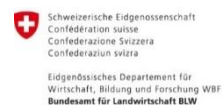


# Lenticelrot research at Agroscope

Andreas Bühlmann  
Agroscope

Lenticelrot meeting Wageningen 09/25

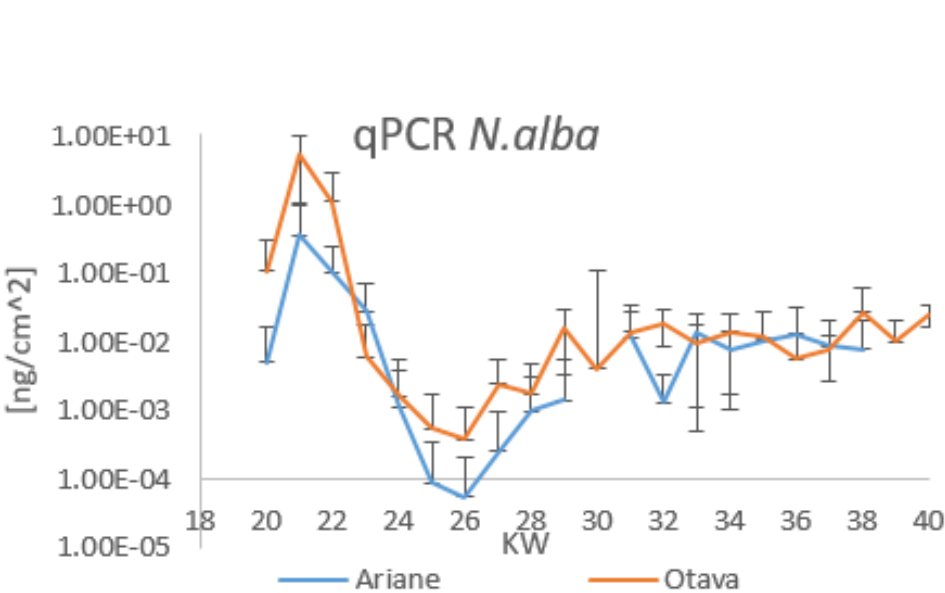
**ETH** zürich  **Agroscope**



- Spore sampling/skin sampling/spoilage in field and storage
- Biocontrol
- Genome sequencing
- GWAS

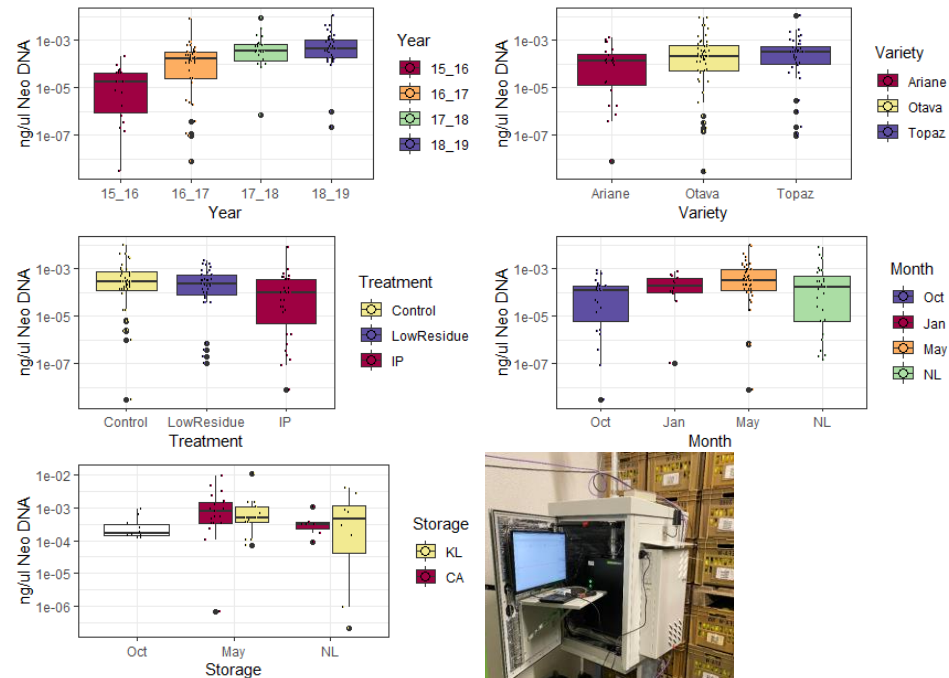
# Spores/ Spoilage

## Spore sampling in field, skin sampling in storage



- Infection time point doable with qPCR
- Lots of work in sampling
- Analysis straightforward

Solution?

