Vauterin et al.
74 1990; Vauterin, Rademaker, and Swings 2000; Rademaker et al. 2005; Vauterin et al. 1995) and
75 individual taxa (da Gama et al. 2018; Constantin et al. 2016), based on phenotypic, chemotaxonomic
76 and genotypic analyses, but in a number of taxa there remain issues not fully resolved.

77 The bacterial pathogen *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978
78 presents a major threat to cultivation of banana and enset crops in central and eastern Africa, where
79 is causes banana Xanthomonas wilt (BXW) and enset Xanthomonas wilt (EXW). Originally described
80 as *X. musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968), this pathogen was first isolated from enset and
81 banana in Ethiopia in the late 1960s and early 1970s, respectively (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968, 1974),
82 although symptoms consistent with EXW were reported for Ethiopia as early as the 1930s (Castellani

83 1939). However, only in the 21st century did the disease establish in the banana-growing areas of
84 Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, (Biruma, Pillay, and
85 Tripathi 2007; Tushemereirwe et al. 2004; Ndungo et al. 2006; Reeder et al. 2007; Carter et al. 2010).
86 In this region around the Great Lakes of eastern and central Africa, BXW disease severely challenges
87 livelihoods and food security (Blomme et al. 2017; Shimwela et al. 2016; Tinzaara et al. 2016;
88 Blomme et al. 2013; Biruma et al. 2007; Nakato, Mahuku, and Coutinho 2018).

89 There is confusion in the literature about the taxonomy of this bacterium. Since its assignment to *X.*
90 *campestris* (Young et al. 1978), molecular sequence and biochemical data indicate that this pathogen
91 is more closely related with *X. vasicola* (Parkinson et al. 2007; Aritua et al. 2007) as detailed below.
92 Thus, the first objective of this letter is to propose the transfer of *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum*
93 (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978 to *X. vasicola* Vauterin 1995. The second objective is to give a
94 clear overview of the different evolutionary lineages that constitute the species *X. vasicola*, in the
95 light of recent genomics analyses. These analyses also indicate that strains described as [*X.*
96 *campestris* pv. *zeae*] (Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell 1990; Coutinho and Wallis 1991) fall within a
97 clade of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* (Cobb 1894) Dye 1978 that belongs within the species *X.*
98 *vasicola* Vauterin 1995. Furthermore, the sequence of its *gyrB* gene suggested that *X. campestris* pv.
99 *arecae* (Rao and Mohan 1970) Dye 1978 is closely related to the type strain of *X. vasicola* (Parkinson
100 et al. 2009). Note that in this manuscript pathovar names that have no valid standing in
101 nomenclature are presented with square brackets as is standard (Bull et al. 2012).

102 The species *X. vasicola* (Vauterin et al. 1995) was created to encompass *X. campestris* pv. *holcicola*
103 (Elliott 1930) Dye 1978 and a subset of strains (not including the pathotype) of *X. campestris* pv.
104 *vasculorum* (Cobb 1894) Dye 1978 (Young et al. 1978; Vauterin et al. 1995). Taxonomic studies
105 revealed that *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* contained groups of strains that are clearly
106 distinguishable from the pathotype strain (of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum*) by phenotypic and

107 molecular traits despite their shared host ranges (Vauterin et al. 1992; Péros et al. 1994; Dookun,
108 Stead, and Autrey 2000; Stead 1989; Vauterin et al. 1995; Destéfano et al. 2003). Vauterin's type-B
109 strains are distinguished from type-A strains (to which the pathotype strain of *X. campestris* pv.
110 *vasculorum* belongs) by SDS-PAGE of proteins, gas chromatography of fatty acid methyl esters and
111 DNA-DNA hybridization (Yang et al. 1993). Type-A and type-B strains can also be distinguished by
112 PCR-RFLP analysis (Destéfano et al. 2003). Table 1 lists examples of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum*
113 (Cobb 1894) Dye 1978 strains that were classified in one or more of those studies. Vauterin and
114 colleagues assigned type-A strains, along with the pathotype, to *X. axonopodis* pv. *vasculorum*
115 (Cobb) Vauterin, Hoste, Kersters & Swings and type-B to [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] (Vauterin et al.
116 1995). However, we note that this pathovar is invalid because of the lack of a formal proposal
117 differentiating it from other pathovars (Young et al. 2004) and no designation of a pathotype strain.
118 For a given organism, competing classifications and invalid names result in three different valid
119 species names, *X. campestris*, *X. axonopodis* and *X. vasicola,* having been used in the literature. For
120 example, various authors have referred to strain NCPPB 1326 as *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum*, *X.*
121 *axonopodis* pv. *vasculorum* (to which the strain clearly does not belong) or [*X. vasicola* pv.
122 *vasculorum*] (Wasukira et al. 2014; Lewis Ivey, Tusiime, and Miller 2010; Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell
123 1990; Qhobela and Claflin 1992). Type-B strains NCPPB 702, NCPPB 1326 and NCPPB 206 were
124 erroneously described as *X. axonopodis* pv. *vasculorum* (Lewis Ivey, Tusiime, and Miller 2010) though
125 they are clearly members of *X. vasicola*. However, we acknowledge that examples of mistakes such
126 as these will not likely be resolved by transfer of the pathovars from *X. campestris* into *X. vasicola*.

