

Characterization of *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* from the camellia whitefly, *Aleurocanthus camelliae* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), infesting tea in Japan

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1 Characterization of *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* from the camellia whitefly,
2 *Aleurocanthus camelliae* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), infesting tea in Japan

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7
8 ABSTRACT

9 The whitefly, *Aleurocanthus camelliae* Kanmiya & Kasai (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), is an invasive
10 species in Japan that was first discovered in 2004 on tea in Kyoto. Soon after its arrival epizootics of
11 an entomopathogenic fungus were observed in populations of the whitefly in many tea-growing
12 regions. Here we identify this fungus as *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* (Petch) Samson & W. Gams
13 (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) based on morphological characteristics and molecular analyses. This
14 is the first record of *P. cinnamomeus* in Japan and also the first time it has been recorded from the
15 genus *Aleurocanthus*. A isolate of *P. cinnamomeus* caused greater than 50% and 90% infection in
16 whitefly nymphs at 1×10^6 and 1×10^7 conidia/ml respectively, while the commercial
17 mycoinsecticides Preferd[®] (*Isaria fumosorosea*) and Mycotal[®] (*Lecanicillium muscarium*) caused <
18 10% infection at their recommended field rates (5×10^6 and 9×10^6 conidia/ml, respectively),
19 suggesting that *P. cinnamomeus* may be more useful as a control agent than the currently available
20 mycoinsecticides. Optimum and upper limit temperatures for *in vitro* growth of *P. cinnamomeus*
21 isolates were 22.5-25°C and 32.5°C, respectively. At field rates, the fungicide thiophanate-methyl
22 caused some inhibition of *in vitro* growth of *P. cinnamomeus* isolates, and the bactericide copper
23 oxychloride and the insecticides tolfenpyrad and methidathion were strongly inhibitory. The findings
24 obtained in this study will be useful in the development of microbial control programs using *P.*
25 *cinnamomeus* against *A. camelliae*.

26
27 *Keywords:*

28 Tea

29 *Aleurocanthus camelliae*

30 *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus*

31 *Conoideocrella luteorostrata*

32 Molecular analyses

33 Pesticides

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40

41 1. Introduction

42

43 In 2004, heavy whitefly infestations were first recorded on tea in Kyoto Prefecture, central Japan,
44 and quickly spread to other Prefectures (Yamashita and Hayashida, 2006; Kasai et al., 2010).
45 Infested tea plants were weakened due to sap loss and to the growth of sooty mold on
46 honeydew-covered leaf surfaces during heavy infestations. Recently this whitefly has been described
47 as a new species, *Aleurocanthus camelliae* Kanmiya & Kasai (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), Originally it
48 had been thought to be *A. spiniferus* (Quaintance), a species infesting tea in China (Kanmiya et al.,
49 2011). It is believed that *A. camelliae* was introduced to Japan from China (Kasai et al., 2010).

50 Simultaneously with outbreaks of the whitefly, fungal epizootics were also observed in *A.*
51 *camelliae* nymphs in many tea fields. Infected whitefly nymphs all had the common symptom of
52 being covered with a cinnamon-colored mat of mycelium. In this study, the fungus was identified
53 based on morphological characteristics and phylogeny of the ITS rDNA, the β -tubulin gene and the
54 translation elongation factor 1 α gene. In addition, the virulences of the fungal isolates were
55 determined and compared with the mycoinsecticides Preferd[®] (*Isaria fumosorosea*) and Mycotal[®]
56 (*Lecanicillium muscarium*), which are used commercially to control vegetable whiteflies such as
57 *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) B biotype (formerly *B. argentifolii*) and *Trialeurodes vaporariorum*
58 (Westwood). Moreover, the effects of temperature and pesticides (a bactericide, fungicides and
59 insecticides) on fungal growth were also evaluated. Together, these data inform our understanding of
60 how this fungus might be encouraged under the environmental conditions found in Japanese
61 tea-growing regions and integrated with existing whitefly control strategies.

62

63 2. Materials and Methods

64

65 2.1. Morphological observation and isolation of the fungus

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67 Infected nymphs were collected from commercial tea plants growing in Kyoto, Shiga and Mie
68 Prefectures, Japan, between August 2009 and February 2010 when heavy infections were observed.
69 Twelve isolates were established as pure cultures on Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA) (Difco
70 Laboratories Inc., MI, USA) from conidia on cadavers collected in different fields in each Prefecture
71 (Table 1), and deposited in the culture collection of FFPRI (Forestry and Forest Products Research
72 Institute), Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan. Infected cadavers were observed and photographed using a stereo
73 microscope (MZ-16, Leica Microsystems GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany) and a scanning electron
74 microscope (SEM; NeoScope JCM-5000, Jeol, Tokyo, Japan). The sizes of conidiogenous cells and
75 conidia of all the isolates were measured using a light microscope (S-Ke, Nikon, Tokyo, Japan).

76

77 2.2. Molecular analyses

78

79 The twelve isolates were cultured on SDA for 5 days at 25°C. Mycelia were scraped from the
80 plates using a 200- μ l pipette tip and suspended in TE buffer (10mM Tris, 1mM EDTA, pH 8.0).
81 Each suspension was homogenized with a hand homogenizer for 30 s and the DNA extracted using a
82 PUREGENE Tissue DNA Purification kit (Qiagen, Tokyo, Japan). Morphological studies of the
83 isolates suggested that they were likely to belong to the genus *Paecilomyces*. To confirm this
84 attribution, or otherwise, DNA sequences and phylogenetic analyses were made on the same three
85 sequence regions that had been used previously to analyze relationships among fungal species placed
86 in *Paecilomyces* and the neighboring *Conoideocrella* and *Isaria* genera (Luangsa-ard et al., 2005;
87 Johnson et al., 2009).

