

# A demo-genetic model of root-knot nematod dynamics with applications to the deployment of plant resistance

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Ludovic Mailleret

with S. Nilusmas, S. Touzeau, V. Calcagno, C. Caporalino, P. Castagnone

M2P2 & IPN, UMR ISA, INRA, CNRS, Université Côte d'Azur Biocore, Inria Sophia Antipolis Méditerranée





### Introduction

#### Nematodes

- very small slender worms (0.1-2.5 mm)
- over 40,000 species, present in virtually any ecosystem
- free living and parasites of animals and plants

#### Plant parasitic nematodes

- $\sim$  4,000 species, causing billions of dollars of crop losses each year (temperate & tropical agrosystems)
- root knot nematodes (RKN) rank first in terms of damage at the world scale

#### Root knot nematodes

- polyphagous (> 5,000 host plants), distributed worlwide, but sedentary
- cause galls on roots, which alter plants development





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### **RKN** control methods

#### Long relied on hardcore chemical use

- soil fumigation
- restricted or banned

#### Biological control offers limited options

Resistant plant based control

- powerful eco-friendly method
- few R-genes
- R can be broken down by virulent strains, which limits the durability of the method

Aim of this work

 understand if and how it is possible to optimize the use of resistant cultivars to control RKN in seasonal agrosystems (market gardening)



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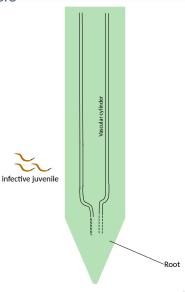


#### In the soil, near a plant root

- free living infective juveniles
- contact with the root and penetrate it
- giant cells formation
- maturate and produce eggs (clonal)
- released into the soil and hatch

At the plant root system scale

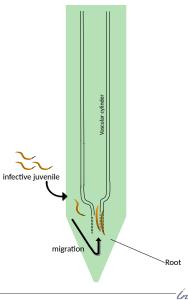
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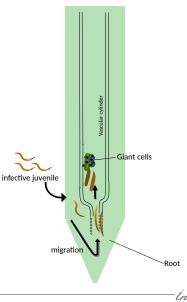


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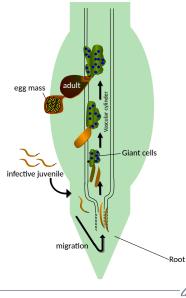


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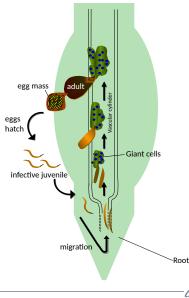
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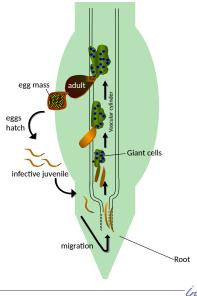
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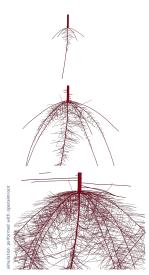
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### An epidemic among a growing population



Along the course of a season

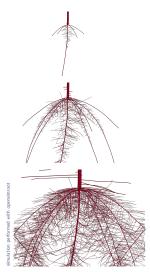
- plant root system grows
- recruits new infective nematodes

Nematode infection represses plant roots development

#### An unusual epidemic

- parasites with a free-living stage
- developing on a growing population
- whose growth is negatively affected by infection
- in a seasonal context

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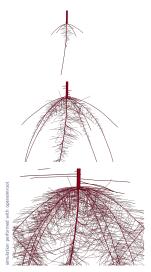
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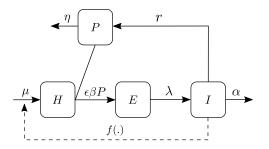
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### Compartmental model