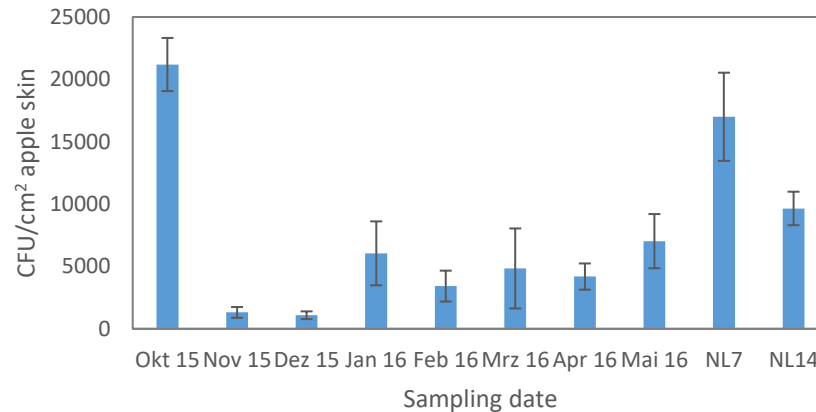


Gasser et al. 2025 MSc thesis, BOKU Wien

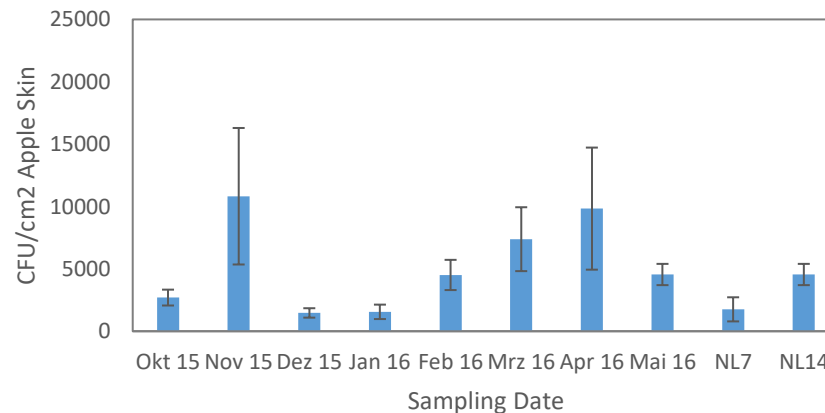
# Microbiome in storage

## Spores/ Spoilage

Mikroorganismen im Lager 2016



Mikroorganismen im Lager 2017



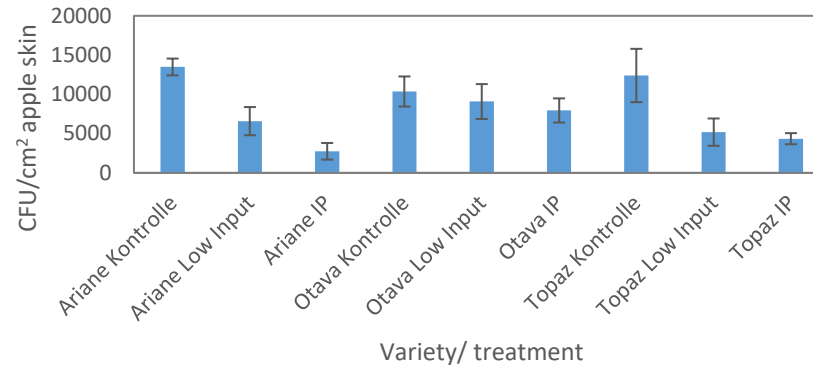
The microbiome changes

- During storage
- Between years

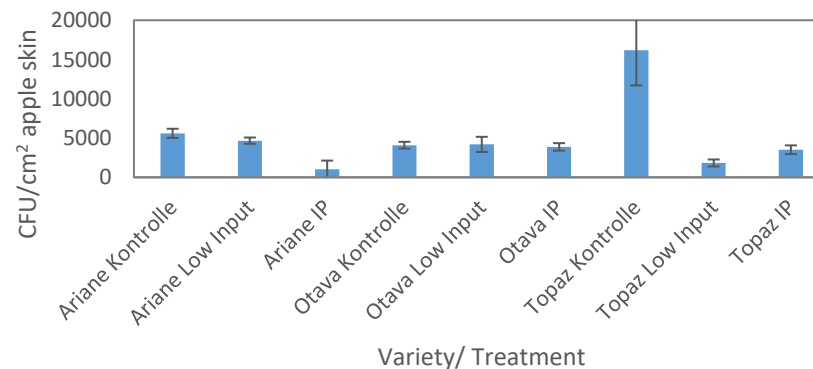
# Microbiome in storage

## Spores/ Spoilage

Mikroorganismen pro Sorte/Behandlung  
2016



Mikroorganismen pro Sorte/Behandlung  
2017



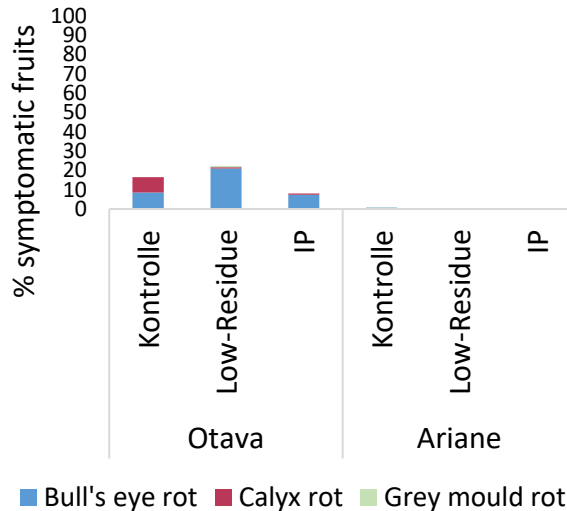
The microbiome shows

- Varietal differences
- Orchard management differences

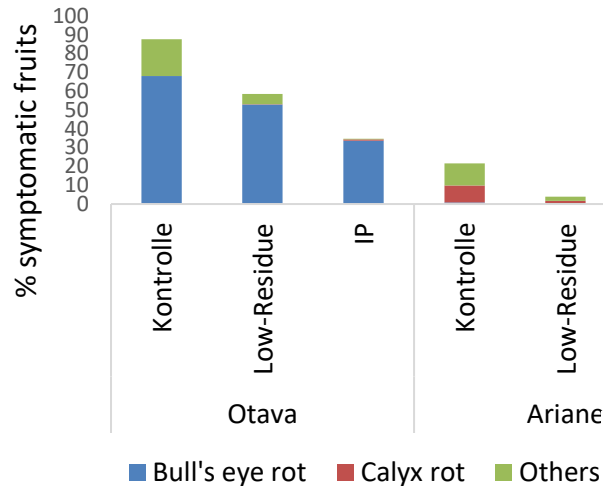
# Metagenomics in storage

- Correlate metagenomics and disease scoring

Storage Diseases 2016



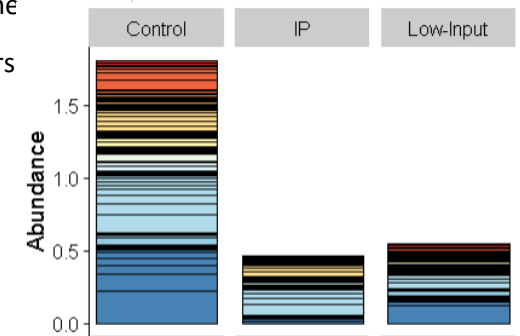
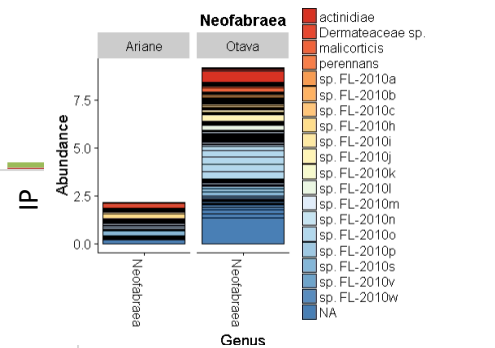
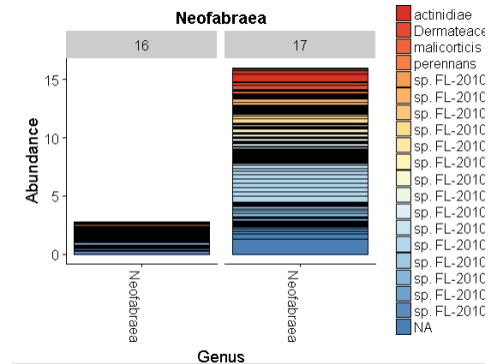
Storage Diseases 2017