88 Polymerase chain reactions (PCRs) were performed to amplify the ITS rDNA with primers ITS4
89 and ITS5 (White et al., 1990), the partial β -tubulin gene (TUB) sequences with primers bt2a and
90 bt2b (Glass and Donaldson, 1995) and the partial translation elongation factor 1 α gene (TEF)
91 sequences with primers 983F and 2218R (Rehner and Buckley, 2005). Amplification reactions were
92 made in volumes of 50 μ l containing 200 μ M dNTPs, 1.25 units of Ex Taq DNA polymerase (Takara
93 Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan), 0.4 μ M primer, 1 \times Ex Taq buffer (Takara Bio Inc. Shiga, Japan) and 10 ng of
94 template DNA. The ITS rDNA was amplified using the same PCR conditions, except for the
95 annealing temperature which was 55°C. PCR conditions for the TUB were 1 cycle at 94°C for 4 min,
96 followed by 35 cycles at 94°C for 1 min, 58°C for 1 min, 72°C for 2 min, and then 1 cycle at 72°C
97 for 7 min. Amplification of the TEF was made under the following conditions: 1 cycle at 94°C for 4
98 min followed by 37 cycles at 94°C for 30 s, 60°C for 1 min, 72°C for 1 min, and then 1 cycle at
99 72°C for 7 min. Three μ l of each PCR suspension was electrophoresed through a 1.5% agarose gel,
100 stained with ethidium bromide and visualized under ultraviolet light to check for amplification of
101 bands of an expected size. Singly amplified products of 630 bp for ITS rDNA were purified using
102 the QIAquick PCR Purification kit (Qiagen, Tokyo, Japan). The amplified products of 380 and 1030
103 bp for the TUB and TEF, respectively, were excised from the gel and purified using QIAquick Gel
104 Extraction Kit (Qiagen, Tokyo, Japan).

105 Purified PCR products were sub-cloned into the p3T cloning vector (MoBiTec GmbH, Göttingen,
106 Germany). DNA sequence analysis of both strands was done with a capillary sequencer (ABI
107 3130XL, Applied Biosystems, CA, USA). Three clones were sequenced for each strand. DNA
108 sequences were subjected to a Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) search to identify
109 sequences deposited in GenBank that had a significant homology. The sequences were aligned with
110 the corresponding sequences of the reference isolates and species shown in Table 2 using ClustalW
111 incorporated in MEGA 4 (Tamura et al., 2007). In the ITS rDNA and TUB phylogenies, the fungal
112 isolates that were used previously to clarify relationships amongst fungal species placed in *Isaria*
113 and *Paecilomyces* sect. *Paecilomyces* (Luangsa-ard et al., 2005) were included. A *Paecilomyces* sp.
114 isolate from *A. spiniferus* on tea in China was also included in the ITS phylogeny to understand the
115 relationship between this isolate and our isolates. In the TEF phylogeny, some fungal isolates
116 belonging to Clavicipitaceae were included. These isolates were used in the Johnson et al. (2009)
117 study on systematics of fungi including *Conoideocrella* spp. that had been referred to as species of

118 the genus *Torrubiella*. Alignment gaps were treated as missing data in the analyses. Phylogenetic
119 trees were constructed by the neighbor-joining method of MEGA 4 (Tamura et al., 2007). Bootstrap
120 analyses of 1000 replications were made to determine the supporting values of branches. *Isaria*
121 *farinosa* and *I. tenuipes* were the designated outgroups.

122

123 2.3. Bioassays

124

125 The three isolates Kyoto-32, Shiga-22 and Mie-1 were used in bioassays because they all
126 sporulated well on medium. Conidia of each isolate were harvested from 20 plate cultures that had
127 been grown for 3 weeks on SDA at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ in darkness by adding 10 ml of sterile 0.1% Tween 80
128 to each plate, agitating with a sterile spreader and pipetting the conidia suspension into a sterile flask.
129 Conidial suspensions were filtered through sterile gauze, and conidial concentrations estimated using
130 a Thoma haemocytometer and adjusted to provide suspensions containing 1×10^6 , 1×10^7 and $1 \times$
131 10^8 conidia/ml. The mycoinsecticides Preferd[®] (Tokai Bussan, Nagoya, Japan; active ingredient *I.*
132 *fumosorosea*) and Mycotol[®] (Arista LifeScience, Tokyo, Japan; active ingredient *L. muscarium*) were
133 also used at their recommended field application rates (1g/L). The actual conidial concentrations of
134 these field rates were determined as 5×10^6 and 9×10^6 conidia/ml, respectively, using a Thoma
135 haemocytometer.

136 Field-collected nymphs of *A. camelliae* on tea shoots were used. Tea shoots were collected from
137 an experimental field at the Kyoto Prefectural Tea Experiment Station in Uji, Kyoto, on March 11,
138 2010. No pesticides had been applied for more than one year, and entomopathogenic fungi infecting
139 *A. camelliae* had not been observed. Each tea shoot collected was approximately 15 cm in length
140 with four or five leaves and approximately 150 (ranging from 135 to 171) overwintering mature
141 nymphs (3rd and 4th instars) of *A. camelliae*. Before inoculation, the viability of each isolate was
142 checked; germination rate of conidia was > 90% in all cases. Three replicate shoots were used for
143 each treatment. The three shoots were inoculated by gentle agitation in 200 ml of the same conidial
144 suspension for 10 sec. Control shoots were treated in the same way but with sterile 0.1% Tween 80
145 only. The base of each shoot was then inserted into a polyethylene tube containing water, enclosed in
146 a polyethylene bag to maintain a high humidity and incubated under controlled conditions of 16L:
147 8D and $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. After inoculation the shoots were checked daily using a stereo microscope to
148 record the first appearance of infection. One, 2 and 3 weeks after inoculation the proportion of
149 nymphs that had become infected by the fungus was calculated from the number of dead nymphs
150 exhibiting mycosis and the number of living nymphs remaining that did not exhibit mycosis, as
151 observed under a stereo microscope.

152

153 2.4. Effect of temperature

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155 The three isolates, Kyoto-32, Shiga-22 and Mie-1 used in the bioassays, were cultured on SDA at
156 $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ in darkness for 2 weeks. Plugs were taken from the growing margin of each colony using a
157 3 mm diameter sterile cork borer and placed individually into the center of sterile 9 cm triple vented

158 Petri dishes containing 30 ml of SDA. Replicate plates for each isolate were placed into incubators at
159 10, 15, 20, 22.5, 25, 27.5, 30, 32.5 and 35°C and incubated in darkness for 3 weeks. Colony diameter
160 was then measured in two perpendicular directions, and the mean determined after subtraction of 3
161 mm to account for the original inoculation plug. Five replicate plates for each isolate were used at
162 each temperature.