127 A further source of confusion is the status of strains isolated from maize for which some authors use
128 the invalid name [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] (Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell 1990; Coutinho and Wallis
129 1991). Adding to the confusion, at least one strain of *X. campestris pv. vasculorum* (NCPPB 206)
130 isolated from maize has the fatty-acid type characteristic of *X. vasicola* (Dookun, Stead, and Autrey
131 2000); consistent with this, on the basis of phylogenetic analysis of DNA sequence, NCPPB 206 falls

among strains assigned to Vauterin's invalid [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] (Wasukira et al. 2014). A useful nomenclature for this group has become more pressing since the recent outbreak of leaf streak on corn in the USA, caused by bacteria very closely related to strains previously described as [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*]. One of these strains, NCPPB 4614 (=SAM119), has been suggested to be the eventual pathotype strain of *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* though no valid proposal has been made (Lang et al. 2017; Korus et al. 2017). Although [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] (Vauterin et al. 1995) is invalid, this name has come to be understood by the community to represent a meaningful biological reality; that is a set of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* strains that are biochemically and phylogenetically similar to *X. vasicola*. Therefore, below we propose a formal description of *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* pv. nov. that should be considered valid to harmonize the formal nomenclature with that which is in use. Further, consistent with the previous suggestion (Lang et al. 2017) that strains classified to [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] and [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] (Vauterin et al. 1995) are insufficiently distinct to warrant separate pathovars, we therefore propose that [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] group B, [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] and phylogenetically closely related strains isolated from sugarcane and maize be assigned into the newly described *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* pv. nov.

Vauterin et al. (1995) designated the pathotype strain of X. *vasicola* pv. *holicola* (LMG 736, NCPPB 2417, ICMP 3103 and CFBP 2543) as the type strain of *X. vasicola*, although they did not use the pathovar epithet for the specific epithet of the species as is most appropriate to indicate this relationship. The natural host range of *X. vasicola* pv. *holicola* includes the cereal crops millet and sorghum on which it causes bacterial leaf streak (Table 2). The host range of the strains that Vauterin et al. (1995) called [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] is less well defined because in most of the relevant pre-1995 literature it is impossible to distinguish between type-A and type-B of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* and therefore between *X. axonopodis* pv. *vasculorum* and strains belonging to *X. vasicola*. However, *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* type-B strains (that is, members of *X. vasicola*)

157 have been isolated from sugarcane and maize and shown to infect these hosts on artificial
158 inoculation (Vauterin et al. 1995; Karamura et al. 2015).

159 Previous studies suggested a close relationship between *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou and
160 Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978b and *X. vasicola* pv. *holcicola* (Elliott 1930) Vauterin et al. 1995 based on
161 fatty acid methyl ester analysis, genomic fingerprinting using rep-PCR and partial nucleotide
162 sequencing of the *gyrB* gene (Aritua et al. 2007; Parkinson et al. 2009). Draft or complete sequence
163 assemblies are now available for more than a thousand *Xanthomonas* genomes, including those of
164 type strains for most species and pathotypes for most pathovars. Genome-wide sequence data can
165 offer some advantages, such as generally applicable threshold values for species delineation (Glaeser
166 and Kämpfer 2015; Meier-Kolthoff et al. 2013; Meier-Kolthoff, Klenk, and Göker 2014; Richter and
167 Rosselló-Móra 2009). Therefore, we further explored relationships among these organisms using
168 whole genome sequences. We calculated pairwise average nucleotide identity (ANI) between *X.*
169 *campestris* pv. *musacearum* and representative *Xanthomonas* strains, including all available species
170 type strains and relevant pathotype strains. A representative subset of these pairwise ANI
171 percentages is tabulated in Figure 1. This revealed that the pathotype strain of *X. campestris* pv.
172 *musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978b shares 98.43 % ANI with the type strain of *X.*
173 *vasicola* but only 87.27 % with the type strain of *X. campestris*. As expected, strains of *X. vasicola* pv.
174 *holcicola* share high ANI (> 99.6 %) with the *X. vasicola* type strain NCPPB 2417, which is also the
175 pathotype strain of X. *vasicola* pv. *holcicola* (Elliott 1930) Vauterin et al. 1995. Also as expected,
176 strains of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* previously called [*X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*] or [*X.*
177 *campestris* pv. *zeae*], including sequenced strain SAM119 (=NCPPB 4614) from corn isolated by T.
178 Coutinho (Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell 1990), share > 98.5 % ANI with the type strain of *X. vasicola*,
179 supporting the need to transfer these strains to this species. Furthermore, unclassified strains NCPPB
180 902, NCPPB 1394, NCPPB 1395 and NCPPB 1396, from *Tripsacum laxum* (Mulder 1961) and the
181 pathotype strain of X. *campestris* pv. *arecae* (Rao and Mohan 1970) Dye 1978 (NCPPB 2649) all share

182 more than 98 % ANI with the type strain of *X. vasicola*, which places them unambiguously within *X.*
183 *vasicola*. The next-nearest species to *X. vasicola* is *X. oryzae*; ANI between the respective type strains
184 of these two species is 91.7%. It has been proposed that the boundary of a prokaryotic species can
185 be delimited by 95 to 96% (Richter and Rosselló-Móra 2009). By this criterion, *X. campestris* pv.
186 *arecae*, *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* and strains from corn that are referred to by the invalid name
187 [*Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *zeae*] clearly fall within *X. vasicola* and outside *X. campestris*.

188 The high ANI levels clearly delineate a genomo-species that includes the type strain *X. vasicola*
189 NCPPB 2417. Nevertheless, despite the usefulness of ANI for delimiting species boundaries, it does
190 not include any model of molecular evolution and thus is unsuited for phylogenetic reconstruction.
191 Therefore, we used RaxML via the RealPhy pipeline (Bertels et al. 2014; Stamatakis, Ludwig, and
192 Meier 2005) to elucidate phylogenetic relationships, based on genome-wide sequencing data. This
193 approach has the additional advantage of being based on sequence reads rather than on genome
194 assemblies, where the latter may be of variable quality and completeness (Bertels et al. 2014).

