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## Hybridizations between formae speciales of *Venturia inaequalis* pave the way for a new biocontrol strategy to manage fungal plant pathogens

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1 **Hybridizations between *formae speciales* of *Venturia inaequalis* pave the way for a new**  
2 **biocontrol strategy to manage fungal plant pathogens**

3

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13 **Abstract**

14 Hybridization and adaptation to new hosts are important mechanisms of fungal disease  
15 emergence. Evaluating the risk of emergence of hybrids with enhanced virulence is then key  
16 to develop sustainable crop disease management. We evaluated this risk in *Venturia*  
17 *inaequalis*, the fungus responsible for the common and serious scab disease on Rosaceae  
18 hosts, including apple, pyracantha and loquat. Field isolates from these three hosts and  
19 progenies obtained from five crosses between *formae speciales* isolates collected from  
20 pyracantha (f.sp. *pyracantha*) and apple (f.sp. *pomi*) were tested for their pathogenicity on  
21 the three hosts. We confirmed a strict host specificity between isolates from apple and  
22 pyracantha, and showed that most isolates were able to cause disease on loquat. None of the  
23 251 progeny obtained from five crosses between *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pyracantha* and *V.*  
24 *inaequalis* f. sp. *pomi* could infect apple. If confirmed on more crosses, the inability of the  
25 hybrids to infect apple could lead to a novel biocontrol strategy based on a sexual hijacking of  
26 *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* by a massive introduction of *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pyracantha* in apple  
27 orchards. This strategy, analogous to the sterile insect approach, could lead to the collapse of  
28 the population size of *V. inaequalis* and dramatically reduce the use of chemicals in orchards.

29

30 **Keywords** : Host specificity, Biological control, Crossing experiments, Scab, Apple, Firethorn,  
31 *Eriobotrya*, Sexual hijacking

32

33 Plant-pathogenic fungi show variation in the width of their host range, from generalist  
34 pathogens that cause disease on multiple host species to specialized pathogens that infect a  
35 single host species. Fungal species strictly specialized to different hosts are referred to as  
36 *formae speciales*. Reproductive barriers between lineages – including *formae speciales* –

37 specialized to different hosts may be incomplete, which may lead to hybridization (Le Gac and  
38 Giraud 2008; Depotter et al. 2016). If hybrids are less fit than their parents on the same host,  
39 they should ultimately disappear, but still may act as a “genetic bridge” allowing transfer of  
40 pathogenicity traits from one species to another by backcrossing (Brasier 2001; Feurtey and  
41 Stukenbrock 2018; Stukenbrock et al. 2012). Hybridization can also result in extreme  
42 phenotypes, a phenomenon referred to as transgressive segregation (Rieseberg et al. 1999).  
43 Hybrid individuals can display increased virulence, as observed for hybrids between anther  
44 smut pathogens *Microbotryum lychnidis-dioicae* and *M. silenes-dioicae* (Gibson et al. 2014),  
45 or display an expanded or new host range such as in the triticale pathogen *Blumeria graminis*  
46 f.sp. *triticales* that was formed by hybridization between the wheat and rye pathogens *B.*  
47 *graminis* f.sp. *tritici* and *B. graminis* f.sp. *secalis* (Menardo et al. 2016). As hybridization of  
48 different *formae speciales* can be a driving force in the emergence of new diseases with  
49 expanded host ranges we investigated the potential for this phenomenon to occur in the  
50 fungal pathogen *Venturia inaequalis*.

51 *V. inaequalis* is responsible for scab disease on apple (*Malus x domestica*), the most cultivated  
52 fruit tree in temperate areas worldwide. Apple scab reduces both the quality and quantity of  
53 fruit. The control of the disease is mainly based on the use of fungicides. For a sustainable and  
54 risk-free environmental control of apple scab, there is a need to develop the use of apple  
55 resistant cultivars together with sanitation (Didelot et al. 2016), and to develop new control  
56 methods, especially for biological control which lacks efficiency in orchards (Carisse and  
57 Rolland 2004; Kohl et al. 2015). *V. inaequalis* also causes scab disease on other Rosaceae  
58 hosts, including pyracantha and loquat (Jones and Aldwinckle 1991; Sivanesan 1977). Loquat  
59 (*Eriobotrya japonica* Lindl.) is grown for fruit production in regions with subtropical climate,  
60 while pyracantha (*Pyracantha* spp) is grown as an ornamental plant sometimes planted in

