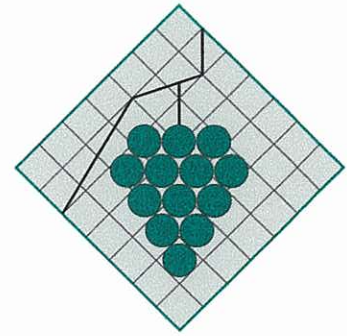
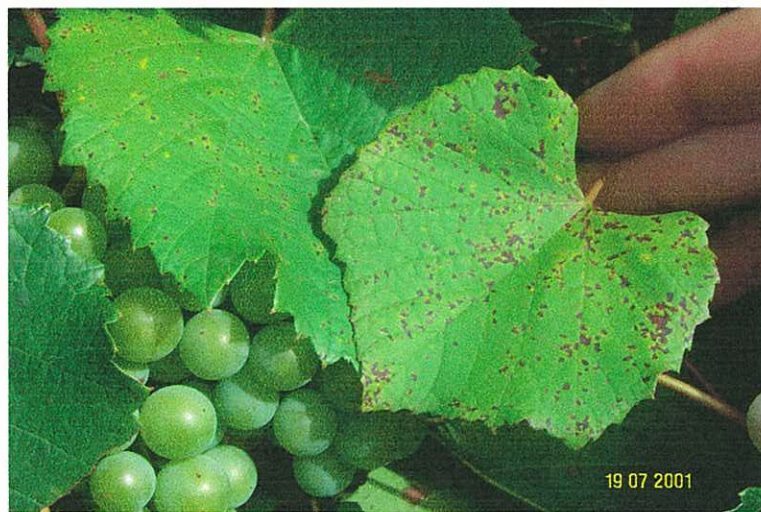




Northern Territory Government
Department of Business, Industry & Resource Development



Characterisation of the Grapevine Leaf Rust Fungus and Identification of Resistant Grape Cultivars (Project 1A)



FINAL REPORT TO:

GRAPE AND WINE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Project Number: NT02-01

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	1
Background	2
Objectives	2
Methods	2
Results/Discussion	4
Table 1 Incidence and severity of GLR disease on varieties of table grape	6
Table 2 Fungicides to be assessed for their efficacy against <i>P. euvitis</i>	7
Table 3 Assessment of methods of detached leaf culture	12
Outcome/Conclusion	13
References	13
Budget Reconciliation	14
Acknowledgments	15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Some preliminary investigations were conducted in Project 1A to enable ensuing research on the Grapevine Leaf Rust pathogen, *Phakopsora euvitidis*. Objectives of this project included identifying a selection of grapevine types that could be procured for resistance/immunity screening and fungicides to be assessed for their ability to control the pathogen. The list of grapevines includes more than 430 cultivated (including rootstock and hybrid selections) and native types. The fungicides selected for assessment (12 in total) include some already registered for use on grapevines and others shown to be effective against rust diseases on other crops. They have a number of modes of action, encompassing both systemic and protective systems. The ability to provide replacement resistant/immune vines and information about fungicides that effectively control *P. euvitidis* will play a vital role in the future bio-security of viticulture related industries.

The methodology for a PCR-based DNA analysis of *P. euvitidis*, developed by Ono and Imazu (2001), is outlined in this report. The ability to conduct a DNA analysis could play an important role in establishing the identity of possible re-incursions in Darwin and new incursions in other parts of Australia.

A further objective was to inoculate some potted grapevines with *P. euvitidis* to provide a ready source of fresh inoculum for the continued resistance/immunity screening of grapevine cultivars. The attempts at inoculation during this project were unsuccessful so data from a previous successful attempt has been included in this report. The inoculated grapevines were rated for both disease severity and incidence. All were given an average disease severity rating of either 1 or 2 indicating that on average, either less than 1% or 1 – 5% of the total leaf area on each grapevine was affected by symptoms of *P. euvitidis*. Statistical analyses of this data indicated a significant difference in disease severity existed generally between cultivars. The variation in severity of infection from leaf to leaf on each variety was generally small. The incidence of disease on each of the inoculated cultivars ranged from 34 percent of leaves infected on “Red Emperor” to 90 percent of leaves infected on “Ruby Seedless”. This provides important information about the susceptibility of *Vitis vinifera* cultivars, which almost all viticulture related industry in Australia is reliant upon.