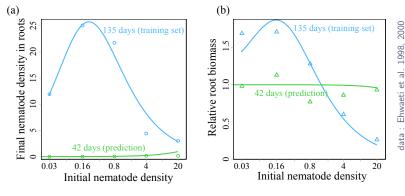


$$\begin{cases} \dot{P} = -\beta PH - \eta P + rI\\ \dot{H} = \mu f(H, E, I) - \epsilon \beta PH\\ \dot{E} = \epsilon \beta PH - \lambda E\\ \dot{I} = \lambda E - \alpha I \end{cases}$$

- *P* free living nematodes
- *H* healthy root sites
- *E* maturating nematodes
- *I* egg laying nematodes

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Model fitting

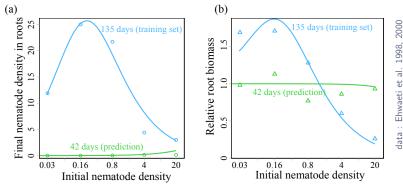


Parameterization

- most parameter values were found in literature
- some had to be estimated from experimental data: β, f(.)

- Scenarios derivation
  - $\pm$  30% parameters
  - low, medium (default), high, extreme scenarios

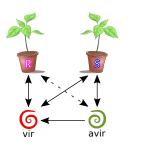
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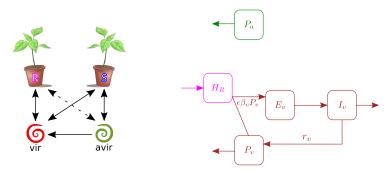


 $P_v$ 

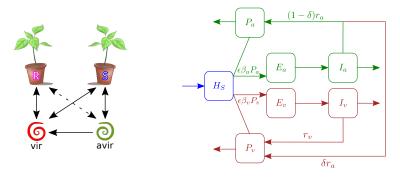


- nematode pop. structured in avirulent and virulent phenotypes
- avirulents do not develop on R plants
- both avirulents and virulents develop on S plants
- a fraction  $\delta$  of avirulent offspring turns into virulent

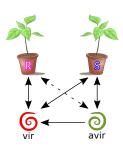
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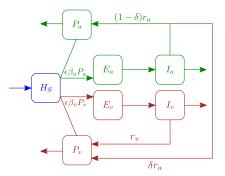


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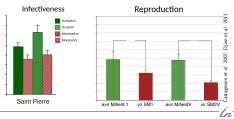
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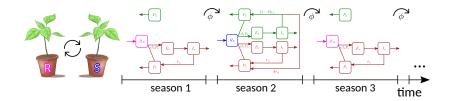
#### Fitness costs of virulence

- infectiveness:  $\beta_v = (1 w_\beta)\beta_a$
- reproduction:  $r_v = (1 w_r)r_a$



- L. Mailleret - RKN dynamics -

#### Seasonal context, crop rotations, optimization



Seasonal agrosystems

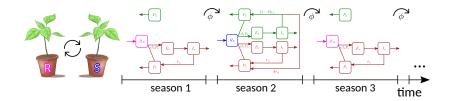
- crops planted and harvested sequentially over time
- cultivar rotations to enhance crop yield (vs. pure S and pure R)

Yield proxy

Cumulated Healthy Root Density

$$\overline{CHRD} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\text{seasons}} \int_0^T H(\tau) d\tau$$

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Seasonal agrosystems

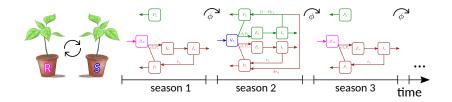
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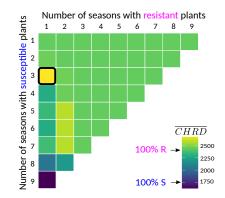
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### Optimal cultivar rotation

default scenario, 10 seasons



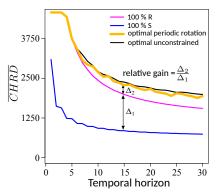
• computation of all periodic crop rotations over given time horizon

best rotation > pure R > pure S

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### Optimal cultivar rotation

default scenario

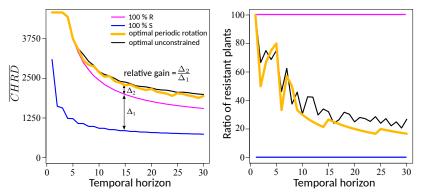


- R efficacy quickly drops with temporal horizon
- optimal periodic rotation nearly as efficient as the best strategy

 optimal R plants ratio much lower than agricultural practice (pure R)