195 Figure 2 depitcs the phylogeny of *X. vasicola* based on RealPhy analysis of genome-wide sequence
196 data. Pathovars *X. vasicola* pv. *holcicola* and *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* are monophyletic,
197 comprising well supported clades within the *X. vasicola* genomospecies. A third well supported clade
198 includes the four "*Xanthomonas* sp." strains originating from *Tripsacum laxum*. A fourth clade
199 consists of mostly *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* strains isolated from sugarcane but also includes *X.*
200 *campestris* pv. *vasculorum* strain NCPPB 206 isolated from maize and several strains from maize
201 attributed to the invalid name [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*]. This indicates that sequenced strains of [*X.*
202 *campestris* pv. *zeae*] from corn (Sanko et al. 2018; Lang et al. 2017; Qhobela, Claflin, and Nowell
203 1990; Coutinho and Wallis 1991) are monophyletic and fall within the clade containing type-B strains
204 of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* (Figure 2). The single sequenced pathotype strain of *X. campestris*

205 pv. *arecae* falls immediately adjacent to the *X. vasicola* clade containing strains from corn and *X.*
206 *campestris* pv. *vasculorum* type B strains (Figure 2).

207 Overall, our molecular sequence analyses strongly point to the existence of a phylogenetically
208 coherent species *X. vasicola* that includes strains previously assigned to *X. campestris* pathovars
209 *musacearum, arecae,* and some strains of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* and strains collected from
210 corn and *T. laxum* grass that have not been previously assigned to species nor pathovar. Here we
211 propose that the pathovar *Xanthomonas vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* pv. nov. includes strains formerly
212 classified as *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* but distinguishable from *X. axonopodis* pv. *vasculorum*
213 (Cobb) Vauterin, Hoste, Kersters & Swings by protein SDS-PAGE, fatty acid methyl esterase (FAME)
214 analysis and DNA hybridisation (Vauterin et al. 1992; Yang et al. 1993; Vauterin et al. 1995). Our
215 analyses also support the transfer of *X. campestris* pv. *arecae* (Rao and Mohan 1970) Dye 1978 to *X.*
216 *vasicola*. Although only a single genome of this pathovar has been sequenced, that genome belongs
217 to the pathotype strain for this pathovar (Rao and Mohan 1970; C.T. Bull et al. 2010).

218 Our results are consistent with previous evidence for similarity between *X. campestris* pv.
219 *musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978 and strains of *X. vasicola*, based on FAME,
220 genomic fingerprinting with rep-PCR and *gyrB* sequencing (Aritua et al. 2007; Parkinson et al. 2007).
221 The formal species description for *X. vasicola* states that this species can be clearly distinguished by
222 its FAME profiles (Vauterin et al. 1995). Pathogenicity studies demonstrated phenotypic
223 distinctiveness of *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978 on banana; *X.*
224 *campestris* pv. *musacearum* produces severe disease whereas X. *vasicola* pv. *holcicola* NCPPB 2417
225 and *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* NCPPB 702 (which belongs to *X. vasicola*) showed no symptoms
226 (Aritua et al. 2007). The species description (Vauterin et al. 1995) also states that *X. vasicola* is
227 characterised by metabolic activity on the carbon substrates D-psicose and L-glutamic acid, and by a
228 lack of metabolic activity on the carbon substrates N-acetyl-D-galactosamine, L-arabinose, a-D-

229 lactose, D-melibiose, P-methyl-D- glucoside, L-rhamnose, D-sorbitol, formic add, D-galactonic acid
230 lactone, D-galacturonic acid, D-gluconic acid, D-glucuronic acid, p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid, a-
231 ketovaleric acid, quinic acid, glucuronamide, L-asparagine, L-histidine, L-phenylalanine, urocanic
232 acid, inosine, uridine, thymidine, DL-a-glycerol- phosphate, glucose 1-phosphate, and glucose 6-
233 phosphate. We are not aware that these metabolic activities have been tested for *X. campestris* pv.
234 *arecae*, *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* and strains referred to as [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*]; it is
235 possible that the species description may need to be amended to accommodate any deviation from
236 this definition among the repositioned pathovars.

237 Overall, it seems that the species *X. vasicola* (including *X. vasicola* pv. *holcicola*, *X. campestris* pv.
238 *vasculorum* type-B strains, [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] strains, *X. campestris* pv. *arecae* and some strains
239 isolated from *T. laxum*) is almost exclusively associated with monocot plants of the families Palmae
240 and Gramineae. In this respect, it is similar to its closest sibling species *X. oryzae*, whose host range is
241 limited to Gramineae (Bradbury 1986). The exception is a report of leaf blight and dieback in
242 *Eucalyptus* caused by *X. vasicola* (Coutinho et al. 2015), remarkable given the phylogenetic distance
243 between this dicot plant and the usual monocot hosts of *X. vasicola*; the infected South African
244 plantation was in an area where sugarcane is grown.

245 In conclusion, analysis of available genome sequence data, combined with published pathogenicity
246 and biochemical data, strongly support the transfer of *X. campestris* pathovars *arecae* and
247 *musacearum* to the species *X. vasicola* as *X. vasicola* pv. *musacearum* comb. nov. with NCPPB 2005
248 as the pathotype strain (being the type strain of *X. musacearum* and pathotype strain of *X.*
249 *campestris* pv. *musacearum*) and *X. vasicola* pv. *arecae* comb. nov with NCPPB 2649 as the
250 pathotype strain (being the type strain of *X. arecae* and pathotype strain of *X. campestris* pv.
251 *arecae*). Strains NCPPB 206, NCPPB 702, NCPPB 795, NCPPB 890, NCPPB 895, NCPPB 1326, NCPPB
252 1381, and NCPPB 4614 form a phylogenetically and phenotypically coherent group with a distinctive

host range causing symptoms on maize and sugarcane but not on banana (Aritua et al. 2007; Karamura et al. 2015). We designate the pathotype strain for *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* pv. *nov*. as NCPPB 4614. This strain was previously proposed as the pathotype of *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum* (Lang et al. 2017) and causes disease symptoms on maize and sugarcane (Lang et al. 2017) but not on banana (unpublished observation, Z. Dubrow and A. Bogdanove). Furthermore, given that strains from corn formerly described by the invalid name [*X. campestris* pv. *zeae*] are members of *X. vasicola* and have host ranges that can not be distinguished from the pathotype strain of *X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum*, we propose that these strains are members of this pathovar. Phylogenetic data support this as the corn strains represent a sub-clade within strains of *X. campestris* pv. *vasculorum* that fall within the emended *X. vasicola*.