The final objective was to determine a suitable method of leaf disc culture that could be employed for conducting research with *P. euvitidis*. Various methods used in previous studies were assessed to determine which achieved the most desirable results ie, practicality and longevity of leaf survival. The assessments showed that leaf discs mounted on cotton wool soaked with sterile distilled water and enclosed in petri dishes was practical and consistently lasted for longer periods of time than any other method.

BACKGROUND

Grapevine leaf rust (GLR) was discovered in Darwin in July 2001 (Weinert *et al.* 2003). The disease, caused by the fungus *Phakopsora euvitidis*, did not occur previously in Australia. Surveys in Katherine and Ti Tree, approximately 200 kilometres north of Alice Springs, and all other Australian states have determined these areas to be GLR free. There are no commercial vineyards in the Darwin region. Grapevines are grown by householders, principally for their leaves to make Dolmades.

GLR disease is common in Asia and Central America and can be very destructive if not controlled (Leu 1988). It is windborne, and has a high potential for spread by humans and machinery. It can infect grapes over a range of temperatures and there is a reasonable chance that it could establish in the majority of Australia's viticulture regions.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify and draft a methodology for the PCR-based characterisation of *P. euvitidis*.
2. Infection of potted grapevines with *P. euvitidis* for an inoculum source and disease rating.
3. Identify fungicides with known or potential activity against rust diseases.
4. Identify sources of grapevine germplasm that will later be tested for resistance/immunity to *P. euvitidis*.
5. Develop and test methods based on leaf disc culture to later be used for mass screening of grapevine germplasm for resistance/immunity to *P. euvitidis* and fungicide efficacy assessment.

METHODS

Identification and drafting of a methodology for the PCR-based characterisation of P. euvitidis.

- The methodology outlined in this report is that of Ono and Imazu (2001) (see results).

Infection of potted grapevines with P. euvitidis for an inoculum source and disease rating

- Spores of *P. euvitidis* were suspended in a mixture of sterile distilled water (SDW) and 2 drops/mL of Tween 80®.
- Two plants of each cultivar had of their leaves sprayed, predominantly on the adaxial side, with the spore suspension (concentration of approximately 30 to 40,000 spores/mL) atomised using a Preval® spray pack. One control plant per variety was sprayed with SDW mixed with 2 drops/mL of Tween 80®.

- The plants were covered in plastic bags for 24 hours to assist infection.
- Infection with *P. euvitis* was evident seven days after inoculation. 14 days after inoculation the infection was well advanced and rated for incidence and severity.
- The disease incidence was rated based on the percentage of leaves infected per vine, and the disease severity rated based on the average leaf area (LA) covered by pustules and associated chlorotic/necrotic symptoms of *P. euvitis*. This was rated on a scale from 0 to 5 where 0 = no infection, 1 = <1%, 2 = 1-5%, 3 = 6-10%, 4 = 11-15% and 5 = >15% of LA covered.
- The disease severity data (excluding that for the "Perlette" cultivar) was analysed by comparing the medians (Median Test) and by comparing ranks using a Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric ANOVA. The disease incidence data was analysed using a generalised linear model (for binomial errors with a logit link).

Identification of fungicides with known or potential activity against rust diseases.

- Fungicide selection was based on examination of available literature on other rust species and the Infopest AGVET and Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority registered products databases.

*Identification of sources of grapevine germplasm that will later be tested for resistance/immunity to *P. euvitis*.*

- Identification and selection of grapevine selections/cultivars was based on reported resistance to *P. euvitis* and the availability of material.

*Development and testing of methods based on leaf disc culture to later be used for mass screening of grapevine germplasm for resistance/immunity to *P. euvitis* and fungicide efficacy assessment.*

- Four basic methods including ones used in previous studies by Evans *et al.* (1996), Johnston and Scott (1988) and Washington (1987) were tested and compared. They were:-
 1. leaf disc on cotton wool soaked in sterile distilled water, sealed in a petri dish,
 2. leaf disc on water agar, sealed in a petri dish,
 3. leaf disc floating in sterile distilled water, sealed in a petri dish and,
 4. detached leaf with only the petiole in water, sealed in a plastic bag.
- The methods were assessed using four leaves for each, checked daily for senescence. Leaves were considered non-functional after 50% of the leaf area had become chlorotic.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

PCR methodology (Ono and Imazu 2001).

DNA Extraction

- Vacuum 1-3mg urediniospores from leaves.
- Crush spores and suspend in 30 μ L of extraction buffer.
- Incubate for 3 hours at 55°C, before heating for 10 minutes at 95°C.
- Dilute with 30 μ L of distilled water.

