

PineWALL Project: Linking pine cell wall composition and structure to pinewood nematode resistance under climate change





Ricardo da Costa^{1,2}, Luís Fonseca², Joana Cardoso², Isabel Abrantes², Joana Vieira², Filipe Campelo², Jorge Canhoto², Marisa Gaspar³, Silvia Coimbra⁴, Inês Santos¹, Maria Paula Marques¹, Luís Batista de Carvalho¹

1 University of Coimbra, Molecular Physical-Chemistry R&D Unit, Department of Chemistry, Coimbra, Portugal; University of Coimbra, Centre for Functional Ecology, Department of Life Sciences, Coimbra, Portugal; University of Coimbra Chemical Process Engineering and Forest Products Research Centre, Department of Chemical Engineering, Coimbra, Portugal; 4University of Porto, Associated Laboratory for Green Chemistry, REQUIMTE, Faculty of Sciences, Porto, Portugal

The pinewood nematode (PWN) uses its stylet to perforate plant cell walls (CW), while releasing hydrolytic enzymes. Thus, understanding how CW anatomy, structure and composition can influence pine susceptibility to PWN infection is essential. A multidisciplinary project was settled to assess the influence of the PWN infection and climate change on pine trees CW anatomy, structure and composition and to identify structural biomarkers that can be used to predict Pinus spp. susceptibility/resistance in different climate scenarios.

Anatomical and structural studies in infected/uninfected Pinus spp. in different climate scenarios

CW characterisation by high-throughput vibrational spectroscopy and analytical chemistry

CW glycome profile and glycan distribution by in situ immunolabelling

Identification of anatomical/structural/ biochemical characters associated with the **PWN** infection

Identification of host resistance/susceptibility biomarkers in different climate scenarios