163

164 2.5. *Effect of pesticides*

165

166 A total of 30 commercial pesticides including 12 fungicides, one bactericide and 17 insecticides
167 were evaluated. These pesticides are in general use to control insect pests and diseases on tea in
168 Japan. Each pesticide was added to sterilized SDA medium at the recommended application rate
169 once it had cooled to below 50°C and mixed using a stirrer before pouring the agar and allowing it to
170 set. Their effects on mycelial growth of Kyoto-32, Shiga-22 and Mie-1 used in the previous
171 experiments were determined using the same procedures as described above for the temperature
172 experiment except that they were incubated at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

173

174 2.6. *Statistical analyses*

175

176 The proportion of nymphs infected in bioassays were arcsin square-root transformed and analyzed
177 using ANOVA, followed by Tukey HSD tests to compare infection rates amongst treatments. Data
178 from the pesticide experiment were analyzed using ANOVA, followed by a Dunnett test to detect
179 differences between each pesticide and the control. All analyses were conducted using the software
180 package SPSS (SPSS, 2009).

181

182 3. Results

183

184 3.1. *Description of the fungus*

185

186 The entomopathogenic fungus was observed infecting nymphs but not eggs or adults in the field.
187 Infected nymphs were covered with a thick cinnamon-colored mat of mycelium that appeared
188 brush-like in form (Fig. 1A). The stromata were raised, pulvinate, tomentose and 1–2 mm in
189 diameter with a hypothallus of thin and smooth-walled hyphae expanding radially to, commonly,
190 2–3 mm from the host on the leaf surface (Fig. 1B). Large hypothalli expanded to 15–20 mm in total
191 diameter. Conidiogenous cells were phialidic, flask-shaped, and erected loosely on the hypothallus
192 and rarely on the stromata (Fig. 1C). Conidia were fusiform and in basipetal chains (Fig. 1C and D).
193 Perithecia were lacking on the stromata.

194 All isolates developed flattened, cinnamon-colored colonies *in vitro* and released a deep
195 purple-red diffusible pigment into the medium, with the exception of Mie-1 that produced white
196 colonies and no diffusible pigmentation. Massed conidia were green and produced sparsely on the
197 colony. The mean sizes of conidiogenous cells ($n = 30$ per isolate) and conidia ($n = 50$ per isolate) of

198 the 12 isolates ranged between $2.4\text{--}2.8 \times 9.8\text{--}12.5 \mu\text{m}$ and $2.3\text{--}2.6 \times 5.2\text{--}7.6 \mu\text{m}$, respectively (Table
199 1). Perithecia were also lacking *in vitro*.

200 Based on the taxonomic keys of Samson (1974), the fungus was morphologically identical to
201 *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* (Petch) Samson & W. Gams.

202

203 3.2. Molecular analyses

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205 All isolates used in the present study had an identical sequence for 586 bp of ITS rDNA. A
206 BLAST search indicated that the ITS rDNA sequence of our isolates had 99% alignment with a
207 *Paecilomyces* sp. isolate from *A. spiniferus* on tea in China. The second most significant alignment
208 was 98% with the sequences of *P. cinnamomeus* and *Conoideocrella luteoestrata* (Zimm.) D.
209 Johnson, G. H. Sung, Hywel-Jones & Spatafora (formerly *Torrubiella luteoestrata*) (Johnson et al.,
210 2009). In the ITS rDNA phylogram, all of our isolates were grouped with *Paecilomyces* sp., *C.*
211 *luteoestrata* and *P. cinnamomeus* and were well supported by a bootstrap value of 99% (Fig. 2).

212 The partial sequences of TUB for our isolates had significant alignments of 89–99% with *C.*
213 *luteoestrata* and *P. cinnamomeus*. A TUB phylogram positioned our isolates in a clade that included
214 *C. luteoestrata* and *P. cinnamomeus* and was supported by a bootstrap value of 100% (Fig. 3).

215 The partial sequences of TEF for our isolates had a 99% alignment with *C. luteoestrata* and the
216 second most significant alignment was with the sequences of *Conoideocrella tenuis* (Petch) D.
217 Johnson, G. H. Sung, Hywel-Jones & Spatafora (formerly *Torrubiella tenuis*) in the family
218 Clavicipitaceae (Johnson et al., 2009). A phylogram of TEF indicated that our isolates were
219 positioned with *C. luteoestrata* in a clade that was supported by a bootstrap value of 99% (Fig. 4).

220 The sequences were deposited in GenBank with accession numbers listed in Table 1.

221

222 3.3 Bioassays

223

224 Within 5 days of inoculation infected nymphs died and appeared white or cinnamon-colored with
225 hyphae growing from the edges of their bodies. Subsequently the host body became covered with
226 thick-walled cinnamon-colored hyphae. The appearance of the artificially induced infection was
227 similar to that of natural infections in the field.

228 Bioassays were ended 3 weeks after inoculation when whitefly adults began to emerge (Fig. 5).
229 No mycosis was recorded from nymphs in the control treatment. At week 3 there were significant
230 differences among the isolates in the proportion of nymphs that became infected in the low ($F =$
231 5.51 , $p = 0.024$), medium ($F = 71.13$, $p < 0.001$) and high conidial concentration treatments ($F =$
232 83.80 , $p < 0.001$). At the low concentration (1×10^6 conidia/ml), Kyoto-32 caused the greatest
233 percent infection (52.3%) which was significantly higher than that caused by Shiga-22 but not Mie-1
234 (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.05$). At the medium concentration (1×10^7 conidia/ml), Kyoto-32 and Shiga-22
235 infected 91.7% and 81.7% of nymphs respectively and these percentages were significantly greater
236 than that for Mie-1 (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.05$). At the high concentration (1×10^8 conidia/ml), Kyoto-32,
237 Shiga-22 and Mie-1 all infected more than 85% of nymphs and there were no significant differences

238 amongst the isolates (Tukey HSD, $p > 0.05$). Both mycoinsecticides (Preferd[®] at 5×10^6
239 conidia/ml and Mycotal[®] at 9×10^6 conidia/ml) infected $< 10\%$ of nymphs which was not
240 significantly different to the control where there was 0% infection (Tukey HSD, $p > 0.05$).

241

242

243 3.4. Effect of temperature

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245 The three isolates, Kyoto-32, Shiga-22 and Mie-1, grew most rapidly between 22.5°C and 25°C
246 and ceased growth at 32.5°C (Fig. 6).