Neofabraea DNA abundance correlates with disease severity over:  
Years  
Treatment  
Variety

## Spores/ Spoilage

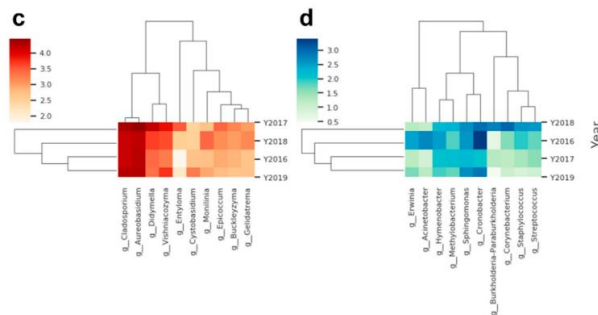
### Neofabraea DNA



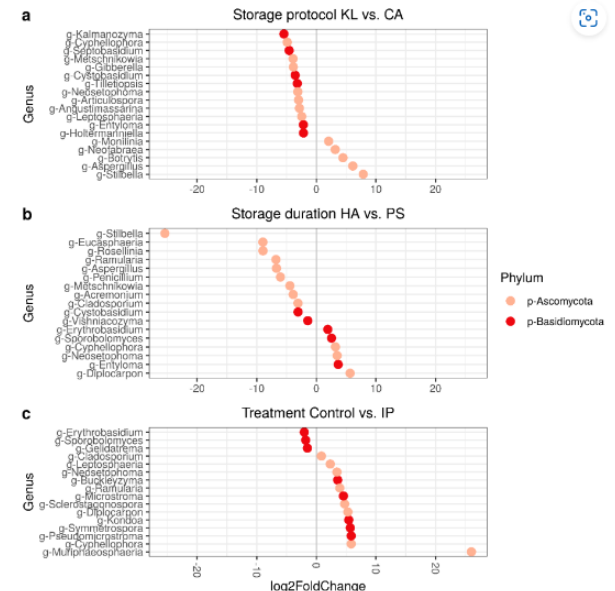
## Metagenomics in storage



Fungal diversity controlled by  
Storage method > Storage time > Year > Treatment > Cultivar



Core microbiome very similar to global core microbiome



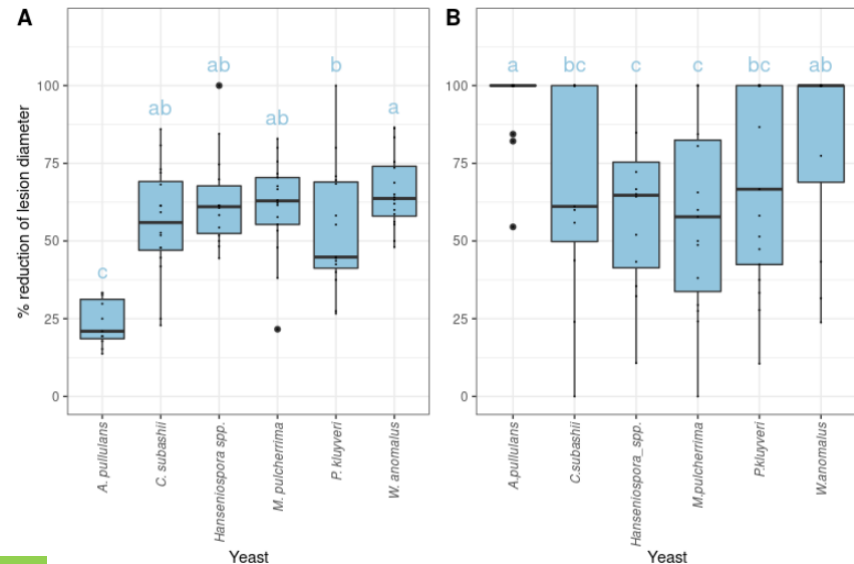
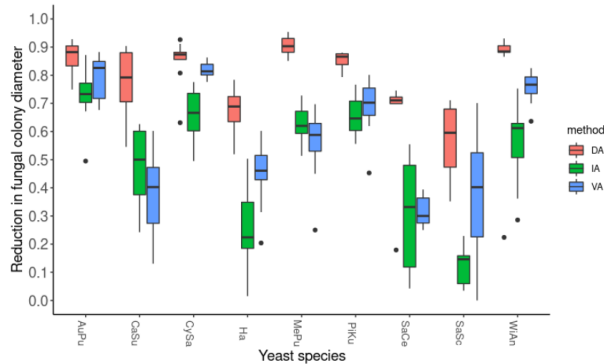
Identify key taxa for diseased vs healthy

Combine to design «synthetic» healthy microbiome > Good guys  
Aureobasidium, Metschnikowia, Hanseniospora

Dynamics of the Apple Fruit Microbiome after Harvest and Implications for Fruit Quality

Y Bösch, E Britt, ... A Bühlmann ... et al. 2021, - Microorganisms

## Identify the good guys Biocontrol using taxa from microbiome data – *In vitro* trials



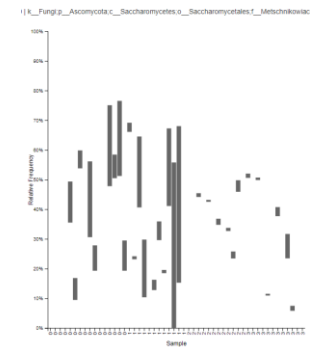
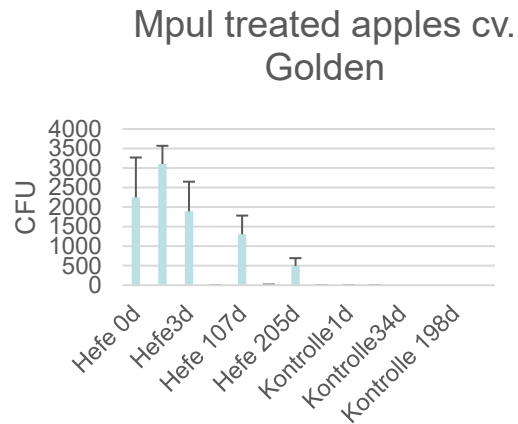
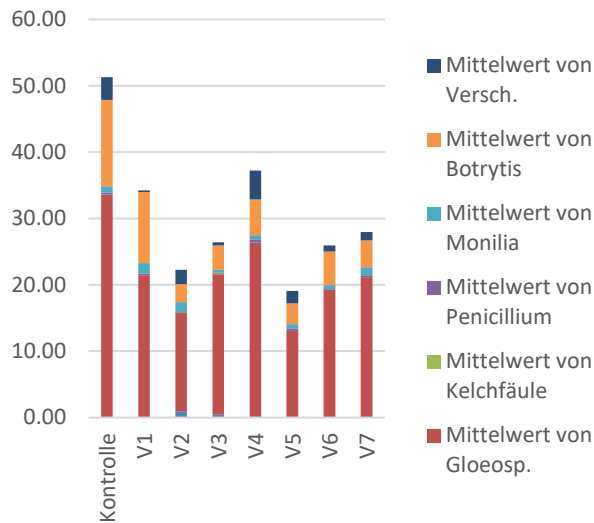
- Biocontrol works in vitro/ in with high efficacy
- Different modes of action  
(Direct contact, Diffusible molecules, Volatiles,