61 hedges in an area extending from Southwest Europe to Southeast Asia. A strict host specificity  
62 has been observed for isolates of *V. inaequalis* from pyracantha, which are able to cause  
63 disease on pyracantha but not on apple (*i.e.* *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pyracantha*), and isolates from  
64 apple, which are able to cause disease on apple but not on pyracantha (*i.e.* *V. inaequalis* f.sp.  
65 *pomi*) (Le Cam et al. 2002). It was suggested that these two *formae speciales* are in “a process  
66 of isolation due to host specialization” (Le Cam et al. 2002). The status of isolates from loquat  
67 is less clear. Raabe and Gardner (1972) considered isolates from pyracantha and from loquat  
68 as belonging to the same *forma specialis* because they were able to infect both pyracantha  
69 and loquat. Sanchez-Torres et al. (2009) showed that four isolates of *V. inaequalis* sampled on  
70 apple were not able to cause disease on loquat. Gladioux et al. (2010) used six nuclear loci to  
71 show that *V. inaequalis* populations from loquat and those from pyracantha have more  
72 recently diverged than *V. inaequalis* populations from apple and those from pyracantha.  
73 Recently, using whole genome sequencing data, Le Cam et al. (2019) confirmed that  
74 populations of *V. inaequalis* isolated from apple, pyracantha and loquat represent distinct  
75 genetic lineages.

76 The aim of this study was to investigate the host specificity of *V. inaequalis* isolates from apple,  
77 pyracantha and loquat, and to test the hypothesis that crosses between *V. inaequalis formae*  
78 *speciales* represent a disease emergence risk by generating hybrids pathogenic on both hosts,  
79 or potentially with higher virulence on existing hosts.

80

81 **A strict host specificity was observed on apple and pyracantha, while most *V. inaequalis***  
82 **isolates were able to cause disease on loquat.**

83 Thirty-two monoconidial isolates were recovered from scabbed leaves of apple (11 isolates,  
84 named *Pomi*), pyracantha (11 isolates, named *Pyr*) and loquat (10 isolates, named *Loq*),

85 sampled from different locations in nine, seven and seven different countries, respectively  
86 (Table S1). These isolates were checked as being non-clonal using eight Simple Sequence  
87 Repeat markers (SSRs) developed on *V. inaequalis* (Table S2; Guérin et al. 2004; Guérin et al.  
88 2007; Tenzer et al. 1999). These isolates were inoculated individually on two apple cultivars  
89 (Gala and Top Red), four pyracantha cultivars (Kasan, Orange Charmer, Red Column and Soleil  
90 d'or), and two loquat cultivars (Peluche and Alfonso). These cultivars were selected for their  
91 susceptibility to scab (Bertrand et al. 1992; Bus et al. 2011; Sanchez-Torres et al. 2009). Plants  
92 were grown in a glasshouse in a scab-free environment, and transferred into a growth  
93 chamber for the tests of pathogenicity. Actively growing plants with expanding leaves which  
94 are highly susceptible to *V. inaequalis* were used in six different experiments, because all  
95 isolates could not be inoculated simultaneously across all hosts in the growth chamber. In  
96 order to avoid cross-contamination during inoculation, plants were placed in polycarbonate  
97 compartments and each compartment was inoculated with a single isolate. Each experiment  
98 included isolates of each origin and at least one cultivar of each host, except experiment 1  
99 where no pyracantha was present and experiment 6 where no loquat was present. Each  
100 isolate was grown on a cellophane sheet placed on malt-agar medium at 17°C to obtain spores  
101 (Caffier et al. 2014). Spores were suspended in water by shaking the cellophane sheet. After  
102 filtration through medical gauze, the spore suspension was adjusted to a final concentration  
103 of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  spores ml<sup>-1</sup> and was inoculated using a manual sprayer on three plants of each  
104 cultivar. After inoculation, plants were kept in darkness under a plastic sheet to maintain leaf  
105 wetness. Climatic conditions in the growth chamber were set to 95% of relative humidity at  
106 17°C for 48 hours. Afterwards, the plastic sheet was removed and the relative humidity was  
107 reduced to 80% at day and 90% at night, with 12 hours of light per day. In order to evaluate

108 the ability of each isolate to cause disease, the presence/absence of scab symptoms on each  
109 plant was scored at 14, 21 and 28 days post inoculation.