247

248 3.5. Effect of pesticides

249

250 There were significant differences in growth rates among treatments for Kyoto-32 ($F = 94.49$, $p <$
251 0.001), Shiga-22 ($F = 209.03$, $p < 0.001$) and Mie-1 ($F = 225.75$, $p < 0.001$). The bactericide copper
252 oxychloride completely inhibited growth of all three isolates (Fig. 7). Most fungicides were harmful
253 to the isolates, especially difenoconazole and tebuconazole, that completely inhibited growth of
254 Shiga-22, while thiophanate-methyl had no effect on growth of Shiga-22 ($p = 0.78$) and showed only
255 slight inhibition of growth of Kyoto-32 ($p = 0.03$) and Mie-1 ($p = 0.06$). Some insecticides,
256 including tolfenpyrad and methidathion, were extremely inhibitory to all isolates, while imidacloprid,
257 thiacloprid and pyridaben had no effect on growth of any isolate.

258

259 4. Discussion

260

261 Morphological characteristics of the fungal isolates from *A. camelliae* on tea agreed with those for
262 *P. cinnamomeus* (Samson, 1974) that was reported to be the anamorph (without perithecia) of *C.*
263 *luteostrata* (the telemorph with perithecia) by Hywel-Jones (1993). The relationship between both
264 states was confirmed by phylogenetic analyses using the 28S rDNA (Artjariyasripong et al., 2001),
265 the 18S rDNA (Luangsa-Ard et al., 2004) and the ITS rDNA and TUB (Luangsa-Ard et al., 2005).
266 These findings are supported by the present study which demonstrated that our isolates fell into a
267 clade with *P. cinnamomeus* and *C. luteostrata* in the phylogenetic analyses of the ITS rDNA and
268 TUB. Though recent phylogenetic work indicates that *C. luteostrata* and *C. tenuis* are closely
269 related species forming a sister group within the family Clavicipitaceae (Johnson et al., 2009),
270 phylogenetic analysis using TEF also positioned our isolates with *C. luteostrata* in a 99%
271 supported clade. In addition, no perithecia could be found on cadavers from the field or from
272 bioassays or *in vitro* cultures. These findings suggest that the fungus should be placed as the
273 anamorph *P. cinnamomeus* of *C. luteostrata*. Some *Paecilomyces* species (including *P.*
274 *cinnamomeus*) still have taxonomic issues (Luangsa-Ard et al., 2005, 2011), and these issues remain
275 unresolved. Therefore, here we refer to our isolates as *P. cinnamomeus*.

276 *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* can be distinguished from the other *Paecilomyces* spp. by their

277 fusiform conidia, pigmented hyphae and deep purple-red diffusible pigment in the medium (Samson,
278 1974; Hywel-Jones, 1993). One of our isolates, Mie-1, produced a white colony and no pigmentation
279 *in vitro*, although the isolate did produce cinnamon-colored stromata *in vivo* on hosts as did the other
280 isolates. This suggests that these isolates have morphological and physiological variation in response
281 to media.

282 Since the relationship between *P. cinnamomeus* and *C. luteoestrata* has only recently been
283 discovered, the two species have generally been studied separately. *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* has
284 been recorded in Thailand, North and Central America, Cuba, Mexico and Ghana, and is known as a
285 pathogen on scale insects and the citrus whitefly, *Dialeurodes citri* (Ashmead) (Samson, 1974;
286 Hywel-Jones, 1993). In contrast, *C. luteoestrata* has been recorded from scale insects and whiteflies
287 in Thailand, Java, Seychelles, Ceylon, Samoa, New Zealand and the Far East of Russia (Petch, 1924;
288 Dingley, 1953; Kobayasi, 1982; Kobayasi and Shimizu, 1982; Hywel-Jones, 1993). Our record of *P.*
289 *cinnamomeus* is the first record of this species in Japan and the first time that the host was from the
290 genus *Aleurocanthus*. However, the fungus possibly occurs on *A. spiniferus* infesting tea in China,
291 because phylogeny of the ITS rDNA of our isolates fell into the clade of a *Paecilomyces* sp. that was
292 isolated from *A. spiniferus* on tea in China (Huang et al., 2002). Moreover, a fungal species reported
293 as *P. aleurocanthus*, which was isolated from *A. spiniferus* on tea in China (Tang et al., 2003),
294 appears to be *P. cinnamomeus* according to attributes such as pigmented hyphae, deep purple-red
295 pigment and green colored conidia. There are also other Chinese records of *Paecilomyces* sp. from *A.*
296 *spiniferus* on tea (e.g. Han and Li, 2001; Tang, 2001; Guo et al., 2006).

297 In Thailand, the *P. cinnamomeus* and *C. luteoestrata* states occur throughout the year apart from
298 the hot dry season, and both were discovered simultaneously on stroma emerging from infected
299 insects (Hywel-Jones, 1993). Moreover, a second strain from a multiple-conidia isolation of the *P.*
300 *cinnamomeus* state produced perithecia *in vitro* after 6 months (Hywel-Jones, 1993). In Japan,
301 however, infected whiteflies attached to tea foliage were found throughout the year including the hot
302 and wet season (summer) and cold dry season (winter), and perithecia could not be found on hosts in
303 the field or in our bioassays. Furthermore, no perithecia formation was observed on 6 month old *in*
304 *vitro* cultures (data not shown). These findings suggest that maybe only the *P. cinnamomeus* state
305 occurs in Japan. Further research directed toward factors inducing both *P. cinnamomeus* and *C.*
306 *luteoestrata* states is necessary.

307 When the relationship between temperature and growth of *P. cinnamomeus* was unknown,
308 Hywel-Jones (1993) suggested that *P. cinnamomeus* should be considered as an entomopathogen
309 only in tropical and subtropical regions. However, in this study, *P. cinnamomeus* grew most rapidly
310 between 22.5°C and 25°C and ceased growth at 32.5°C, suggesting that the fungus prefers moderate
311 temperatures. In Kyoto, Shiga and Mie Prefectures where our isolates were collected, the lowest air
312 temperature is below 0°C in the winter and the highest air temperature is above 35°C in the summer.
313 However, the microclimate of commercial tea bushes, where many plants are grown closely together,
314 may provide not only the moderate temperatures but also the high humidity necessary to promote
315 infection by *P. cinnamomeus* and the development of epizootics in whitefly populations. In China,
316 entomopathogenic fungi are important natural mortality factors of whiteflies in tea-growing areas

317 (Han and Lin, 2003).