Biocontrol works in situ  
3h and 24h before infection

Stability of Dry and Liquid *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* Formulations for Biocontrol Applications against Apple Postharvest Diseases A. Bühlmann ...F. Freimoser et al. 2022, - Horticulturae



## Biocontrol treatment, reisolation, metagenomics



- Limited effects in vivo
- Optimisation to formulation that Mpul stays on fruit
- confirmed by culture and metagenomics

## Characterize bad guys, identify nutritional needs

collaboration Uni Bozen/ Uni Bologna

4 species of *Neofabraea*

Sequencing on 2 PromethION chips

Illumina shotgun + RNA seq

Flye assembly – Pilon polishing



| Sample        | # contigs | Total size (Mbp) | coverage (x) | N50 contig length | read length cutoff |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Na_ELi5       | 13        | 38.33            | 180          | 3903075           | 36148              |
| Nk_FU64       | 13        | 38.29            | 300          | 3135548           | 50647              |
| Nm_CBS 122030 | 16        | 50.14            | 465          | 4200967           | 70237              |
| Np_CBS102869  | 20        | 44.15            | 470          | 3239928           | 67843              |

**P. Vagabunda published- comparative genomics to do**

Genome resource of *Phlyctema vagabunda* strain 19EL15, a pathogen of post-harvest bull's eye rot of apple, G. Amaral,... A. Bühlmann et al. 2025 Microbiol Res Ann

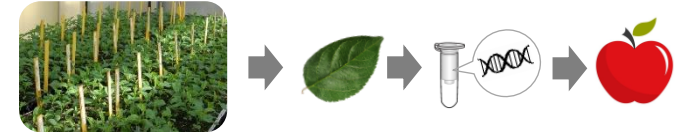
# Projekt AZZ

## «Apfelzukunft dank Züchtung»

GWAS

### Teilprojekt 1

Implementierung der genomischen Selektion für Fruchtqualitätseigenschaften in CH-Züchtungsprogramme  
Charakterisierung des Zuchtmaterials und Implementierung molekularer Selektion im Zuchtprogramm von Lubera & Poma Culta



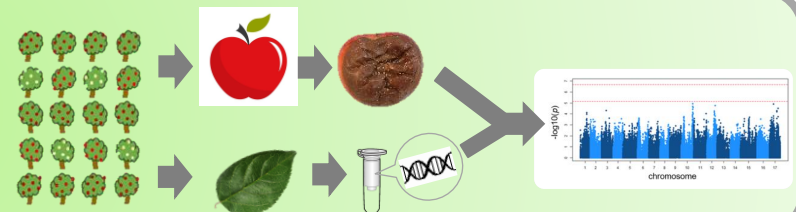
### Teilprojekt 2

Kombination von «Fast Track» und genomischer Selektion für Fruchtqualitätseigenschaften



### Teilprojekt 3

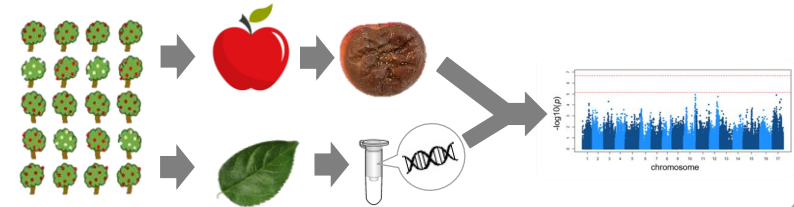
*Neofabraea*-Resistenz (Lentizellenfäulnis) Screening in Kombination mit genomweiter Assoziationsstudie (GWAS) zur Entwicklung von molekularer Marker



Andrea Knauf, Marius Hodel, Michaela Jung, Andreas Bühlmann

## Teilprojekt 3

*Neofabraea*-Resistenz (Lentizellenfäulnis) Screening in Kombination mit genomweiter Assoziationsstudie (GWAS) zur Entwicklung von molekularer Marker



### 1) Inoculation protocol

T13: Protokoll zur Bestimmung der *Neofabraea*-Resistenz von Äpfeln ist entwickelt.

### 2) Phenotyping

T14/15: Phänotypisierung des Zuchtmaterials auf *Neofabraea*-Resistenz:  
RefPop/ Zuchtmaterial

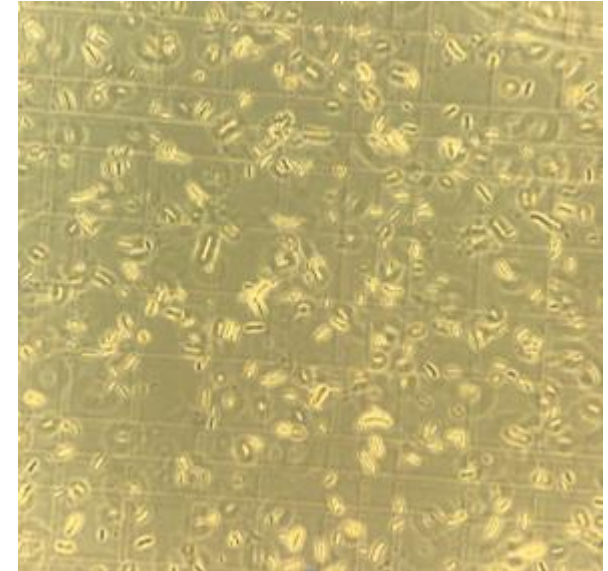
### 3) GWAS

T16 GWAS ist durchgeführt, mit Resistenz assoziierte Marker sind entwickelt.