110 Not all *Pomi* and *Pyr* isolates caused symptoms on their respective hosts, while all *Loq* isolates  
111 could infect both loquat cultivars (Figure 1). This result suggests the existence of resistance  
112 genes in the apple cultivar Top Red and in all four pyracantha cultivars. No *Pyr* isolate was able  
113 to cause disease on the apple cultivars, and no *Pomi* isolate was able to cause disease on any  
114 of the four pyracantha cultivars (Figure 1), which agrees with previous results and confirms  
115 the status of *formae speciales V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* and *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pyracantha* (Le  
116 Cam et al. 2002). All *Pyr* isolates were able to cause disease on loquat, which agrees with data  
117 from Raabe and Gardner (1972). However, the reciprocal was not true, as only one of the 10  
118 *Loq* isolates was able to cause disease on pyracantha. Nine out of 11 *Pomi* isolates were able  
119 to cause disease on the loquat cultivars Peluche and/or Alfonso. No *Loq* isolate was pathogenic  
120 on apple except isolate 2305 that was previously described as resulting from a one-off shift  
121 from apple to loquat, on the basis of its polymorphism at six nuclear loci (Gladieux et al. 2010).  
122 To further investigate the pathogenicity of isolates on loquat and compare their  
123 aggressiveness in relation to their host of origin, five isolates from each host were inoculated  
124 on both loquat cultivars (three plants per cultivar) in the same experiment. Loquat plants were  
125 randomized within three blocks to have in each block one plant replicate for each isolate and  
126 each cultivar. We performed a quantitative scoring through visual evaluation of the  
127 percentage scabbed leaf area 21 days post inoculation, from no disease to 100% leaf area  
128 scabbed. The effect of the host of origin on the percentage scabbed leaf area was tested in R  
129 4.0.3 (R Core Team 2020) using a linear mixed effect model with the LMER package  
130 (Kuznetsova et al. 2017). The 'isolate' factor was treated as a random factor nested within the  
131 'host of origin' factor. The data were Log transformed prior to statistical analysis. This

132 experiment showed that the *Pomi* isolates were significantly less aggressive on the loquat  
133 cultivars Peluche and Alfonso than the *Pyr* and *Loq* isolates (Figure 2). There was no significant  
134 difference in aggressiveness on loquat between *Pyr* and *Loq* isolates. This result agrees with  
135 the scenario proposed by Gladieux et al. (2010), where populations from loquat and  
136 pyracantha have diverged more recently than populations from apple and pyracantha.

137

138 **Most progenies from a cross between f.sp. *pomi* and f.sp. *pyracantha* can infect pyracantha,**  
139 **but none can infect apple.**

140 As *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pyracantha* and *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* isolates can be crossed *in vitro*  
141 (Le Cam et al. 2002), we tested the hypothesis that hybrids may have increased virulence on  
142 one of the hosts (apple or pyracantha) or that they may have an extended host range (able to  
143 cause disease on both apple and pyracantha).

