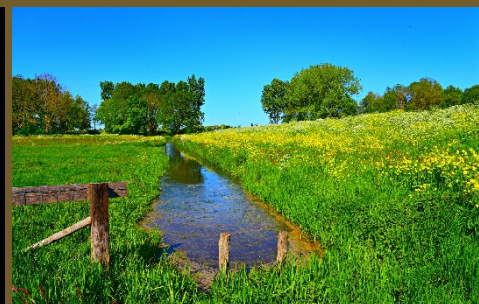


Taxonomy and epidemiology of *Pectobacterium* and *Dickeya* spp. in Europe, North America and South Africa



Courtesy of Maria A. Kuznetsova (All-Russian Institute of Phytopathology)



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Research consortium

NVWA (NL), ILVO (BE), CFIA (CA), DAFA (DK), NIBIO (NO), MAFF (SI), SASA (GB), LUKE (FI), FN3PT (FR), ARO (IL), BKD (NL), NAK (NL), UG (PL)

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Goals

Pectobacterium and *Dickeya* are important bacteria that can cause soft rot on a wide range of host plants. Besides soft rot, they are associated with other plant diseases as well such as blackleg of potato. The goal of the project is to develop and validate tools that allow quick and proper characterisation of *Pectobacterium* and *Dickeya* species at the (sub)species level and to use these tools to get a better understanding of the taxonomy and epidemiology of these bacteria.

Objectives

The main objectives of the project are:

- To gather a collection of *Pectobacterium* and *Dickeya* species collected from different sites throughout Europe, North America and South Africa and from different hosts and from waterways in the last decade
- To genomically characterize strains and assess the inclusivity of available PCR test
- To analyse the strains using MALDI-TOF MS to obtain a large collection of spectral data
- To understand the virulence of different strains
- To predict compatible hosts for a given strain based on the presence and/or absence of specific (variants of) genes in the strains' genome