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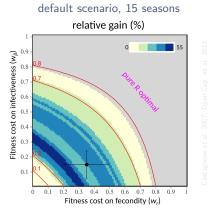
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### R characteristics: fitness costs of virulence



- no advantage of rotations when high or low fitness costs
- experimental data (*Mi*-tomato): >30% gain with optimal rotations

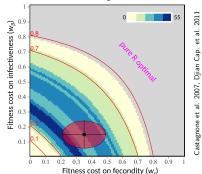
•  $w_r$  and  $w_\beta$  have symmetrical influence but interact negatively

 $R_{0,v} = f(1 - (1 - w_\beta)(1 - w_r)) = f(w)$ 

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#### R characteristics: fitness costs of virulence default scenario, 15 seasons

relative gain (%)



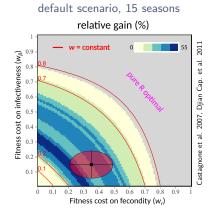
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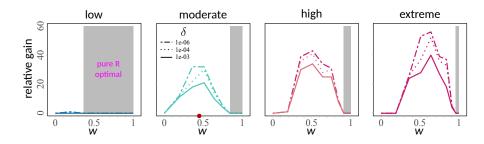
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### Fitness cost $\times$ epidemiological scenarios

15 seasons, different virulence emergence rates

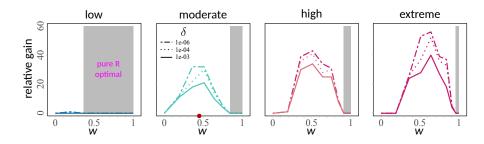


- strong influence of disease severity on advantage of rotations: increases with severity
- gain maximized for medium fitness costs

 mild influence of virulence emergence rate on advantage of rotations: decreases with rate

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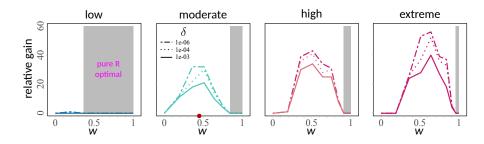


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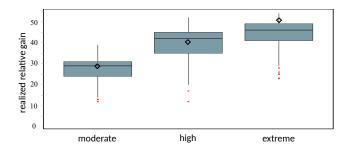


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### Robustness

#### 15 seasons, $\pm 10\%$ on all parameter values



- sub-optimal rotations always outperform pure R strategies
- benefit of optimal rotations little affected by uncertainty on parameters

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#### Alternating R and S cultivars

- more efficient than classical agricultural practice
- optimal periodic rotations approach best deployment performance

#### Fitness costs of virulence

- interact negatively
- 1 large cost + 1 small cost > 2 medium costs
- Optimal rotations significantly outperform pure R
  - when nematode infestation is moderate to severe
  - when fitness costs are medium
  - over longer time scales (not shown)

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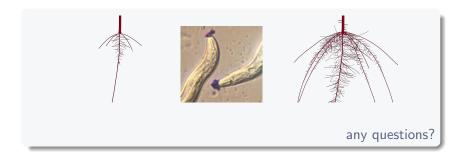
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#### Robustness

### Thank You !



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### Appendix: $R_{0,v}$

Season-to-season basic reproduction number of virulent nematodes

$$R_{0,\nu} = \phi \exp\left(\left[\left((1 - w_{\beta})(1 - w_{r})\frac{\epsilon r}{\alpha} - 1\right)\left(H_{0} + \frac{\mu T}{2}\right)\beta - \eta\right]T\right)$$

- obtained from the  $\dot{P}_v/P_v$  dynamics
- in the limit  $P_a, P_v \rightarrow 0$
- assuming E and I at quasi-equilibrium