Amplification

- The reaction mixture contains 5 μ L DNA suspension, 200 μ M of dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, 1mM of MgCl₂, 50mM KCl, 0.2 μ M of primer, 1.25 units of AmpliTaq Gold® DNA polymerase.
- Complete 45 cycles consisting of an initial 12 minutes at 95°C, followed by 1 minute cycles at 60°C, 72°C and then 30 seconds at 95°C and ending with an extension at 72°C for 10 minutes.
- The DNA is then digested for three hours and electrophoresed on an 8% polyacrylamide gel in TBE buffer.

The ability to conduct a DNA analysis could play an important role in establishing the identity of possible re-incursions in Darwin and new incursions in other parts of Australia. It is hoped this will also assist in differentiating local strains from each other (should more than one exist) and from those in close proximity eg, East Timor.

Disease Ratings

During this project a viable source of *P. euvitis* inoculum was not available and attempts to inoculate the potted grapevines were unsuccessful. Therefore, it was decided to include data recorded following a previous successful inoculation in this report. The successful inoculation included 14 table grape varieties that were subsequently rated for disease incidence and severity (Table 1). This provides important information about the susceptibility of *Vitis vinifera* cultivars, which almost all viticulture related industry in Australia is reliant upon. These cultivars all showed symptoms of infection (chlorotic spots and pustules) seven days after inoculation. 14 days after inoculation the disease was well advanced in all cultivars when the disease ratings were conducted.

Table 1 indicates that differences in the severity of disease between cultivars were small. However, statistical analyses of this data showed that generally a significant difference in disease severity existed between cultivars. Pair-wise comparisons for the cultivar ranks (K-W ANOVA) indicated that "Red Emperor" and "White Muscat" were different from all other cultivars with respect to the disease severity. "Thompson's Seedless" was only different from these two cultivars. Each remaining cultivar was generally different from half or more of the other cultivars in the disease severity recorded. At a glance the data in Table 1 seems to indicate differences in disease incidence between cultivars. However, this data was analysed using a generalised linear model (for binomial errors with a logit link) which showed there was no significant difference ($p=0.08171$). A larger sample size would have been more informative and would probably have lead to statistical differences between cultivars. Potential differences in disease incidence and actual differences in disease severity are probably a reflection of a variable infection rate due to the inoculation process (discovered since that grapevine leaves are penetrated by *P. euvitis* infection pegs via the abaxial surface only) rather than a difference in susceptibility of the cultivar. Differences in the proportions of leaves of a particular age on the vines may also contribute as they vary with age in their susceptibility to *P. euvitis* (the very young, soft leaves seem to be the least susceptible). None of the control plants showed symptoms of infection with the pathogen.

Table 1. Incidence and severity of GLR disease on varieties of table grape

Cultivar	Disease Incidence (%)	Highest Disease Severity Rating	Average Disease Severity Rating
Perlette	67	3	2
Thomuscat-1	82	4	1
Thomuscat-2	73	3	2
Pearl of Csaba-1	60	4	1
Pearl of Csaba-2	76	5	2
Red Prince-1	56	3	2
Red Prince-2	61	4	2
Ruby Seedless-1	76	3	2
Ruby Seedless-2	90	4	2
Black Muscat-1	64	4	2
Black Muscat-2	77	2	1
Thompson's Seedless-1	72	3	2
Thompson's Seedless-2	78	3	1
Red Emperor-1	58	2	1
Red Emperor-2	34	2	2
White Muscat-1	41	3	1
White Muscat-2	47	2	1
Black Sultana-1	55	2	1
Black Sultana-2	71	4	1
Emerald Seedless-1	72	3	1
Emerald Seedless-2	51	3	1
Flame Tokay-1	71	3	2
Flame Tokay-2	45	4	2
Sultana M12-1	63	3	2
Sultana M12-2	63	3	2
Ladies finger-1	64	4	2
Ladies Finger-2	65	4	2

NB. 30% (approx.) was the highest recorded symptom coverage on any one leaf.

Fungicides With Known or Potential Activity Against Rust Diseases

Below (Table 2) are fungicides identified as potential chemical control agents for *P. euvitis*. They have a variety of modes of action. It is important to utilise this diversity during spray programs to avoid a build-up of resistance to the fungicides. Assessments of these fungicides will provide important information about their efficacy should chemical control be required as part of a response to any future outbreaks.