318 The citrus whitefly, *D. citri*, has been recorded as a host of *P. cinnamomeus* (Samson, 1974). This
319 whitefly is a common pest on Satsuma mandarin, *Citrus unshiu* Marc., which is widely grown in
320 Japan. However, *P. cinnamomeus* has not been found on *D. citri* in Japan. Moreover, *P.*
321 *cinnamomeus* was highly virulent to the tobacco whitefly, *B. tabaci* B biotype, in the laboratory
322 (Saito, unpublished data), which is also widespread in Japan, but again, infection by *P. cinnamomeus*
323 in the field has never been recorded. It is possible either that *P. cinnamomeus* had been restricted to
324 forests before invasion of *A. camelliae* since the primary habitat of the fungus is forests
325 (Hywel-Jones, 1993), or that it was introduced simultaneously into Japan together with *A. camelliae*.

326 Preferd[®] and Mycotal[®], mycoinsecticides currently used to control whiteflies, caused very little
327 infection (< 10%) in *A. camelliae* at recommended field application rates (5×10^6 and 9×10^6
328 conidia/ml, respectively), suggesting that neither are useful as control agents of this whitefly. In
329 contrast, when isolate Kyoto-32 was used at the lower concentration of 1×10^6 conidia/ml, the
330 proportion of nymphs becoming infected (> 50%) was greater than that achieved by the
331 mycoinsecticides. At a concentration of 1×10^7 conidia/ml, the proportion of nymphs infected by
332 isolate Kyoto-32 reached > 90%. These findings suggest that *P. cinnamomeus* may be more useful as
333 a control agent for augmentation into tea fields than the currently available commercial
334 mycoinsecticides.

335 Whether *P. cinnamomeus* can be used as a control agent for augmentative control or natural
336 control will be influenced by interactions with pesticides that are currently in use in tea. For example,
337 previous studies have shown that fungicides may disrupt control by entomopathogenic fungi, thereby
338 resulting in extremely high populations of insect pests (Steinkraus, 2007). In this study, all the
339 fungicides evaluated significantly inhibited growth of *P. cinnamomeus* although thiophanate-methyl
340 was relatively safe for the fungus. The high susceptibility of the fungus to the bactericide copper
341 hydroxide is interesting since this bactericide has different effects depending on the fungus species
342 and whether *in vitro* growth or germination are being considered; it strongly affects *Lecanicillium*
343 spp. (Saito, 1988; Saito and Yabuta, 1996) but not *Beauveria bassiana* (Saito, 1984). It is necessary
344 to note that some insecticides e.g., tolfenpyrad and methidathion, were also highly inhibitory to the
345 fungus. Further studies will be needed to determine what effect these pesticides may have on fungal
346 efficacy in the field.

347

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349

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358

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443 Captions of Figures

444 Fig. 1. *Paecilomyces cinnamomeus* as an entomopathogenic fungus on the camellia spiny whitefly, *A.*
445 *camelliae*. (A) Naturally infected larvae in a tea growing field, (B) cinnamon-colored stroma on the
446 host and conidia on hypothalli expanding on a tea leaf, (C) conidiogenous cells and conidia, and (D)
447 conidia.

448

449 Fig. 2. Neighbor-joining tree based on analysis of the ITS rDNA sequences showing the link
450 between isolates from *A. camelliae* and *Paecilomyces* sp., *C. luteoestrata* and *P. cinnamomeus*.
451 Numbers above or below the nodes indicate bootstrap values (> 50%) generated after 1000
452 replications. Branch termini are labelled according to species and GenBank accession numbers.
453 Species names were expressed as the anamorph or telemorph according to the morph of the analyzed
454 samples.

455

456 Fig. 3. Neighbor-joining tree based on analysis of the partial β -tubulin gene sequences showing the
457 link between isolates from *A. camelliae* and *C. luteoestrata* and *P. cinnamomeus*. Numbers above or
458 below the nodes indicate bootstrap values (> 50%) generated after 1000 replications. Branch termini
459 are labelled according to species and GenBank accession numbers. Species names were expressed as
460 the anamorph or telemorph according to the morph of the analyzed samples.

461

462 Fig. 4. Neighbor-joining tree based on analysis of the partial translation elongation factor 1 α gene
463 sequences showing the link between isolates from *A. camelliae* and *C. luteoestrata*. Numbers above
464 or below the nodes indicate bootstrap values (> 50%) generated after 1000 replications. Branch
465 termini are labelled according to species and GenBank accession numbers. Species names were
466 expressed as the anamorph or telemorph according to the morph of the analyzed samples.

467

468 Fig. 5. Proportion of nymphs infected 1, 2 and 3 weeks after inoculation with isolates Kyoto-32,
469 Shiga-22, Mie-1 and the mycoinsecticides (Preferd[®] and Mycotal[®]). The isolates were inoculated at
470 three different concentrations of conidia, the low concentration (1×10^6 conidia/ml), the medium
471 concentration (1×10^7 conidia/ml) and the high concentration (1×10^8 conidia/ml). The
472 mycoinsecticides Preferd[®] and Mycotal[®] were inoculated at their recommended field application
473 rates that were measured as conidial concentrations of 5×10^6 and 9×10^6 conidia/ml, respectively.
474 Error bars represent one standard error of 3 replicates. Columns followed by different letters in the
475 same week of each inoculum are significantly different at the 5% level using Tukey HSD test.

476

477 Fig. 6. Effect of temperature on growth of the three isolates, Kyoto-32, Shiga-22, Mie-1. Colony
478 diameter was determined 3 weeks after inoculation. Error bars represent standard error of 5
479 replicates.

480

481 Fig. 7. Effect of pesticides on growth of the three isolates, Kyoto-32, Shiga-22 and Mie-1. Colony
482 diameter was measured 3 weeks after inoculation. Error bars represent one standard error of 3
483 replicates. Asterisks indicate significant differences between each pesticide and the control at the 5%
484 level using the Dunnett test.