144 We performed five different crosses, three crosses between one *Pyr* isolate (1669, 1381 and  
145 1383) and one *Pomi* isolate (EU-B04 and 2556) and two crosses between one *Pyr* isolate (1387  
146 and 2299) and a mixture of five *Pomi* isolates (104 + 2416 + 2429 + 2444 + 2557, Table S1,  
147 Table 1), on sterile foliar disks of apple cultivar Gala, as described in Le Cam et al. (2002). The  
148 use of a mixture of isolates enabled us to diversify the origin of the *Pomi* parent. Mature  
149 pseudothecia were recovered from the leaf disks and crushed individually to obtain a  
150 suspension of ascospores that was spread on malt (10g per liter) agar. After 24 to 48 hours of  
151 incubation at 17°C, germinated ascospores were picked up individually with a needle under a  
152 stereomicroscope and transferred to new medium. To ensure the hybrid status of each  
153 progeny, we performed a multilocus genotyping using eight SSRs (Table S2; Guérin et al. 2004;  
154 Guérin et al. 2007; Tenzer et al. 1999; D. Sargent, *unpublished data*). Two hundred and fifty-



155 one progeny, checked as being hybrids by SSRs, and the parental isolates were grown on  
156 cellophane sheets.

157 Spore suspensions from 37 progeny of the cross between 1669 and EU-B04 isolates and from  
158 both parents were adjusted to a final concentration of  $2.5 \times 10^5$  spores ml<sup>-1</sup> and inoculated in  
159 a single experiment on three plants of pyracantha cultivar Kasan as described above.

160 Pyracantha plants were randomized within three blocks to have in each block one host  
161 replicate for each isolate. At 15, 20, 23 and 27 days post inoculation, disease severity was  
162 measured visually as the percentage of sporulating leaf area on the most scabbed leaf on each  
163 plant. These 37 progeny produced a large range of disease levels on the pyracantha cultivar  
164 Kasan (Figure 3). No progeny was more aggressive than the *Pyr* parent 1669. Only one progeny  
165 isolate was unable to cause disease on Kasan, similarly to the parental *Pomi* isolate. All other  
166 progenies gave a disease level that was intermediate between the parental *Pomi* isolate EU-  
167 B04 (0% leaf area scabbed) and the parental *Pyr* isolate 1669 (90 % leaf area scabbed),  
168 suggesting a complex genetic determinism for pathogenicity on this host. This result differed  
169 from previous studies in other pathosystems, for which a few genes explained host specificity.  
170 For example, two to four genes may be responsible for the pathogenicity of the two sibling  
171 species *Ceratocystis manginecan* and *Ceratocystis fimbriata* on *Acacia mangum* and *Ipomoea*  
172 *batatas* (Fourie et al. 2018; Fourie et al. 2019). Similarly, one to two genes have been shown  
173 to be responsible for host specificity of *Magnaporthe oryzae* on foxtail millet in a cross  
174 between an isolate pathogenic on wheat and an isolate pathogenic on foxtail millet (Murakami  
175 et al. 2003), and three genes have been shown to be responsible for host specificity of *M.*  
176 *oryzae* on wheat in a cross between an isolate pathogenic on rice and an isolate pathogenic  
177 on wheat (Tosa et al. 2006). The loss of a single locus, AVR-Co39, was involved in the host shift  
178 of *M. oryzae* from *Setaria* millet to rice (Couch et al. 2005). In the same way a single gene was

179 shown to be involved in the host specificity of *Blumeria graminis* f.sp. *secalis* on wheat (Tosa  
180 1994).

181 The 251 progeny obtained from the five different crosses were inoculated on apple, either  
182 four seedlings obtained from seeds collected from the apple cultivar Gala or six apple plants  
183 grafted on the rootstock MM106 (three Gala and three Golden Delicious) at a concentration  
184 of 2 to 4 x 10<sup>5</sup> spores ml<sup>-1</sup>. The viability of each inoculum was checked by counting germinated  
185 and non-germinated spores over a total of 100 spores for each isolate 24 hours after the  
186 deposition of the suspension on malt agar incubated in darkness at 17°C. Only progeny with a  
187 concentration higher than 8 x 10<sup>4</sup> viable spores ml<sup>-1</sup> were kept for analysis. Nine experiments  
188 were needed to test all progeny. In each experiment, two parental isolates (a *Pomi* isolate and  
189 a *Pyr* isolate) were used as control to check that the conditions were suitable for scab  
190 infection. None of the 251 progeny were pathogenic on apple, *i.e.* all progeny behaved as the  
191 *Pyr* parental isolates 1669, 1381, 1383, 1387 and 2299 on apple, whereas the *Pomi* isolate  
192 used as a control gave at least 45% and 80% leaf area scabbed (mean of the most infected leaf  
193 of three plants for each cultivar), on Gala and Golden Delicious plants, respectively. This result  
194 is consistent with the study of Tosa et al. (2006) on *M. oryzae*, which showed that none of the  
195 94 progeny obtained from a cross between an isolate pathogenic on rice and an isolate  
196 pathogenic on wheat was virulent on rice. Comparative genomic analysis of these progeny  
197 and parental isolates are needed to understand pathogenicity mechanisms and to identify  
198 putative genes involved in specificity of *V. inaequalis* on apple and pyracantha.