# Problem Infektiösität

GWAS

- Neuer Stamm N.alba
- Kontrollen des Sporenstocks
- Wachstumskontrollen
- Regelmässige Erneuerung
- Aufbewahrung der Sporen bei 0-4°C



Soweit möglich gelöst



# Problem Kontamination

GWAS



- Wisch-Dekontamination EtOH 70 %
- Parafilm
- Anpassung Luftfeuchtigkeit
- Desinfektion der Kisten



Soweit möglich gelöst

## 2 Phänotypisierung

- **Pro Jahr:**
- **REFPOP:** n = 233 Genotypen, davon 32 doppelt
  - 1.325 Äpfel
  - 6.625 Inokulationen
- **Stufe A (Agroscope):** n = 40 Genotypen
  - 200 Äpfel
  - 1000 Inokulationen
- ~ 10% Kontaminationsrate / „150 Äpfel“



Lagerraum, 20°C, 70%ige  
Luftfeuchtigkeit  
Lagerung: 21 d

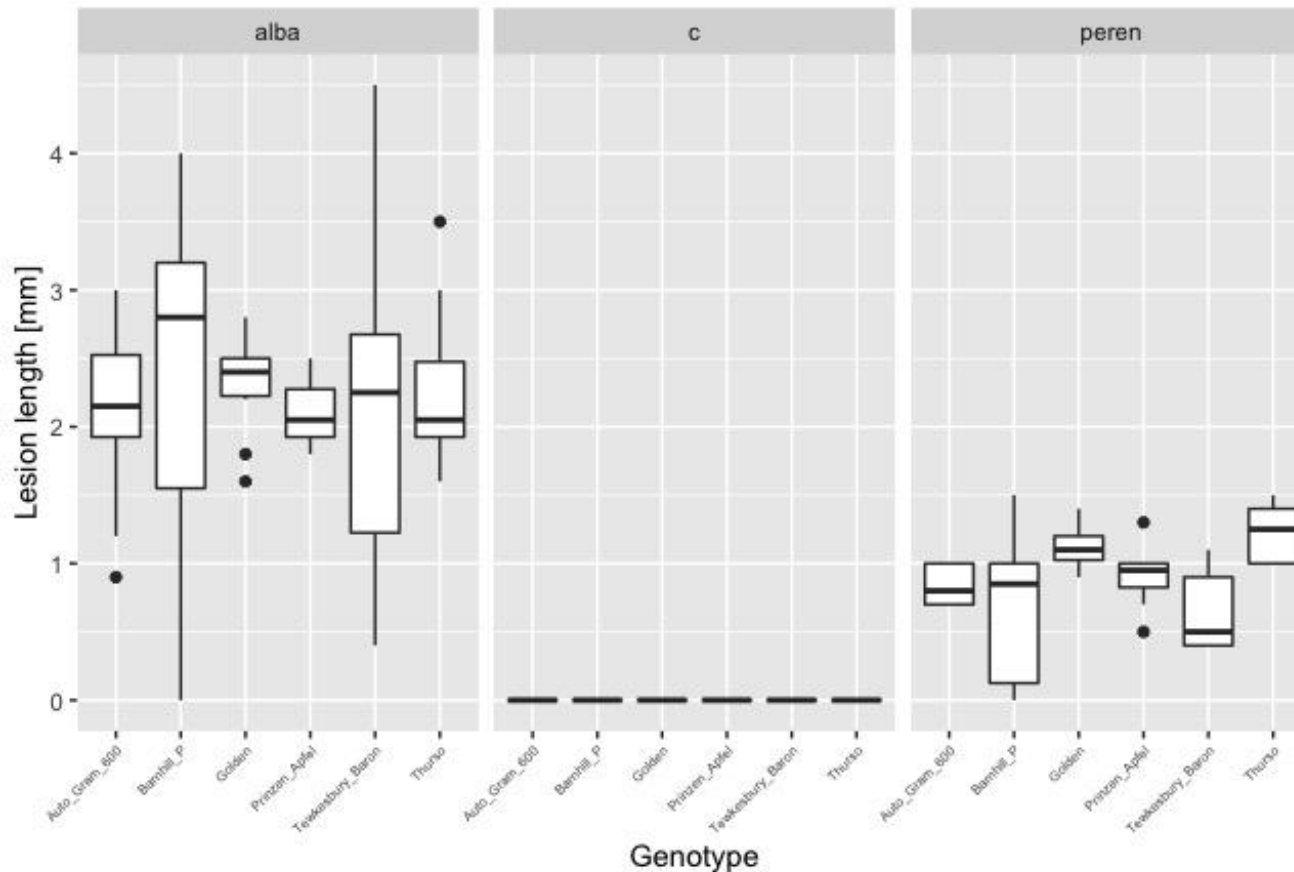


# Ergebnisse

GWAS



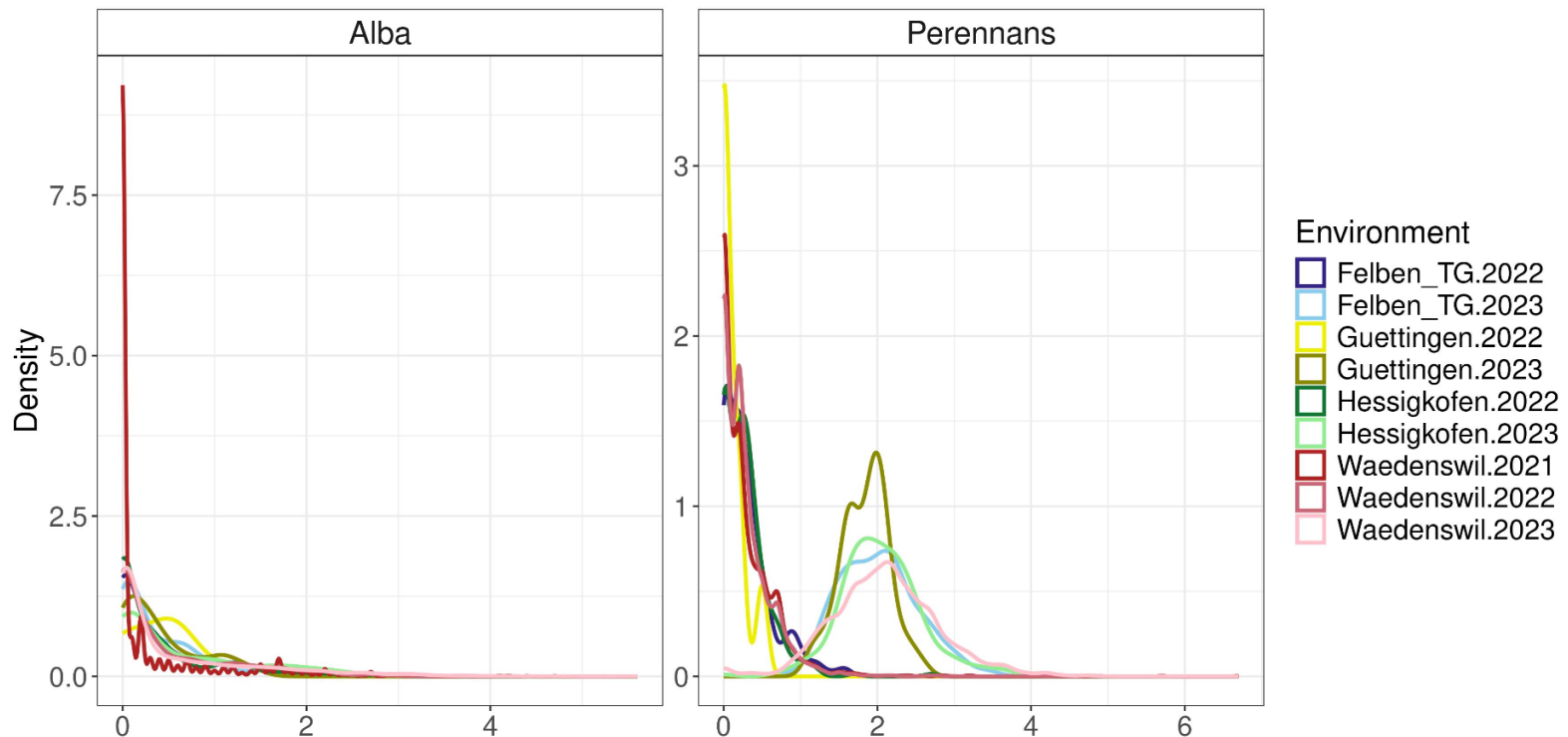
Infektionsrate **98 %**  
Kontaminationen **10 %**