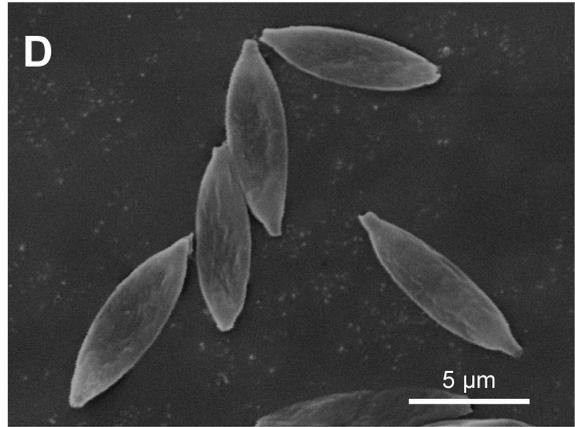
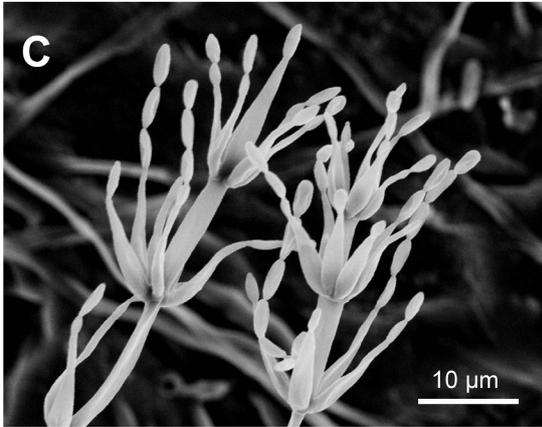
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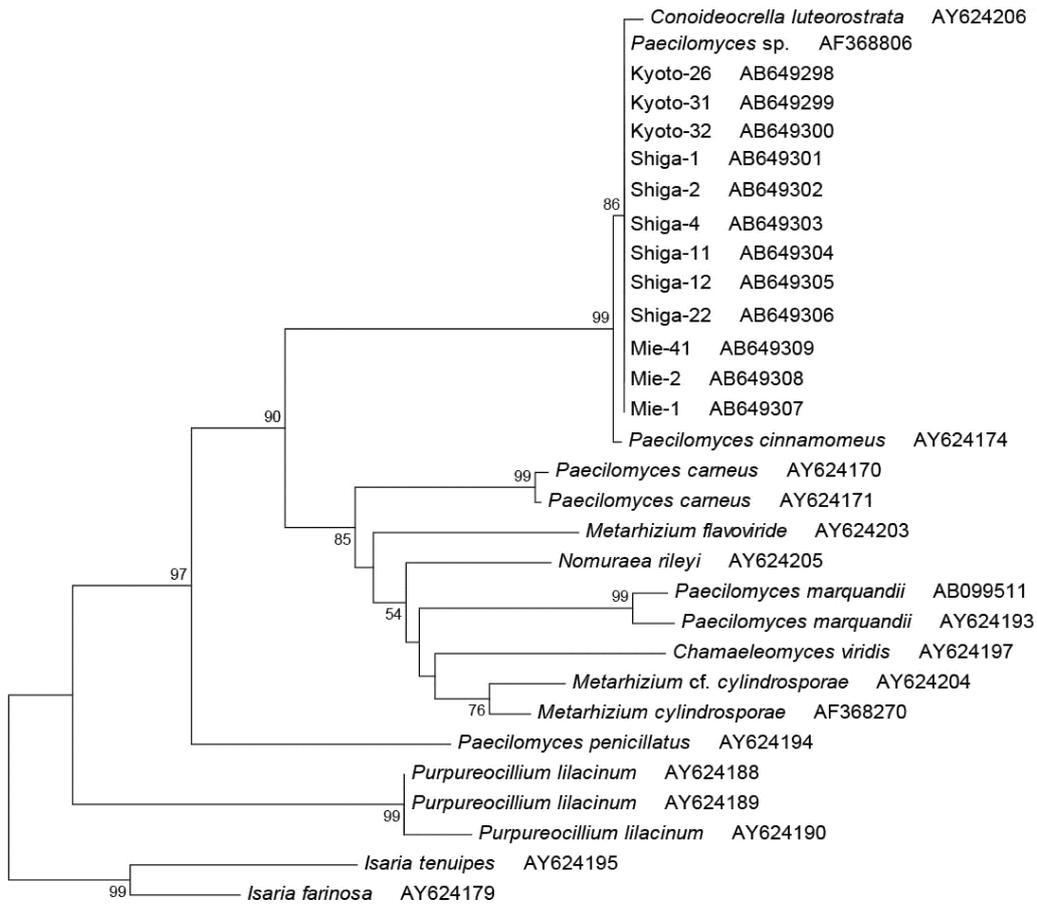
Table 1. List of isolates from *Aleurocanthus camelliae* in this study

Isolates	Sites and dates of collection	Cultural observation		Size (μm , mean \pm SE)		GenBank accession no.		
		Color of colony	Diffusible pigmentation	Conidiogenous cells	Conidia	ITS rDNA	β -tubulin gene	TEF 1 α gene
Kyoto-26	Soraku, Kyoto, 2 Nov. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.5 \pm 0.12 \times 9.8 \pm 0.44$	$2.5 \pm 0.04 \times 6.7 \pm 0.18$	AB649298	AB663108	AB663120
Kyoto-31	Soraku, Kyoto, 14 Oct. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.6 \pm 0.12 \times 11.1 \pm 0.75$	$2.7 \pm 0.04 \times 6.2 \pm 0.16$	AB649299	AB663109	AB663121
Kyoto-32	Soraku, Kyoto, 14 Oct. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.5 \pm 0.06 \times 11.4 \pm 0.86$	$2.3 \pm 0.04 \times 5.9 \pm 0.16$	AB649300	AB663110	AB663122
Shiga-1	Koga, Shiga, 17 Sep. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.7 \pm 0.14 \times 12.5 \pm 0.77$	$2.6 \pm 0.04 \times 6.1 \pm 0.12$	AB649301	AB663111	AB663123
Shiga-2	Gamo, Shiga, 17 Sep. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.8 \pm 0.09 \times 10.5 \pm 0.77$	$2.5 \pm 0.05 \times 6.4 \pm 0.16$	AB649302	AB663112	AB663124
Shiga-4	Koga, Shiga, 19 Nov. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.9 \pm 0.13 \times 10.3 \pm 0.70$	$2.3 \pm 0.04 \times 5.6 \pm 0.11$	AB649303	AB663113	AB663125
Shiga-11	Koga, Shiga, 19 Nov. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.6 \pm 0.11 \times 12.1 \pm 0.80$	$2.5 \pm 0.04 \times 6.5 \pm 0.17$	AB649304	AB663114	AB663126
Shiga-12	Koga, Shiga, 19 Nov. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.8 \pm 0.08 \times 10.8 \pm 0.65$	$2.3 \pm 0.04 \times 5.2 \pm 0.08$	AB649305	AB663115	AB663127
Shiga-22	Koga, Shiga, 19 Nov. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.7 \pm 0.16 \times 12.1 \pm 0.58$	$2.5 \pm 0.03 \times 6.6 \pm 0.15$	AB649306	AB663116	AB663128
Mie-1	Taki, Mie, 20 Oct. 2009	White	No	$2.8 \pm 0.05 \times 12.2 \pm 0.94$	$2.6 \pm 0.03 \times 7.6 \pm 0.21$	AB649307	AB663117	AB663129
Mie-2	Watarai, Mie, 20 Oct. 2009	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.6 \pm 0.06 \times 12.3 \pm 0.57$	$2.4 \pm 0.04 \times 6.6 \pm 0.16$	AB649308	AB663118	AB663130
Mie-41	Kameyama, Mie, 11 Mar. 2010	Cinnamon	Yes	$2.4 \pm 0.12 \times 10.2 \pm 0.64$	$2.5 \pm 0.06 \times 6.2 \pm 0.15$	AB649309	AB663119	AB663131