EMENDED DESCRIPTION OF *XANTHOMONAS VASICOLA* VAUTERIN ET. AL., 1995.

The characteristics are as described for the genus and the species (Vauterin et al., 1995) extended with phylogenetic data from this study. The species can be clearly distinguished from other xanthomonads by MLSA and whole genome sequence analysis with members having more than 98 % ANI with the type strain. SDS-PAGE protein and FAME profiles have been shown to be distinguishing for some pathovars (Yang et al. 1993; Vauterin et al. 1992; Aritua et al. 2007), by the presence of metabolic activity on the carbon substrates D-psicose and L-glutamic acid, and by a lack of metabolic activity on the carbon substrates N-acetyl-D-galactosamine, L-arabinose, a-D-lactose, D-melibiose, P-methyl-D- glucoside, L-rhamnose, D-sorbitol, formic add, D-galactonic acid lactone, D-galacturonic acid, D-gluconic acid, D-glucuronic acid, p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid, a-ketovaleric acid, quinic acid, glucuronamide, L-asparagine, L-histidine, L-phenylalanine, urocanic acid, inosine, uridine, thymidine, DL-a-glycerol- phosphate, glucose 1-phosphate, and glucose 6-phosphate. The G+C content is between 63.1 and 63.6 mol % as calculated from whole-genome sequence data. The type strain is *X. vasicola* pv. *holcicola* LMG 736 (= NCPPB 2417 = ICMP 3103 = CFBP 2543).

***X. vasicola* pv. *holcicola* Vauterin et al., 1995.**

= *X. campestris* pv. *holcicola* (Elliott) Dye 1978.

Description is as presented by Vauterin et al., (1995). The pathovar is distinguished on the basis of phytopathogenic specialization. As shown here and elsewhere (Lang et al. 2017), the

282 pathovar is distinct from other pathovars by MLSA and genome-wide sequence analysis.
283 According to Bradbury (1986), gelatin and starch are hydrolysed by most isolates examined.
284 The natural host range includes: *Panicum miliaceum*, *Sorghum* spp., *S. almum*, *S. bicolor* (*S.*
285 *vulgare*), *S. caffrorum*, *S. durra*, *S. halepense*, *S. sudanense*, *S. technicum* (*S. bicolor* var.
286 *technicus*), *Zea mays.* The artificial host range (by inoculation) includes *Echinochloa*
287 *frumentacea*, *Pennisetum typhoides*, *Setaria italica*.
288 Pathotype strain: PDDCC 3103; NCPPB 2417.
289 ***X. vasicola* pv. *vasculorum pv. nov.***
290 Description as for the species and this pathovar is distinguished on the basis of
291 phytopathogenic specialization and includes the strains of the former taxon *X. campestris*
292 pv. *vasculorum* type B and pathogens from corn. The pathovar is identified to species and
293 distinguished from other pathovars by its *gyrB* gene sequence (Parkinson et al. 2009) and
294 genome-wide sequence analysis. It is not known whether the strains being transferred to
295 this taxon conform to the species description for metabolic activity. According to previously
296 published work (Coutinho et al. 2015; Aritua et al. 2007; Karamura et al. 2015; Hayward
297 1962)(unpublished observation, S. Dubrow and A. Bogdanove) the natural host range
298 includes: *Saccharum* spp., *Zea mays*, *Eucalyptus grandis*.
299 Pathotype strain: NCPPB 4614; SAM119.
300 ***X. vasicola* pv. *arecae* (Rao &Mohan) Dye 1978 *comb. nov*.**
301 = *X. campestris* pv. *arecae* (Rao &Mohan) Dye 1978.
302 Description as for the species and this pathovar is distinguished on the basis of
303 phytopathogenic specialization. The pathovar is identified to species and distinguished from
304 other pathovars by its *gyrB* gene sequence (Parkinson et al. 2009) and by genome-wide
305 sequence analysis. According to Bradbury (1980) the natural host range includes: *Areca*
306 *catechu* (areca nut). Bradbury (1986) reports the artificial host range to include: *Cocos*
307 *nucifera* (coconut). Needle prick into sugar cane produced limited streaks, but the bacteria
308 did multiply to some extent and could be re-isolated. Disease: leaf stripe. Long, narrow
309 water-soaked lesions, becoming dark brown or black with age. It is not known if the strains
310 being transferred to this taxon conform to the species description for metabolic activity.
311 Pathotype strain: NCPPB 2649; PDDCC 5791.
312 ***X. vasicola* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou & Bradbury) Dye 1978 *comb. nov*.**
313 = *X. campestris* pv. *musacearum* (Yirgou & Bradbury) Dye 1978.

314 Description as for the species and this pathovar is identified to species and distinguished on
315 the basis of phytopathogenic specialization and is distinct from other pathovars by its *gyrB*
316 gene sequence (Parkinson et al. 2009) and genome-wide sequence analysis. Gelatin slowly
317 liquefied, starch not hydrolysed. Growth quite rapid and very mucoid. According to Bradbury
318 (1986), the natural hosts include: *Ensete ventricosum* (enset), *Musa* spp. (banana).
319 Additional hosts by inoculation: *Saccharum* sp. (sugarcane), *Zea mays* (maize) and disease is
320 exhibited as a bacterial wilt where leaves wilt and wither; yellowish bacterial masses are
321 found in vascular tissue and parenchyma. It is not known if the strains being transferred to
322 this taxon conform to the species description for metabolic activity.
323 Pathotype strain: NCPPB 2005; PDDCC 2870.
324

325

326 # REFERENCES

327

328 ***Table 1. Classification of strains previously assigned to X. campestris pv. vasculorum.***