199

#### 200 **Towards a new strategy of biocontrol against apple scab.**

201 While hybridization between divergent populations or phytopathogenic species is often  
202 depicted as a threat for agriculture because it can increase the host range of the pathogen or

203 enhance its virulence, we showed that hybridization between *formae speciales* of *V. inaequalis*  
204 can be detrimental to fungal pathogens. If confirmed on more crosses, our finding that hybrids  
205 are non-pathogenic on apple paves the way for a new biocontrol method to collapse pathogen  
206 population size in apple orchards. Indeed, we propose to exploit this finding for biological  
207 control based on a sexual hijacking strategy, similar to the sterile insect technique proposed  
208 by Vanderplank (1944) to control the tsetse fly, which is largely developed now on many insect  
209 species (Klassen and Curtis 2005).

210 As sexual reproduction is the main way for *V. inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* to survive in winter in  
211 temperate areas and as heterothallic mating is induced on dead leaves after leaf fall  
212 (MacHardy 1996), a massive introduction in autumn of *Pyr* isolates representing the two  
213 mating types by spraying of spores on the senescent leaves before or just after leaf fall should  
214 lead to the production of hybrid ascospores unable to cause disease on apple in spring. This  
215 strategy is expected to be efficient to reduce primary inoculum throughout most regions of  
216 apple production, except maybe in regions with mild winter where *V. inaequalis* can survive  
217 as asexual spores within buds (Holb et al. 2005; Passey et al. 2017). To maximize impact on  
218 apple scab, this strategy may be associated with other methods, like sanitary measures and  
219 use of resistant cultivars (Didelot et al. 2016).

220 Because the proposed biocontrol strategy is based on an organism which is widely distributed,  
221 that has not undergone genetic modification, and whose effect is highly specific, we do not  
222 expect any toxicity to humans or the environment, with the possible exception of pyracantha  
223 shrubs located in the immediate vicinity of orchards. The efficiency of this sexual hijacking  
224 strategy remains to be evaluated experimentally in orchards, and so does the risk of  
225 emergence of hybrids pathogenic on apple trees or other cultivated Rosaceae hosts. Since this

226 strategy could be implemented with other fungi having *formae speciales* and a sexual stage,  
227 our work opens a new area of research in the biocontrol of plant pathogenic fungi.

**228 Patent for this novel strategy of biocontrol**

229 Patent application PCT/FR2020/052580 « Méthode de bio-contrôle pour lutter contre la  
230 propagation des champignons et oomycètes phytopathogènes », jointly filed on 21/12/2020  
231 by INRAE, Université d'Angers, Institut National Supérieur des Sciences Agronomiques,  
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244

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349 **Table 1. Description of the crosses between *Venturia inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* (*Pomi*) and *V. inaequalis* f.sp.**  
 350 ***pyracantha* (*Pyr*) and pathogenicity of 251 progeny on apple**

<i>Pyr</i> isolate	<i>Pomi</i> isolate	Number of progeny non pathogenic on apple / tested on apple
1669	EU-B04	76 / 76
1381	2556	44 / 44
1383	2556	44 / 44
1387	mixture of isolates (104, 2416, 2429, 2444, 2557)	49 / 49
2299	mixture of isolates (104, 2416, 2429, 2444, 2557)	38 / 38

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352

**353 Legends of the figures**

354 **Figure 1.** Pathogenicity of 32 isolates of *Venturia inaequalis* isolated from apple (*Pomi*), pyracantha (*Pyr*) or loquat  
355 (*Loq*) on two cultivars of apple, four cultivars of pyracantha and two cultivars of loquat. Each isolate was  
356 inoculated under controlled conditions on three plants of each cultivar. In red: presence of scab symptoms (with  
357 light red indicating less than 5% of the leaf area with scab symptoms), in blue: absence of scab symptoms, in  
358 white: not tested.