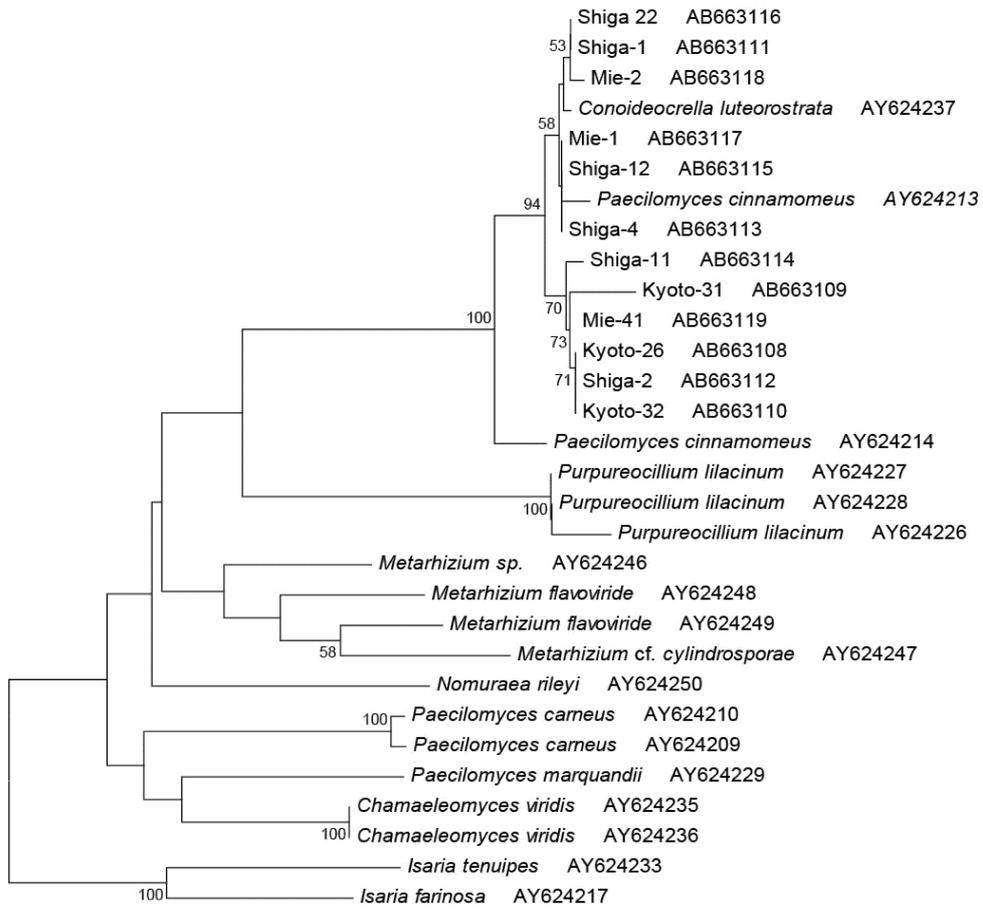
Table 2. List of specimens used in phylogenetic analyses