Strain	*Vauterin (Vauterin et al. 1992, 1995)*	*Dookun (Dookun, Stead, and Autrey 2000)*	*Péros (Péros et al. 1994)*	*Current species assignation*
NCPPB 186	*Type A*	*Group A*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 891	*Type A*	*Group A*	*G1*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 892	*n/a*	*Group A*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 893	*n/a*	*Group A*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 181	*Type A*	*Group B*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 796 PT	*Type A*	*Group B*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 899	*n/a*	*Group D*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 900	*n/a*	*Group D*	*n/a*	*X. axonopodis*
NCPPB 795	*Type B*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 889	*Type B*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 206	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 702	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 795	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 889	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 890	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 895	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 1326	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*
NCPPB 1381	*n/a*	*Group C*	*n/a*	*X. vasicola*

329 *[Z]In this table, the superscript PT indicates the pathotype strain of X. campestris pv. vasculorum*

330

331 ***Table 2. Host ranges of the taxa discussed in this letter.***

Current taxon	*Proposed taxon*	*Pathotype or Type strains*	*Additional strains in NCPPB known to be part of the newly proposed taxon*	*Natural hosts*	*Hosts by inoculation*
X. campestris pv. arecae (Rao and Mohan 1970) Dye 1978	*X. vasicola pv. arecae pv. nov.*	*NCPPB 2649 = ICMP 5719 = LMG 533*	*None*	*Areca catechu (Bradbury 1986; Kumar 1993, 1983)*	*Cocos nucifera, Saccharum sp. (Bradbury 1986)*
X. campestris pv. musacearum (Yirgou and Bradbury 1968) Dye 1978	*X. vasicola pv. musacearum pv. nov*	*NCPPB 2005 = ATCC 49084 = CFBP 7123 = ICMP 2870 = LMG 785*	*NCPPB 2251; NCPPB 4378; NCPPB 4379; NCPPB 4380; NCPPB 4381; NCPPB 4383; NCPPB 4384; NCPPB 4386; NCPPB 4387; NCPPB 4388; NCPPB 4389; NCPPB 4390; NCPPB 4391; NCPPB 4392; NCPPB 4393; NCPPB 4394; NCPPB 4395; NCPPB 4433; NCPPB 4434*	*Ensete ventricosum, Musa sp. (Bradbury 1986), Tripsacum sp. (Unpublished observation, E. Wicker),*	*Saccharum sp., (Karamura et al. 2015), Zea mays (Karamura et al. 2015; Aritua et al. 2007)*
[Xanthomonas vasicola pv. zeae Coutinho and Wallis 1990] *[Xanthomonas vasicola pv. zeae Qhobela et al 1990]*	*X. vasicola pv. vasculorum pv. nov.*	*NCPPB 4614 = SAM119*	*None*	*Zea mays (Coutinho and Wallis 1991)*	*Sorghum sp. (Lang et al. 2017)*
X. vasicola pv. holcicola (Elliott 1930) (Elliott 1930) Vauterin et al. 1995 *(synonym of X. campestris pv. holcicola)*	*X. vasicola pv. holcicola (Elliott 1930) Vauterin et al. 1995*	*NCPPB 2417 = CFBP 2543 = ICMP 3103 = LMG 736*	*NCPPB 989; NCPPB 1060; NCPPB 1241; NCPPB 2417; NCPPB 2930; NCPPB 3162*	*Panicum miliaceum, Sorghum spp., Zea mays (Bradbury 1986)*	*Echinochloa frumentacea, Pennisetum typhoides, Setaria italica (Bradbury 1986)*
X. campestris pv. vasculorum type B = [X. vasicola pv. vasculorum (Vauterin et al., 1995)]	*X. vasicola pv. vasculorum pv. nov.*	*NCPPB 4614 = SAM119*	*NCPPB 206; NCPPB 702; NCPPB 795; NCPPB 889; NCPPB 890; NCPPB 895; NCPPB 1326; NCPPB 1381; NCPPB 4614*	*Saccharum spp., Zea mays, Eucalyptus grandis (Coutinho et al. 2015; Bradbury 1986; Vauterin et al. 1995)*	*Saccharum spp., Zea mays (Karamura et al. 2015)*
Xanthomonas sp.	*The taxonomic placement of these strains requires further study.*	*Not applicable*	*NCPPB 1394; NCPPB 1395; NCPPB 1396; NCPPB 902*	*Tripsacum laxum (Mulder 1961), Vetiveria zizanoides (Kumar 1993, 1983)*	*Not known*

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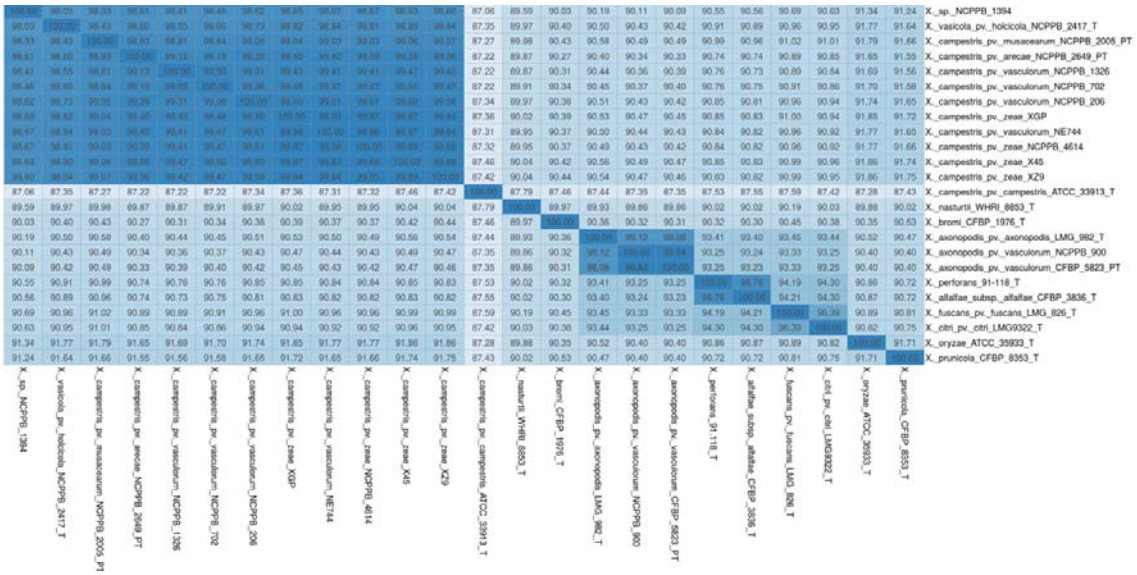