Table 2. Fungicides to be assessed for their efficacy against *P. euvitis*

Trade Name	Active	Mode of Action	Group	Comments
Impact	Flutriafol	Systemic	A	Used on blackberry rust
Dithane	Mancozeb	Protectant	Y	Used on blackberry and wheat rust
Tilt	Propiconazole	Systemic	C	Used on blackberry and wheat rust
Bayleton	Triadimefon	Systemic	C	Used on wheat rust
Plantvax	Oxycarboxin	Systemic	G	Used on rust diseases
Amistar	Azoxystrobin	Protectant / Systemic	K	Registered for use on grapevines
Wettable Sulfur	Sulfur	Protectant	Y	Registered for use on grapevines
Champ Dry Prill	Cupric Hydroxide	Protectant	Y	Registered for use on grapevines
Marvel	Benomyl	Systemic	A	Used in leaf disc trials. Inhibited germination of <i>P. euvitis</i>
Bravo	Chlorothalonil	Protectant	Y	Found to be the most effective against <i>Puccinia psidii</i> .
Mycloss	Myclobutanil	Protectant / Systemic	C	Used on grapevines. Active against many rust fungi.

Grapevine Germplasm

The following is a list of names of the cultivars to be screened for resistance/immunity to *P. euvitis*. The ability to provide replacement resistant/immune vines will play a vital role in the future bio-security of viticulture related industries. These cultivars were obtained from SARDI - Nuriootpa, CSIRO - Merbein and Viticlone Supplies Nursery – Margaret River. They include wine grape, table grape and rootstock types. At the bottom of the list are native genera of *Vitaceae* occurring in the Top End. The majority of the cultivars are *Vitis vinifera*, which make up the bulk of grapevines grown in Australia. The selection however incorporates as many rootstock and hybrids as possible, as these plants tend to have qualities such as greater disease resistance, general hardiness and vigour. Finally there are a number of cultivars listed that have been assessed for susceptibility to *P. euvitis* in previous studies. Unfortunately, these studies are somewhat

contradictory which may be a result of inaccurate identifications or assumptions of the specie(s) of rust causing the disease.

Variety/Clone:-

106.8	Antigona	Black Alicante
1202	Aramon	Black Frontignac - BVRC12
1613	Arinarnoa	Black Malaga
1616	Arneis 15 CVT	Black Mammoth
3306	Arrilobe	Black Muscat
99 Richter	Aualdena No. 1	Black Sultana
101-14 - HT 100-3	Auldana No. 3	Blush Seedless (88-03)
107-11	Aurelia	Boal
10868 Seibel	Aurore	Bonvedro Cl.146
128 Seibel	Autumn Black	Brown Frontignac - LC 2
188-04 Castel	Auxerrois	Buckland's Sweetwater
21 B Trier	Baco Blanc - C10V12	Burgrave X
333 EM Foex	Baco Noir	C.G. 26-879
34 EM	Baileys Aucerot #1	Cabernet Franc
34 EM	Balluti (B)	Cabernet Franc Francese
41 B	Banatski Muskat	Cabernet Sauvignon
420 A	Bankside Acorn	Calitor Noir
554-5 seedlings	Barbera	Calmeria
62-66	Baresana	Campbell's Early
A x R 1	Barlinka	Canada Muscat
Abouriou	Baroque	Canadice
Agadaj	Bastardo	Canner
Agawam	Baufranc	Canocazo
Agestsage Blanc	Baxter's Sherry	Canon Hall Muscat
Alden (R)	Beauty Seedless	Cape Currant
Aleatico	Bedgradske Besemena	Cardinal
Aledo	Bellino X	Carignan
Alicante Bouschet	Bianca D'Allessane	Carina
Americano (?)	Biancolella	Carmine
Angostenga Blanc	Biancone	Carnelian
Ansonica	Bicane	Carolina Blackrose