359 **Figure 2.** Boxplots of the percentage leaf area scabbed on two cultivars of loquat Alfonso and Peluche 21 days  
360 after inoculation with isolates of *Venturia inaequalis* isolated from three hosts: apple (*Pomi* in dark grey),  
361 pyracantha (*Pyr* in middle grey) and loquat (*Loq* in light grey). For each origin, five isolates were tested (*Pomi*:  
362 190, 1395, 2315, 2367, EU-NL19; *Pyr*: 1669, 2267, 2269, 2299, 2309; *Loq*: 2258, 2264, 2300, 2303, 2304). Each  
363 isolate was inoculated under controlled conditions on three plants of each cultivar. The box represents the lower  
364 and upper quartiles. The thick horizontal line represents the median. The whiskers represent the highest and  
365 lowest values falling within 1.5 times the interquartile range. The black dots represent outliers. *Pomi* isolates are  
366 significantly less aggressive than *Pyr* and *Loq* isolates ( $P = 0.0095$  and  $P = 0.0164$ , respectively, linear mixed effect  
367 model).

368 **Figure 3.** Percentage leaf area scabbed on the pyracantha cultivar Kasan after inoculation with 37 progeny of  
369 the cross between the *Venturia inaequalis* f.sp. *pomi* isolate EU-B04 (*Pomi* isolate) and the *V. inaequalis* f.sp.  
370 *pyracantha* isolate 1669 (*Pyr* isolate). The pathogenicity of the parents EU-B04 and 1669 are presented on the  
371 left and right sides, respectively. Each isolate was inoculated under controlled conditions on three plants of  
372 cultivar Kasan, and scoring was performed at four dates: 15, 20, 23 and 27 days post inoculation.