Figure 1. Average nucleotide identity (ANI) with type strains of Xanthomonas species. *Genome sequence assemblies were obtained from GenBank and aligned against each other and ANI was calculated using the dnadiff function in MUMmer version 4 (Marçais et al. 2018). Accession numbers of the genome assemblies: GCA_000774005.1, GCA_000772705.1, GCA_000277875.1, GCA_000770355.1, GCA_000277995.1, GCA_000159795.2, GCA_000278035.1, GCA_003111865.1, GCA_002191965.1, GCA_002191955.1, GCA_003111905.1, GCA_003111825.1, GCA_000007145.1, GCA_001660815.1, GCA_002939755.1, GCA_001401595.1, GCA_002939725.1, GCA_000724905.2, GCA_000192045.3, GCA_000488955.1, GCA_001401605.1, GCA_002018575.1, GCA_000482445.1 and GCA_002846205.1 (Studholme et al. 2010; Wasukira et al. 2014, 2012; Lang et al. 2017; Sanko et al. 2018; da Silva et al. 2002; Vicente et al. 2017; Harrison and Studholme 2014; Potnis et al. 2011; Jacques et al. 2013).*

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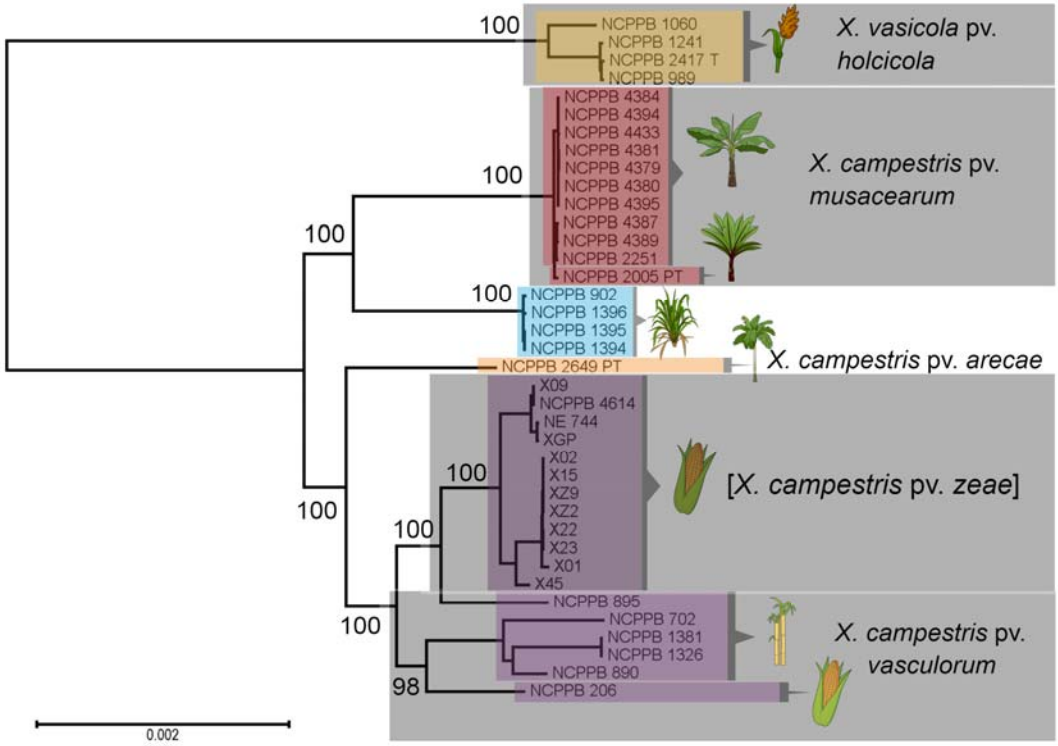

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350 ***Figure 2. Maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree based on genomic sequencing reads.*** *The*
351 *maximum likelihood tree was generated using RealPhy (Bertels et al. 2014) and RaxML (Stamatakis,*
352 *Ludwig, and Meier 2005). Bootstrap values are expressed as percentages of 500 trials. Type and*
353 *pathotype strains are indicated by 'P' and 'PT' respectively. Whole-genome shotgun sequence reads*
354 *were obtained from the Sequence Read Archive (Leinonen, Sugawara, and Shumway 2011) via*
355 *BioProjects PRJNA73853, PRJNA163305, PRJNA163307, PRJNA31213, PRJNA374510, PRJNA374557,*
356 *PRJNA439013, PRJNA439327, PRJNA439328, PRJNA439329 and PRJNA449864 (Lang et al. 2017;*
357 *Wasukira et al. 2014, 2012; Sanko et al. 2018).*