Cascade	Demir Kapija	Garronet
Catawba (SC-OR-SC)	Diamond	Gascon
Cayuga White	Dizmar (W)	Glenora
Golden Muscat	Djandal Kara (B)	Gold
Centennial Seedless	Dog Ridge	Gouais
Centurion	Dolcetto	Goyura
Cesanese	Doradillo	Graciano
CG 1481 (W)	Dourado	Gramon
CG 1730	Durif	Granache BVRC 5
CG 4320 (R)	Dutchess	Grec Rose
Chambourcin	Early Muscat	Green Veltliner
Chancellor (S.7053)	Egiodola	Greg Rose
Chardonnay	Elvira	Grenache
Chasan INRA	Emerald Riesling	Grocanica
Chasselas Dore	Emerald Seedless	Gropello Gentile
Chenin Blanc	Emperor - B9V5	Gros Colman
Christmas Rose C	Enhresfelser	Gros Meslier
Cinsaut	Exotic	Harmony
Clairette	Fantasy Seedless	Harslevelu
Clairette Blanche (F)	FER	Helena
Clersole Logine	Fercal	Henab Turki
Colombard	Fernao Pires	Heptakilo
Concord (SC-OR-SC)	Fetyeska	Herbemont
Constantia (F)	Fiano	Herbert
Corvina Veronese	Fiesta	Himrod
Couderc Noir	Flame Seedless	Hunisa (B)
Crimson Seedless	Flame Tokay	Illinois 547-3 A133
Criolla negra	Flora	Iona local (grafted on Dogridge)
Crouchen	Foch	Irsay Oliver (W)
Crystal	Folle Blanche BGW No. 16	Isabella
Daira Seedling	Freedom	Italia
Danlas (W)	Freisa	J 17-48
Danugue	Fresno 27-31 (B)	J S 23-416
Dawn Seedless (88-05)	Fuji Muscat (W)	J17-69
De Chaunac	Furmint	Jacquez
Delaware	Gamay – Beaujolais 200A	K 51-40
Delight	Ganson	K51-32

Kadarka	Meunier	Pannaonia Gold
Kavadarski Drenak	MH 29-56	Parellada
Keknyelu	Mission Seedling	Paulsen 1045 -- 01R
Parsley Leaf Chasselas	Molinara	Paulsen 1103
Kishmishi	Mondeuse	Paulsen 779 -- 01R
Kober 125 AA	Monerac	Pearl of Csaba
Kober 5BB	Montepulciano	Pedro Ximenez
Kyoho	Montils	Perdea
Lady Downe's Seed	Monukka	Perle De Csaba
Lady Patricia	Morio Muscat	Perlette
Lady's Finger	Moss Sultana	Petit Meslier
Lagrain	Mrs. Pince's Muscat	Petit Verdot
Lambrusco H9V12	Mtsvase	Picolit
Leon Millot	Mueller Thurgau	Pink Sultana
Les de L'el	Muscadelle	Pinot Blanc
Lider 171-13	Muscadelle du Bordelaise (F)	Pinot gris
Lignan	Muscat a petits grains	Pinot Noir
Lilierila INRA	Muscat Blanc -- F3V14	Piquepoul Noir
Limberger	Muscat Gigas	Portan
LN 33 -- Student	Muscat Gordo Blanco	Procupak
Loose Perlette (W)	Muscat Hamburg	Putzscheere
Maccabeu	Muscat Ottenel	Queen
Madresfield Court	Muscat Rouge	Quick's Seedling
Malbec	Nebbiolo 111 CVT	R 99 (2-10-285)
Malta Seedless (8275)	Nebbiolo K6V1	Rabener
Malvasia Bianca	Nebbiolo Bourgu	Raboso Piave
Malvasia Istria	Nebbiolo Fino	Radmilovaski Muscat
Mammolo	New York Muscat (R)	Raffiet de Moncade
Mantley 8123	Nyora	Ramsey
Marechal Foch	Odola	Red Emperor
Marroo Seedless (B)	O'Hanez	Red Globe (88-02)
Marsanne	Olivette Noir	Red Lady's Finger
Mataro	Ondenc	Red Malaga
Melon	Opuzensia Rana	Red Palamino
Melvasia Rei	Orange Muscat	Red Prince
Menavacca (B)	Ortruge	Reichensteiner
Merbein Seedless	P 76 - 19 (E4V8)	Rhine Riesling
Merlot	Palomino	Ribier