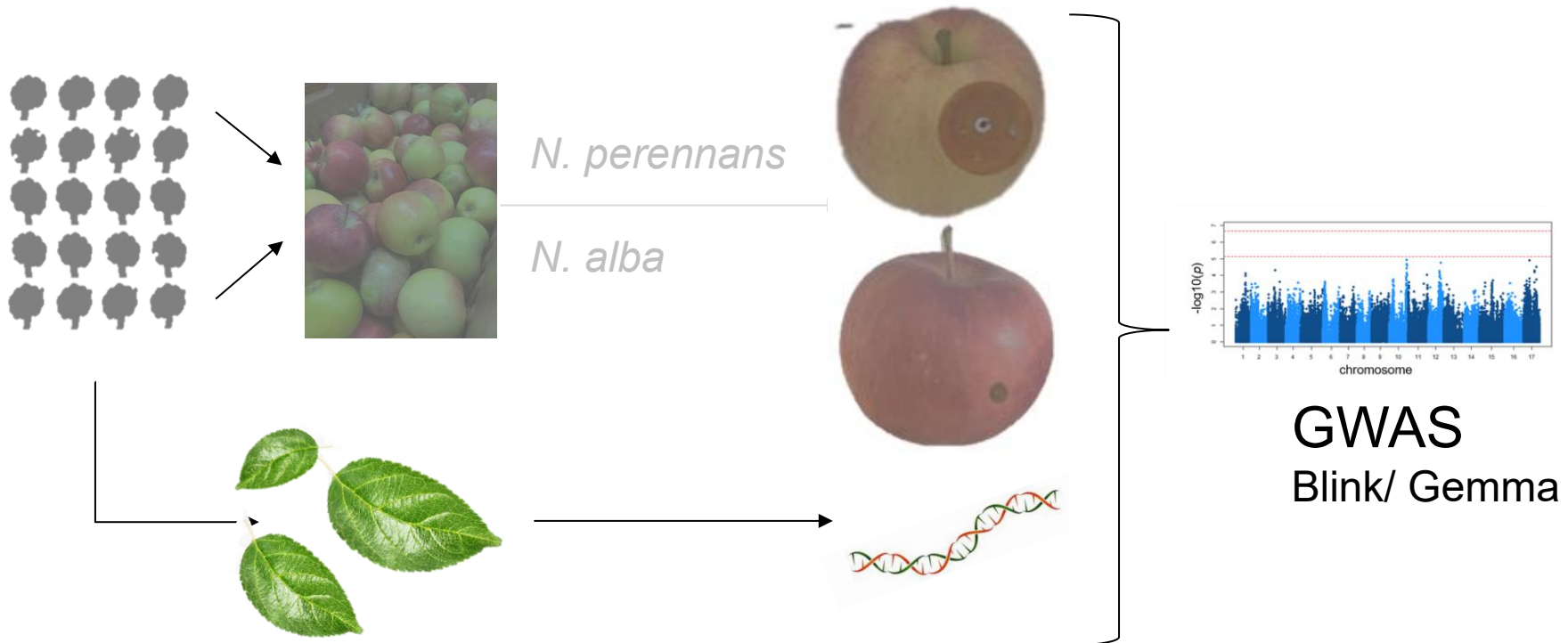
# Ergebnisse Phänotypisierung

GWAS



# 3 GWAS

GWAS

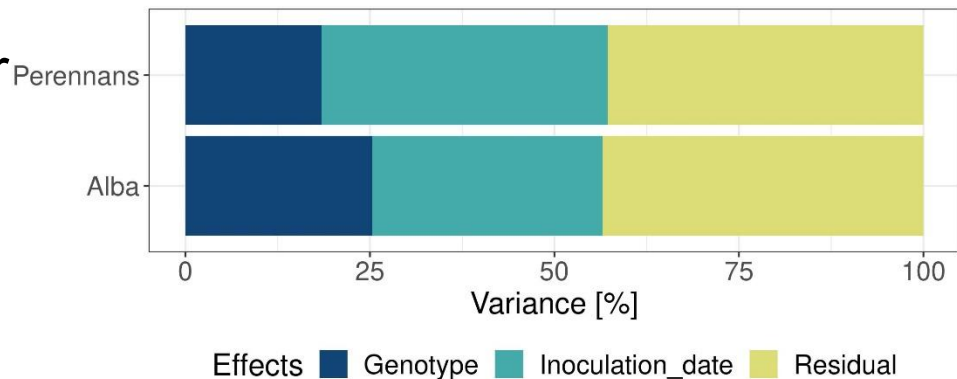


Genotyping  
by sequencing

# BLUPs – MLM I

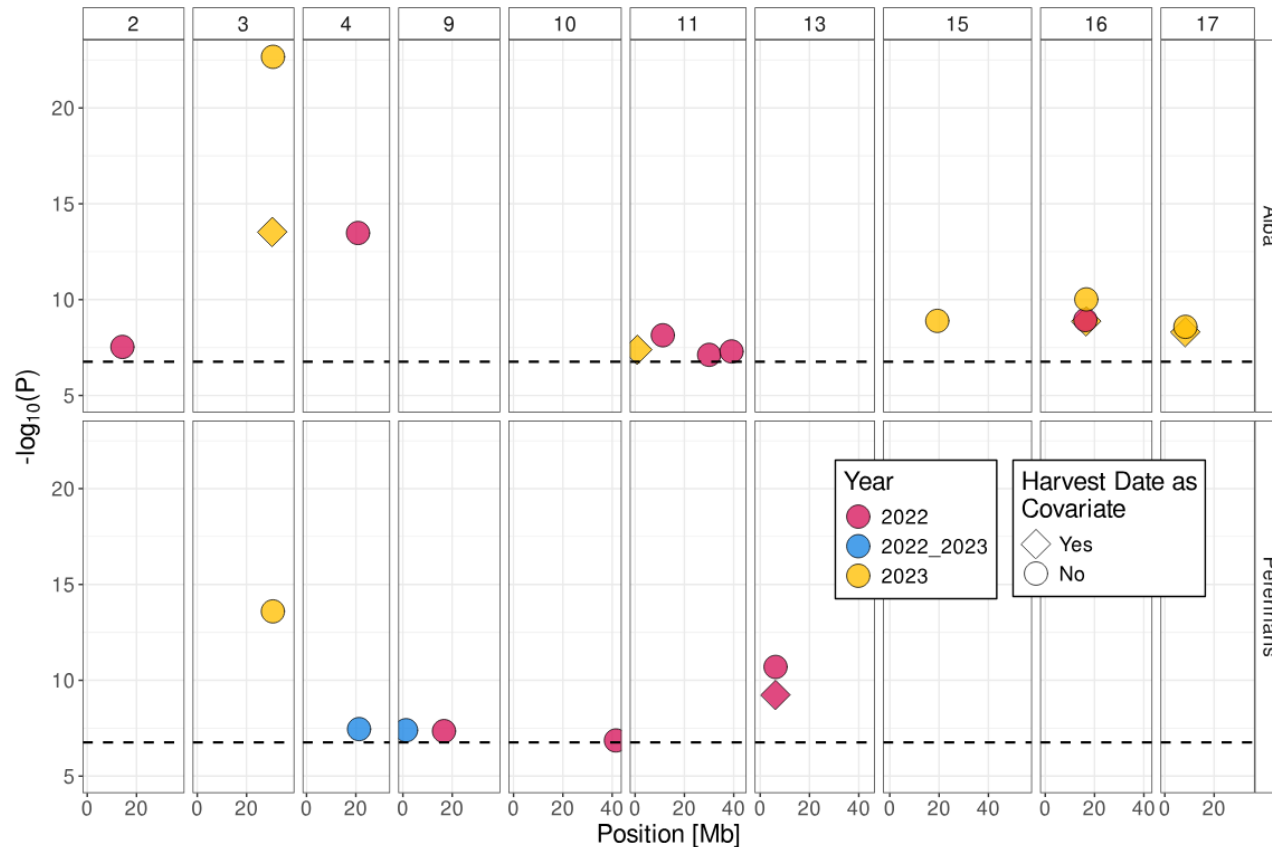
GWAS

- **Fixed effect:** Year\_Location
- **Random effect:** Genotype & Inoculation date (trial effect)
- Inokulationsdatum hat grossen Effekt – kennen wir