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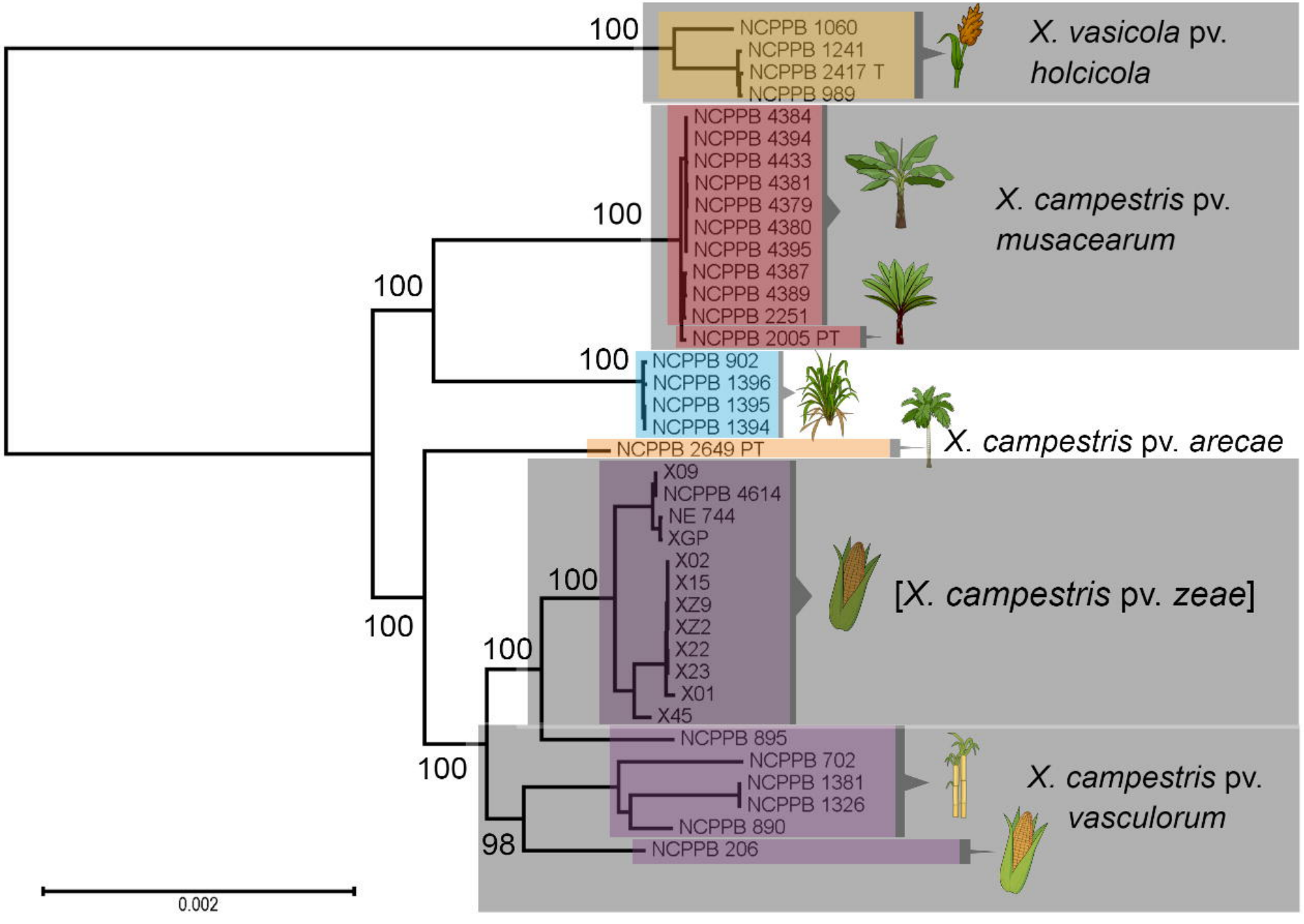
	X. sp. NCPPB 1394	X. vasicola pv. holcicola NCPPB 2417 T	X. campestris pv. musacearum NCPPB 2005 PT	X. campestris pv. arecae NCPPB 2649 PT	X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 1326	X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 702	X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 206	X. campestris pv. zeae XGP	X. campestris pv. vasculorum NE744	X. campestris pv. zeae NCPPB 4614	X. campestris pv. zeae X45	X. campestris pv. zeae XZ9	X. campestris pv. campestris ATCC 33913 T	X. nasturtii WHRI 8853 T	X. bromi CFBP 1976 T	X. axonopodis pv. axonopodis LMG 982 T	X. axonopodis pv. vasculorum NCPPB 900	X. axonopodis pv. vasculorum CFBP 5823 PT	X. perforans 91.118 T	X. alfalfae subsp. alfalfae CFBP 3836 T	X. fuscans pv. fuscans LMG 826 T	X. citri pv. citri LMG9322 T	X. oryzae ATCC 35933 T	X. prunicola CFBP 8353 T
X. sp. NCPPB 1394	100.00	98.03	98.33	98.61	98.41	98.46	98.62	98.65	98.67	98.67	98.63	98.60	87.06	89.59	90.03	90.19	90.11	90.09	90.55	90.56	90.69	90.63	91.34	91.24
X. vasicola pv. holcicola NCPPB 2417 T	98.03	100.00	98.43	98.60	98.55	98.60	98.73	98.82	98.84	98.81	98.80	98.84	87.35	89.97	90.40	90.50	90.43	90.42	90.91	90.89	90.96	90.95	91.77	91.64
X. campestris pv. musacearum NCPPB 2005 PT	98.33	98.43	100.00	98.93	98.81	98.84	99.05	99.04	99.03	99.03	99.06	99.07	87.27	89.98	90.43	90.58	90.49	90.49	90.99	90.96	91.02	91.01	91.79	91.66
X. campestris pv. arecae NCPPB 2649 PT	98.61	98.60	98.93	100.00	99.13	99.19	99.39	99.40	99.40	99.39	99.38	99.36	87.22	89.87	90.27	90.40	90.34	90.33	90.74	90.74	90.89	90.85	91.65	91.55
X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 1326	98.41	98.55	98.81	99.13	100.00	99.50	99.31	99.43	99.41	99.41	99.47	99.42	87.22	89.87	90.31	90.44	90.36	90.39	90.76	90.73	90.89	90.84	91.69	91.56
X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 702	98.46	98.60	98.84	99.19	99.50	100.00	99.38	99.48	99.47	99.47	99.50	99.47	87.22	89.91	90.34	90.45	90.37	90.40	90.76	90.75	90.91	90.86	91.70	91.58
X. campestris pv. vasculorum NCPPB 206	98.62	98.73	99.05	99.39	99.31	99.38	100.00	99.60	99.61	99.61	99.60	99.58	87.34	89.97	90.38	90.51	90.43	90.42	90.85	90.81	90.96	90.94	91.74	91.65
X. campestris pv. zeae XGP	98.65	98.82	99.04	99.40	99.43	99.48	99.60	100.00	99.99	99.97	99.87	99.84	87.36	90.02	90.39	90.53	90.47	90.45	90.85	90.83	91.00	90.94	91.85	91.72
X. campestris pv. vasculorum NE744	98.67	98.84	99.03	99.40	99.41	99.47	99.61	99.99	100.00	99.98	99.87	99.84	87.31	89.95	90.37	90.50	90.44	90.43	90.84	90.82	90.96	90.92	91.77	91.65
X. campestris pv. zeae NCPPB 4614	98.67	98.81	99.03	99.39	99.41	99.47	99.61	99.97	99.98	100.00	99.88	99.85	87.32	89.95	90.37	90.49	90.43	90.42	90.84	90.82	90.96	90.92	91.77	91.66
X. campestris pv. zeae X45	98.63	98.80	99.06	99.38	99.47	99.50	99.60	99.87	99.87	99.88	100.00	99.89	87.46	90.04	90.42	90.56	90.49	90.47	90.85	90.83	90.99	90.96	91.86	91.74