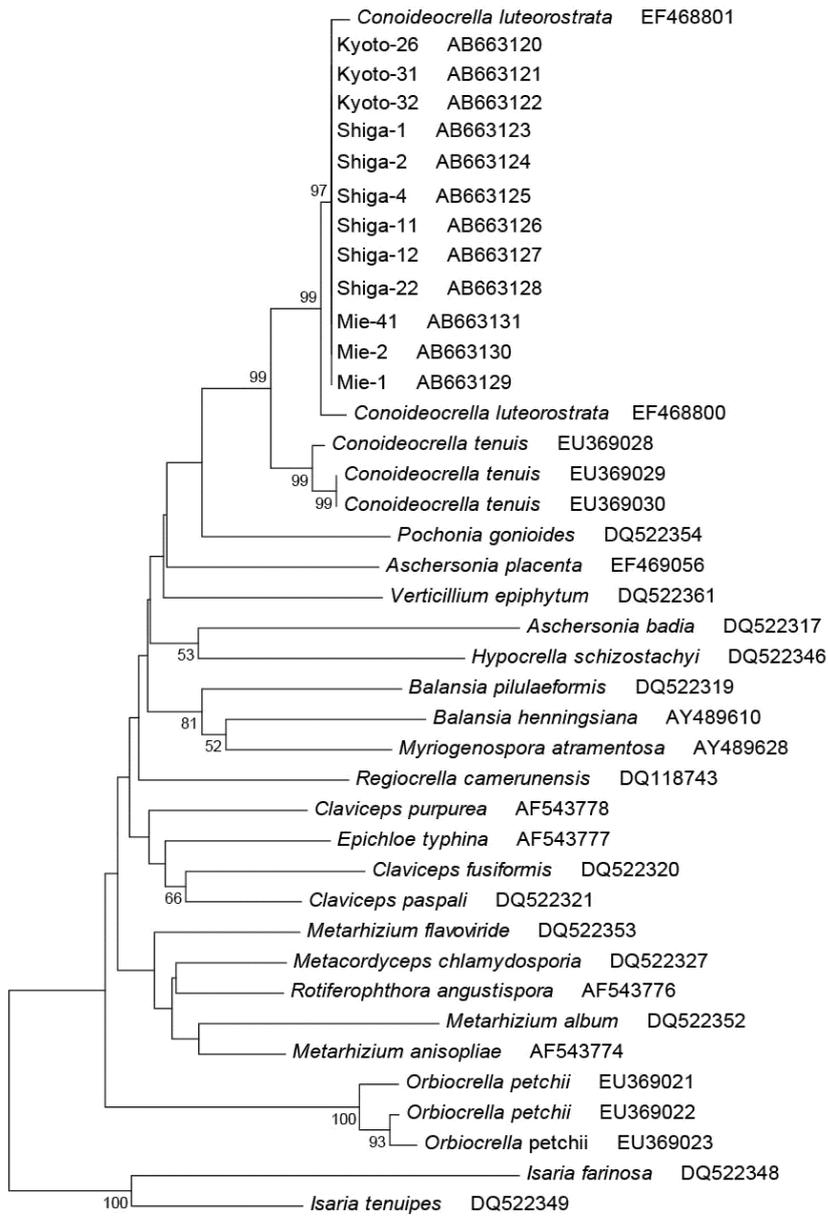
Specimens	Host taxon	GenBank accession no.		
		ITS rDNA	β -tubulin gene	TEF 1 α gene
<i>Aschersonia badia</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			DQ522317
<i>A. placenta</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EF469056
<i>Balansia henningsiana</i>	<i>Panicum</i> sp. (Poaceae)			AY489610
<i>B. pilulaeformis</i>	Poaceae			DQ522319
<i>Chamaeleomyces viridis</i>	<i>Chameleo lateralis</i> (Chamaeleonidae)	AY624197	AY624235	
	<i>Chameleo lateralis</i> (Chamaeleonidae)		AY624236	
<i>Claviceps fusiformis</i>	Poaceae			DQ522320
<i>C. paspali</i>	Poaceae			DQ522321
<i>C. purpurea</i>	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (Poaceae)			AF543778
<i>Conioideocrella luteorostrata</i>	Hemipteran insect	AY624206	AY624237	
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EF468800
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EF468801
<i>C. tenuis</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369028
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369029
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369030
<i>Epichloe typhina</i>	<i>Festuca rubra</i> (Poaceae)			AF543777
<i>Hypocrella schizostachyi</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			DQ522346
<i>Isaria farinosa</i>	Soil	AY624179	AY624217	
	Lepidopteran pupa			DQ522348
<i>I. tenuipes</i>	Lepidopteran larva	AY624195	AY624233	
	Lepidopteran pupa			DQ522349
<i>Metacordyceps chlamydosporia</i>	Egg of slug (Diplopoda)			DQ522327
<i>Metarhizium album</i>	<i>Cofana spectra</i> (Hemiptera)			DQ522352
<i>M. anisopliae</i>	<i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i> (Coleoptera)			AF543774
<i>M. cylindrospora</i>	Hemipteran adult	AY624204	AY624247	
			AF368270	
<i>M. flavoviride</i>	Hemipteran adult	AY624203	AY624248	
	<i>Nilaparvata lugens</i> (Hemiptera)		AY624249	DQ522353
<i>Metarhizium sp.</i>	Coleopteran larva		AY624246	
<i>Myriogenospora atramentosa</i>	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> (Poaceae)			AY489628
<i>Nomuraea rileyi</i>	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i> (Lepidoptera)	AY624205	AY624250	
<i>Orbiocrella petchii</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369022
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369023
	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			EU369021
<i>Paecilomyces carneus</i>	Soil	AY624170	AY624210	
	Dune sand	AY624171	AY624209	
<i>P. cinnamomeus</i>	Coccidae insect		AY624214	
	Living leaf of <i>Syzygium jambos</i> (Myrtaceae)	AY624174	AY624213	
<i>P. marquandii</i>	Soil	AY624193	AY624229	
		AB099511		
<i>P. penicillatus</i>	Rotting mushroom	AY624194	AY624232	
<i>Paecilomyces sp.</i>	<i>Aleurocanthus spiniferus</i> (Hemiptera)	AF368806		
<i>Pochonia gonioides</i>	Nematode			DQ522354
<i>Purpureocillium lilacinum</i>	<i>Aethus</i> sp. (Hemiptera)	AY624190		
	Egg mass of Meloidogyne		AY624228	
	Egg mass of Meloidogyne	AY624188		
	Soil	AY624189	AY624227	
	Cydnid bug (Hemiptera)		AY624226	
<i>Regiocrella camerunensis</i>	Scale insect (Hemiptera)			DQ118743
<i>Rotiferophthora angustispora</i>	Rotifer (Rotifera)			AF543776
<i>Verticillium epiphytum</i>	<i>Hemileia vastatrix</i> (Uredinales)			DQ522361





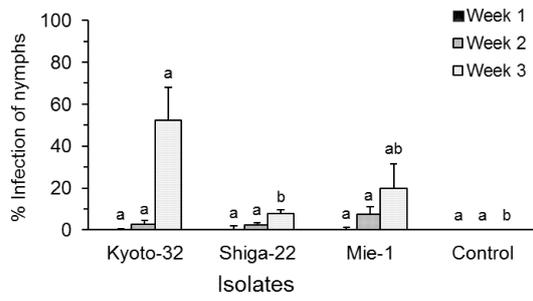
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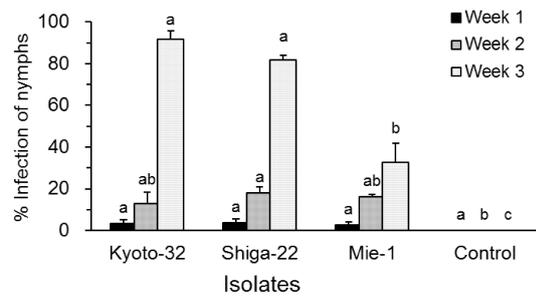


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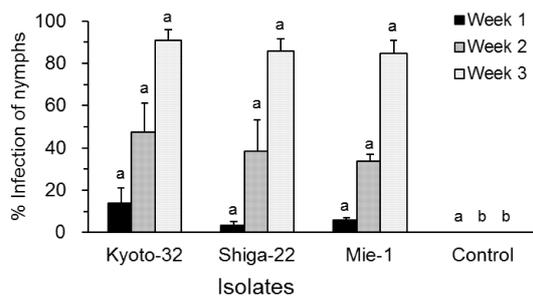
1×10^6 conidia/ml



1×10^7 conidia/ml



1×10^8 conidia/ml



Field application rates