# GWAS – full dataset

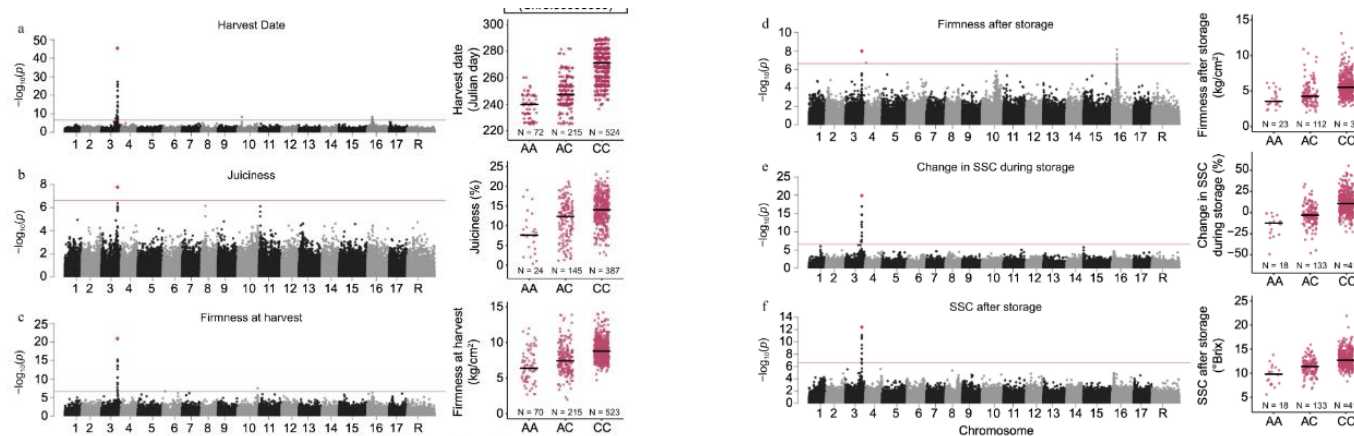
GWAS



- Wichtiger Locus auf Chr3, kleinere auf 4 und 16

# Was ist auf Chr3

GWAS



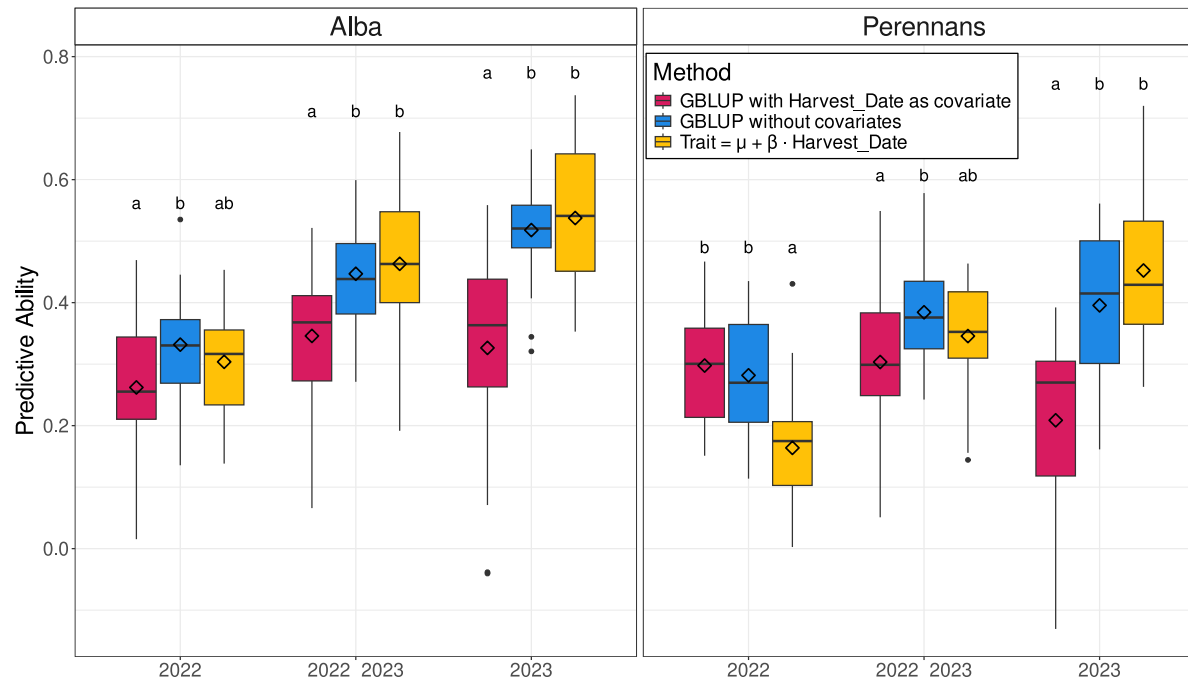
| Chromosome | Class | Start    | Stop     | Annotation                                                                    |
|------------|-------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chr03      | gene  | 30653663 | 30660855 | Cyclophilin-like peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase family protein           |
| Chr03      | gene  | 30669574 | 30673758 | Peroxisomal membrane 22 kDa (Mpv17/PMP22) family protein                      |
| Chr03      | gene  | 30676958 | 30677290 | Protein of unknown function                                                   |
| Chr03      | gene  | 30696191 | 30698216 | NAC domain containing protein 2                                               |
| Chr03      | gene  | 30738599 | 30740479 | NAC (No Apical Meristem) domain transcriptional regulator superfamily protein |

Region bekannt, Marker existiert, alle modernen Eltern haben «gutes» allel

Watts et al. 2023 Fruit research

[Large-scale apple GWAS reveals NAC18.1 as a master regulator of ripening traits \(maxapress.com\)](https://maxapress.com/)

# Falls zu polygen für Marker, ist genomic selection eine Lösung



Modell mit nur Erntedatum ist gleich gut wie genomic selection

# Summary

- **Spores/ Spoilage**

- Molekulare Markers for Lenticel rot difficult
- Limited problem since harvest date reasonably good predictor