Ribol (B)	SORI - 92-14	Trebbiano
Richter 110	Souzao	Trentham Black
Riesling 237 Gm	Souzao	Trieste 4X
Riparia Gloire	St. Macaire	Trollinger
Rkaziteli	Suffolk Red	Tulillah
Rolle	Sugraone	Tunn Currant
Rosaki	Sultana (H12)	Ughetta
Rose Cross ex Drumborg	Sultana Denham Sport	Urbana
Rosulus	Sultana H 25	Valdepenas Tempranillo
Rousanne	Sultana M12	Valdiguie
Royal Ascot	Sultana Moschata	Valensi Blanc
Royalty	Sultanina Monococco	Varousset
Rubired	Sumoll	Venus - B
Ruby Cabernet	Sylvaner	Verdelho
Ruby Seedless	Symphony	Verdelot
Ruggeri 140	Taminga	Verdicchio
Rupestris St. George	Tandannya	Villard Blanc
Russian Seedless (B)	Tannat	Villard Noir - Q106-5Sb
Sabalkenskoi (Red Ohanez)	Tarrango	Viognier
Sangiovese	Teleki 5A	<i>Vitis amurensis</i>
Santa Paula	Teleki 5C	<i>Vitis berlandieri</i>
Saperavi	Teleki 8B	<i>Vitis candicans</i>
Saturn Ex Northfield	Tempranillo	<i>Vitis caribaea</i>
Sauvignon Blanc	Temprase	<i>Vitis cordifolia</i>
Sauvignonasse	Teroldego	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>
Scarlet	Terret Noir	<i>Vitis longii</i>
Scheurebe	Thompson's Seedless	<i>Vitis riparia</i>
Schuyler (B)	Thomuscat	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
Schwarzmann	Tinta Ameralla	<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
Semebat	Tinta Cao	Waltham Cross
Semillon	Tinta Carvalha	White Muscat
Senecca	Tinta Molle (Madeira)	Wood's Red Muscat
Seyval	Touriga	Xarelle
Shiraz	Touriga ex Rutherglen	Zante Corinth
Shtur Angur - I3V9	Trabbiano LRC 15	Zante Currant - BC 0158
Siegarrebe	Trajadura	Zinfandel
Smederevka	Traminer	
SO 4	Traminer X Riesling	

The native *Vitaceous* genera found in the Northern Territory are *Cissus adnata*, *Cissus rotundifolia*, *Ampelocissus acetosa*, *Ampelocissus frutescens*, *Cayratia acris*, *Cayratia maritima*, and *Cayratia trifolia*. However, not all of the native vines are common in the Darwin region so their availability will determine which ones are tested. *P. euvitis* is specific to plants in the genus *Vitis* that does not include native grapevines. Therefore, it is not expected to be able to establish in these populations but it will be important to assess them thoroughly to ensure they are not potential hosts.

Leaf Disc Culture

The objective was to assess methods that would provide a practical means of mass screening grapevine cultivars for resistance/immunity, assessing fungicides for their efficacy and also provide adequate longevity of leaf survival. Leaf discs mounted on cotton wool was chosen as the most consistent method and leaves remained viable for a longer period of time than with other methods. Leaf discs mounted on water agar (WA) was the next best method, as shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Assessment of methods of detached leaf culture

Detached leaf method	Av. Viable days	Comments
Whole leaf with petiole only in water	14	Very inconsistent. Petiole tends to become weak and drop off, killing the leaf.
Leaf disc in petri dish on cotton wool	23	Consistent. All leaves lasted to 23 days, 3 to 27
Leaf disc in SD water in petri dish	21	Inconsistent. One developed roots.
Leaf disc on WA	20	Consistent. Leaves develop fungi and bacteria without the addition of lactic acid in the water agar.

Some trials were conducted using WA amended with Benomyl as this has been reported to improve the survival of detached leaves. However, it was found that germination of *P. euvitis* spores was effectively eliminated when streaked onto plates of WA with the fungicide incorporated and as such could influence the results during screening of cultivars for resistance or immunity.

OUTCOME/CONCLUSION

With the exception of infecting potted grapevines with *P. euvitis* to provide a ready source of inoculum for continued resistance/immunity screening of grapevine cultivars, the objectives of Project 1A in which preliminary investigations were carried out to enable ensuing research on GLR have been achieved. These included determining grapevine cultivars to be tested for resistance or immunity, fungicides to be assessed for their efficacy of control, identifying a methodology for DNA analysis, providing disease ratings of infected table grapes and identifying a suitable method of leaf disc culture. The unsuccessful attempt to produce a source of inoculum using the potted grapevines will not hamper the continued screening for resistance/immunity as the inoculum can be perpetuated *in vitro* using leaf discs. Due to the successful outcomes of these preliminary investigations, various aspects of research on GLR viewed as necessary for the future bio-security of viticulture related industries is able to be conducted.

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BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Budget	Funding required from GWRDC		Actual Expenditure
Technical Assistant	6,720.00		6,720.00
Operating	900.00		900
Total	7,620.00		7,620.00
Add 10 % GST	762.00		300
Total funds requested from GWRDC	8,382.00	Total Expended	8,382
		Remitted to GWRDC	0

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