X. campestris pv. zeae XZ9	98.60	98.84	99.07	99.36	99.42	99.47	99.58	99.84	99.84	99.85	99.89	100.00	87.42	90.04	90.44	90.54	90.47	90.46	90.83	90.82	90.99	90.95	91.86	91.75
X. campestris pv. campestris ATCC 33913 T	87.06	87.35	87.27	87.22	87.22	87.22	87.34	87.36	87.31	87.32	87.46	87.42	100.00	87.79	87.46	87.44	87.35	87.35	87.53	87.55	87.59	87.42	87.28	87.43
X. nasturtii WHRI 8853 T	89.59	89.97	89.98	89.87	89.87	89.91	89.97	90.02	89.95	89.95	90.04	90.04	87.79	100.00	89.97	89.93	89.86	89.86	90.02	90.02	90.19	90.03	89.88	90.02
X. bromi CFBP 1976 T	90.03	90.40	90.43	90.27	90.31	90.34	90.38	90.39	90.37	90.37	90.42	90.44	87.46	89.97	100.00	90.36	90.32	90.31	90.32	90.30	90.45	90.38	90.35	90.53
X. axonopodis pv. axonopodis LMG 982 T	90.19	90.50	90.58	90.40	90.44	90.45	90.51	90.53	90.50	90.49	90.56	90.54	87.44	89.93	90.36	100.00	98.12	98.08	93.41	93.40	93.45	93.44	90.52	90.47
X. axonopodis pv. vasculorum NCPPB 900	90.11	90.43	90.49	90.34	90.36	90.37	90.43	90.47	90.44	90.43	90.49	90.47	87.35	89.86	90.32	98.12	100.00	99.84	93.25	93.24	93.33	93.25	90.40	90.40
X. axonopodis pv. vasculorum CFBP 5823 PT	90.09	90.42	90.49	90.33	90.39	90.40	90.42	90.45	90.43	90.42	90.47	90.46	87.35	89.86	90.31	98.08	99.84	100.00	93.25	93.23	93.33	93.25	90.40	90.40
X. perforans 91.118 T	90.55	90.91	90.99	90.74	90.76	90.76	90.85	90.85	90.84	90.84	90.85	90.83	87.53	90.02	90.32	93.41	93.25	93.25	100.00	98.76	94.19	94.30	90.86	90.72
X. alfalfae subsp. alfalfae CFBP 3836 T	90.56	90.89	90.96	90.74	90.73	90.75	90.81	90.83	90.82	90.82	90.83	90.82	87.55	90.02	90.30	93.40	93.24	93.23	98.76	100.00	94.21	94.30	90.87	90.72
X. fuscans pv. fuscans LMG 826 T	90.69	90.96	91.02	90.89	90.89	90.91	90.96	91.00	90.96	90.96	90.99	90.99	87.59	90.19	90.45	93.45	93.33	93.33	94.19	94.21	100.00	96.39	90.89	90.81
X. citri pv. citri LMG9322 T	90.63	90.95	91.01	90.85	90.84	90.86	90.94	90.94	90.92	90.92	90.96	90.95	87.42	90.03	90.38	93.44	93.25	93.25	94.30	94.30	96.39	100.00	90.82	90.75
X. oryzae ATCC 35933 T	91.34	91.77	91.79	91.65	91.69	91.70	91.74	91.85	91.77	91.77	91.86	91.86	87.28	89.88	90.35	90.52	90.40	90.40	90.86	90.87	90.89	90.82	100.00	91.71
X. prunicola CFBP 8353 T	91.24	91.64	91.66	91.55	91.56	91.58	91.65	91.72	91.65	91.66	91.74	91.75	87.43	90.02	90.53	90.47	90.40	90.40	90.72	90.72	90.81	90.75	91.71	100.00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NCPPB 2417 T
NCPPB 989
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NCPPB 4381
NCPPB 4379
NCPPB 4380
NCPPB 4395
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NCPPB 4389
NCPPB 2251
NCPPB 2005 PT
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X. campestris pv. musacearum
100
100
NCPPB 902
NCPPB 1396
NCPPB 1395
NCPPB 1394
NCPPB 2649 PT
X. campestris pv. arecae
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XGP
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X15
XZ9
XZ2
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X23
X01
X45
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100
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100
98
X. campestris pv. vasculorum
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