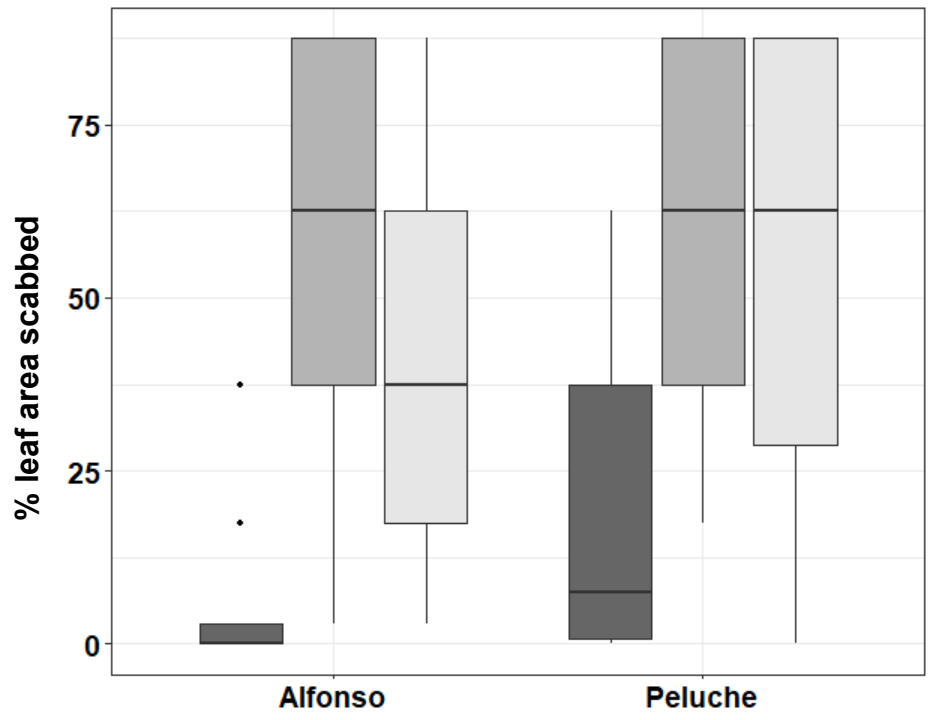
373

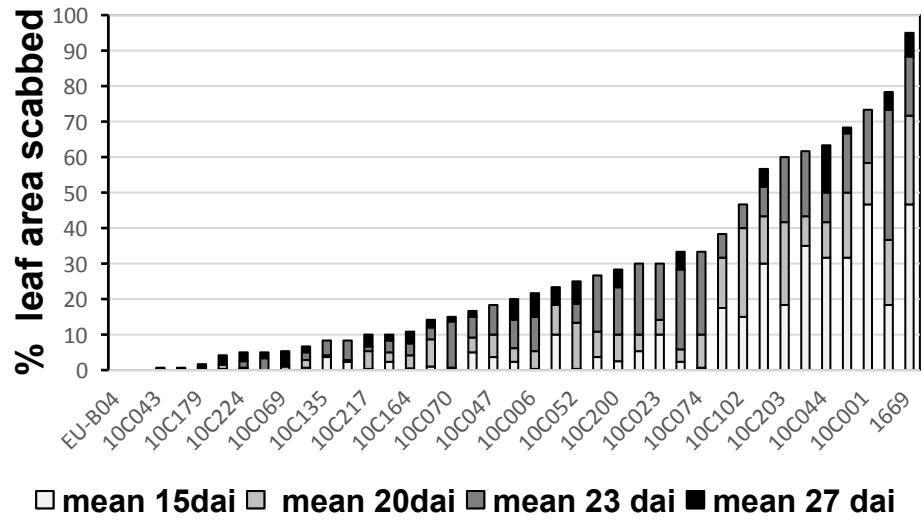
**374 Titles of the e-Xtras**

375 Table S1. Description of the origin of the *Venturia inaequalis* isolates used in the present study and indication of  
376 their mating type

377 Table S2. Simple Sequence Repeats used to check the clone status of each sampled isolate of *Venturia inaequalis*  
378 and the hybrid status of each progeny isolate

		Inoculated host							
		Apple		Pyracantha			Loquat		
Isolate origin	Isolate name	Gala	Top Red	Kasan	Orange charmer	Red column	Soleil d'or	Peluche	Alfonso
<i>Pomi</i>	190	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	301	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	912	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1170	Red	Blue		Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1395	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2311	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2315	Red	Blue		Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2367	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	EU-B04	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	EU-D42a	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	EU-NL19	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
<i>Pyr</i>	186	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1381	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1383	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1387	Blue	White		Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1400	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	1669	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2267	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2269	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2299	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2307	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2507	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
<i>Loq</i>	1389	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2258	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2260	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2262	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2263	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2264	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2300	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2303	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2304	Blue			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red
	2305	Red			Blue	Blue	Blue	Light Red	Light Red





1 **Table S1. Description of the origin of the *Venturia inaequalis* isolates used in the present**  
2 **study and indication of their mating type**

