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Since the first report of "Botryosphaeria dieback" caused by *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* in 2008, other Botryosphaeriaceae were found associated with declining vines in grape-growing areas of Western and Central Sicily. In a recent study, *Diplodia seriata*, *Lasiodiplodia* sp., *Neofusicoccum parvum* and *Neofusicoccum vitifusiforme* were isolated from declining grapevines. In order to fulfill Koch's postulates and verify any genetic variability among isolates, pathogenicity, morphological, molecular and phylogenetic analyses were performed. The pathogenicity of eighteen isolates was tested by inoculating 2-year-old rooted grapevine cuttings (cv. Inzolia) and evaluating vascular discoloration length after 6 months. Morphological identification was based on microscopic (conidial morphology and dimensions) and macroscopic (growth rate) parameters. ITS and EF1-α regions were sequenced and compared to those deposited in sequence databases through Blastn searches, followed by phylogenetic analyses. All the tested isolates caused vascular discoloration *in planta*, sometimes with significant lesion length differences among strains of the same species, even if genetically identical, confirming the difficulty to consider several Botryosphaeriaceae species as primary or secondary pathogens on grapevine. The phylogenetic analyses confirmed our previous identifications, but showed that *Lasiodiplodia* isolates, first identified as *L. theobromae*, where the recently described species *Lasiodiplodia mediterranea.* The studies conducted on grapevine trunk disease pathogens in Sicily confirm the presence of different botryosphaeriaceous fungi as pathogens in several grape-growing areas of Central Western Sicily, and highlight their potential economic impacts on Sicilian viticulture.

First assessment of the distribution of trunk diseases on young and adult grapevines in Europe. L. GUERIN-DUBRANA[1] and L. MUGNAI[2]. [1] *Université de Bordeaux, ISVV, UMR1065 Santé et Agroécologie du Vignoble, Bordeaux Sciences Agro, F-33175 Gradignan, France.* [2]*Department of the Agro-food Production and Environmental Sciences (DISPAA), Section of Plant pathology and Entomology, University of Florence, Piazzale delle Cascine 28, 50144 Florence, Italy. E-mail: lguerin@bordeaux.inra.fr*

A large survey based on a reporting questionnaire of qualitative information was carried out in European and Mediterranean viticulture regions. The purpose was to: (1) give an overview of the presence and frequency of the main fungal grapevine trunk diseases (GTDs), which are the esca complex [apoplexy, Grapevine Leaf Stripe Disease (GLSD)], *Eutypa* dieback, dead cordon, *Botryosphaeria* dieback and cankers, excoriose, black foot, Petri disease, or general young vine decline. A bacterial disease (crown gall) was included in the reporting; (2) to collect general information on the characteristics of the viticultural areas at a regional scale that can be linked to GTDs; and (3) to establish a European network for further multisite GTD surveys. Respondents from 18 countries and more than 50 viticultural regions contributed to the survey. Vintage wine, table wine and nurseries represent, respectively, the first, second and third types of production in each country. A broad diversity of cultivars and rootstocks is grown with 13 cultivars representing 50% of the vines. The vines are mainly trained according to the cordon or Guyot methods. Grapevines are mostly hand-pruned, but the use of pneumatic pruning shears and mechanical pruning is becoming increasingly more frequent in some countries. A wide range of disease profiles was reported according to the country or the region surveyed. Apoplexy and GLSD symptoms corresponding to the esca syndrome were widespread in numerous countries and related together. The frequency of both symptoms seems to be increasing and they are becoming worrying phytosanitary problems in the main grapevine producing countries of Europe. Dead cordon was also widespread, from known or unknown origins, varying according to the country surveyed. Excoriose remains a frequent disease in approx. half of the countries surveyed. In contrast to the large presence of trunk diseases on adult vines, GTDs on young vines is not so frequent in most European countries, but remains a subject of concern in some. All the collected information and the developed network represent an important starting point for the development of further in-depth epidemiological studies, and for further surveys based on recording GTD data. This survey depended on the information provided by numerous researchers throughout Europe and the Mediterranean region, and we thank them for their valuable contributions.

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Grapevine trunk disease research in South Africa. F. HALLEEN[1,2] and L. MOSTERT[2]. [1]*Plant Protection Division, ARC Infruitech-Nietvoorbij. Private Bag X5026, Stellenbosch, 7599, South Africa.* [2]*Department of Plant Pathology, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602, South Africa. E-mail: halleenf@arc.agric.za*

The first significant volume of research with regard to grapevine trunk diseases (GTD) in the modern era was carried out by J.H.S. Ferreira in the 1980's, when he identified *Eutypa lata* as the causal organism of Eutypa dieback. In the 1990's Ferreira also played an instrumental role in the identification of Petri disease fungi (then known as *Phialophora parasitica*) and its association with "Phialophora dieback", "Black Goo", "young