- Robust early varieties unlikely
- Phenotyping our breeding program doable

# Next steps

## Spores/ Spoilage

- Sampling too labor intensive- automatic spore sampling and ID

## Biocontrol

- Continue to optimize formulation
- Optimize application – cold fumigation

## Genome sequencing

- Comparative genomics between species
- Diversity within *P. vagabunda*

## GWAS

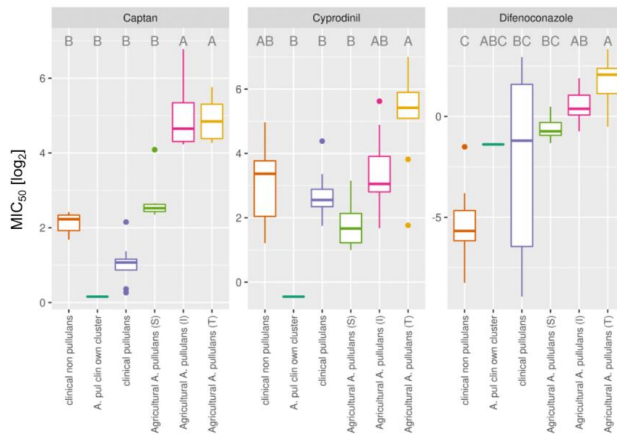
- 20 Genotypen WGS – check for NAC18.1 Locus – ETH/Gio
- NAC18.1 resequenzieren
- Chr4 und Chr16 loci charakterisieren
- Project RoBIS auf Birne– Masterarbeit für *Neofabraea kienholzii*



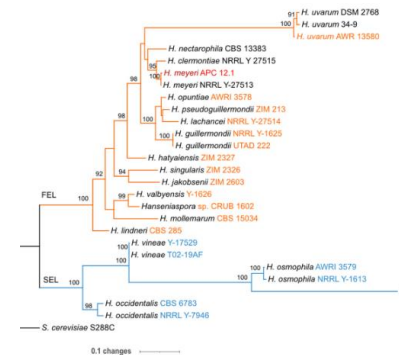


## Characterize good guys, identify lifestyles, modes of action

Collaboration F. Freimoser, agroscope



Aureobasidium comparative genomics, fungicide resistance



Hanseniaspora metabolic capabilities

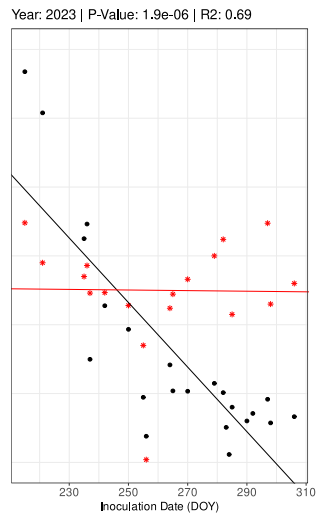
**Clinical *Aureobasidium* Isolates Are More Fungicide Sensitive than Many Agricultural Isolates** E. Magoye.... A. Bühlmann ... et al. 2023 Microbiol. Spectrum

**Pantothenate Auxotrophy in a Naturally Occurring Biocontrol Yeast** M. Rueda- Meija .... A. Bühlmann et al. 2023 Environm. Microbiol

# Inokulationsdatum – versuch zu <sup>GWAS</sup> normalisieren

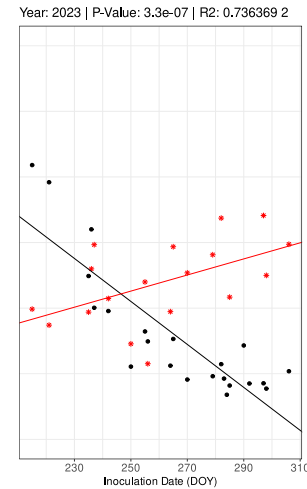
Mittlere  
Läsionslänge pro  
Inokulationsdatum

Golden Control  
Genotypen



Mittlere Läsionslänge  
korrigiert mit Golden  
Kontrolle

Golden Control  
Genotypen



Bringt nix weil Korrektur selber zu variabel ist  
Lösung: als Covariable in die GWAS nehmen