Host of origin	Isolate	Sampling year	Sampling country	Sampling cultivar	Mating type
Apple ( <i>Pomi</i> )	104	1978	France	Golden Delicious	a <sup>2</sup>
	190	1987	France	Golden Delicious	a <sup>1</sup>
	301	1988	Germany	81/19-53	α <sup>2</sup>
	912	1992	Spain	unknown	α <sup>1</sup>
	1170	1995	The Netherlands	Discovery	a <sup>1</sup>
	1395	1995	Colombia	Golden Dorsett	α <sup>1</sup>
	2311	2006	Algeria	Gala	α <sup>1</sup>
	2315	2006	USA	Gala	α <sup>1</sup>
	2367	2005	China	Fuji	a <sup>1</sup>
	2416	2006	France	J25	a <sup>1</sup>
	2429	2006	France	J25	a <sup>1</sup>
	2444	2007	France	Gala	a <sup>1</sup>
	2556	2006	France	J108	α <sup>1</sup>
	2557	2009	France	E063	a <sup>1</sup>
	EU-B04	1998	Belgium	Golden Delicious Reinhardt	α <sup>2</sup>
	EU-D42a	1998	Germany	Prima	a <sup>1</sup>
	EU-NL19	1998	The Netherlands	Golden Delicious	α <sup>1</sup>
Pyracantha ( <i>Pyr</i> )	186	1987	Ireland	Red Column	a <sup>2</sup>
	1381	1998	France	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
	1383	1998	France	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
	1387	1998	France	unknown	α <sup>1</sup>
	1400	1995	Germany	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
	1669	2001	USA	unknown	a <sup>2</sup>
	2267	2003	United Kingdom	Thornless	a <sup>1</sup>
	2269	2003	Sweden	unknown	a <sup>2</sup>
	2299	2004	France	unknown	α <sup>1</sup>
	2307	2004	Chile	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
	2507	2004	Chile	unknown	α <sup>2</sup>
	Loquat ( <i>Loq</i> )	1389	1999	France	unknown
2258		2006	Marocco	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2260		2006	Portugal	unknown	α <sup>1</sup>
2262		2004	France	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2263		2006	Spain	Algerie	α <sup>2</sup>
2264		2006	Spain	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2300		2006	Iran	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2303		2004	New Zealand	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2304		2004	New Zealand	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>
2305		2003	Chile	unknown	a <sup>1</sup>

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4 <sup>1</sup> Mating types defined with primer sequences F: CCCTCTGACTCTGAACAGC and R: TGTCGAAATCGTCACTCTGC for Mat a,  
5 and primer sequences F: CACCTTTTCCAGCAGAAGG and R: CGATCTGCAGGAAGTGTCA for Mat α

6 <sup>2</sup> Mating types defined by genome sequencing (Le Cam et al., 2019)

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8 **Table S2. Simple Sequence Repeats used to check the clone status of each sampled isolate of**  
 9 ***Venturia inaequalis* and the hybrid status of each progeny isolate**

Primer name	Primer sequences (5' - 3')	Primer locus	Reference	Clone status	Hybrid status
M1	F: [HEX]TCGAGATCCTCAAACCTTCCTT R: TTTAACTGTGCGGCCTG	1tc1a	Tenzer et al, 1999	x	x
M2	F: [FAM]CGATTGGGGATATGAAGACTT R: TTAGTAATCAAATCGCACCCA	1tc1b	Tenzer et al, 1999	x	x
M4	F: [FAM]AGCGCTAGGTCGTGAAATC R: TTTCTGAAGTGTGTGGGACAT	1aac3b	Tenzer et al, 1999	x	
M15	F: [TAMRA]GCACCTGCTCTGTCTATCTC R: AAGGTTCAAGGCACTGGAG	Vica9/152	Guerin et al., 2004	x	
M20	F: [TAMRA]TGTCAGCCACGCTAGAAG R: CACCGGACGAATCATGC	Vicacg8/42	Guerin et al., 2004	x	x
M42	F: [TAMRA]CCAGACCTCCTTATTCAC R: TAACTCCTGAAGACGGCATG		Guerin et al., 2007	x	x
M43	F: [HEX]GCCTGGTTGTGGATCTGTC R: ATCCTGCTACATCGACCTTC	Viga7/116	Guerin et al., 2004	x	x
M51	F: [HEX]TCGCGCATCACTATCTACAC R: AGACAGGAATGTGGTGGAAG	Vica9/X	Guerin et al., 2004	x	
283036	F: [6- FAM]CAAGCTGAAAGGGCAAAGAG R: ATATGGGGCATTGGGAAACT		Sargent, unpublished		x
276191	F: [6- FAM]TGAGGGGAGAGATTTTGGTG R: ATGGTGGGGCTTGACTAATG		Sargent, unpublished		x
139795541	F: [HEX]GTGGTTATGTTGTGGGAGTGG R: GTACTCTCTCGGCCTAAACTCG		Sargent, unpublished		x

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