

## **The pandemic biotype of *Austropuccinia psidii* discovered in South America**

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### **Abstract**

The rust fungus *Austropuccinia psidii* was recently reported from ornamental *Corymbia citriodora* and plantations of *Eucalyptus* in Colombia. It is unknown whether the genetic diversity of the pathogen in Colombia reflects that of other countries in South America or if unique genotypes occur. Multilocus genotypes (MLG) were determined for collections of *A. psidii* from four host genera, *Corymbia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Psidium* and *Syzygium* in Colombia and compared to collections from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Paraguay and South Africa. The genetic diversity of 58 samples on 15 genera of Myrtaceae was determined using seven microsatellite markers. Two lineages of *A. psidii* were detected among Colombian samples. These included a previously unknown genotype on *Psidium guajava*, different to those sampled from Brazil, as well as the pandemic biotype, which has spread to Pacific countries such as Australia, Hawaii and Indonesia. This is the first time the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* has been found in South America where the rust is believed to be native. These

findings raise questions with regard to the origin of the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* and emphasise the threat that this biotype poses to forestry.

## **Keywords**

biosecurity, long distance dispersal, host adaptation, Myrtaceae, myrtle rust, Pucciniales

## **Introduction**

*Austropuccinia psidii* (Sphaerophragmiaceae, Pucciniales) causes rust on approximately 73 genera and 460 species of Myrtaceae (Giblin and Carnegie 2014; Carnegie et al. 2016; Roux et al. 2016). It was formerly known as *Puccinia psidii*, however its familial and generic position has recently been resolved in the Pucciniales (McTaggart et al. 2016b; Beenken 2017). The disease caused by *A. psidii* is commonly referred to as eucalyptus, guava, myrtle or ohia rust. *Austropuccinia psidii* has spread globally, expanding its host range in Central and South America (Coutinho et al. 1998; Pérez et al. 2011; Rodas et al. 2015), North America including Hawaii (Rayachhertry et al. 1997; Uchida et al. 2006), Japan (Kawanishi et al. 2009), China (Zhuang and Wei 2011), Australia (Carnegie et al. 2010), South Africa (Roux et al. 2013), New Caledonia (Giblin 2013) and most recently Indonesia (McTaggart et al. 2016a).

*Austropuccinia psidii* was first described on *Psidium guajava* from Brazil (Winter 1884). It caused several outbreaks on all-spice (*Pimenta dioica*) in Jamaica (MacLachlan 1938) and Florida (Marlatt and Kimbrough 1980) and was found in eucalypt plantations of Brazil in the 1930s (Joffily 1944). Infected eucalypt trees showed a reduction in height and diameter of approximately 25–35% (Silveira and Higashi 2003) and wood-volume losses of 41%

(Takahashi 2002). In Australia, *A. psidii* has brought several native species of Myrtaceae to the brink of extinction (Carnegie et al. 2016). Consequently, this rust is considered a global quarantine threat to commercially propagated and native trees (Tommerup et al. 2003; Glen et al. 2007; Roux et al. 2013; Wingfield et al. 2015; Burgess and Wingfield 2016).

The diversity of *A. psidii* has been examined using cross inoculation studies and a molecular approach with microsatellite markers. Inoculation studies showed there was intraspecific diversity in *A. psidii* when cross inoculations revealed variation of pathogenicity between isolates taken from *Pimenta dioica* and *S. jambos* (Marlatt and Kimbrough 1980). In other studies, *A. psidii* taken from *P. guajava* could not infect *S. jambos* nor *Eucalyptus* (Ferreira 1981; Ferreira 1983). Rayachhetry et al. (2001) tested two different isolates of *A. psidii* from *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and *P. dioica* that did not infect *S. jambos*. And Castro et al. (1983) and Coelho et al. (2001) showed there was variability in cross inoculations made between species of *Eucalyptus*, *Psidium* and *S. jambos*.

Molecular approaches to determine the diversity of *A. psidii* have mainly used microsatellite markers designed by Zhong et al. (2008). Zhong et al. (2011) showed that the Hawaiian population of *A. psidii* was a different genotype to samples collected from Florida and Brazil. Graça et al. (2011) found the genotype of *A. psidii* from California was the same as Hawaii. Ross-Davis et al. (2013) referred to this genotype as the “pandemic biotype”, which has spread through Pacific countries such as Australia, Indonesia and New Caledonia (Graça 2011; Machado et al. 2015; McTaggart et al. 2016a).

Other studies using microsatellite markers have shown there are host-associated lineages of *A. psidii* in Brazil on (i) *Psidium*, (ii) *Eucalyptus* and *S. jambos*, and (iii) *Eugenia*, *Myrciaria* and *Syzygium* (Graça et al. 2013). A genotype of *A. psidii* on *P. dioica* was different to the pandemic biotype and to other genotypes present in Brazil (Ross-Davis et al. 2013), and a unique genotype of *A. psidii* was reported in South Africa on native and exotic hosts (Roux et al. 2016). A number of recent reports worldwide indicate that at least two biotypes have spread globally (Graça et al. 2013; Ross-Davis et al. 2013; Roux et al. 2016).

*Austropuccinia psidii* (as *Uredo myrciae*) was first reported from Colombia in 1913 on *Myrcia* cf. *acumimata* (Major 1914; Simpson et al. 2006). Further reports on *S. jambos*, *Psidium* sp. and *Myrcia* sp. were all from the Antioquia Province and within 35 km of each other (Kern et al. 1933; Kern and Toro 1935). There were no new host reports between 1940 and 1995, until the rust was found on *Myrcia xylopioides* (Buriticá and Pardo-Cardona 1996). Then in 2010, typical symptoms of infection caused by *A. psidii* were found on ornamental trees of *Corymbia citriodora*, and a few months later on young *E. grandis* in plantations (Rodas et al. 2015). Yepes and Buriticá (2012) reported *A. psidii* on *Melaleuca citrina* (as *Callistemon citrinus*), and since 2012 it has regularly been detected on seedlings and clonal gardens of *Eucalyptus*. In recent years, reports of *A. psidii* on the commercially planted hybrid *E. “urograndis”* have increased (C. A. Rodas unpublished).

*Austropuccinia psidii* has spread in Colombia and poses a potential threat to the plantation forestry sector. Little is known regarding the distribution, host range and genetic diversity of the fungus in Colombia and this hampers breeding programmes to select disease tolerant

eucalypts. The aim of this study was to determine (i) which genotypes of *A. psidii* are present in Colombia on four host genera, including plantation-grown eucalypts, and (ii) whether the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* is present.

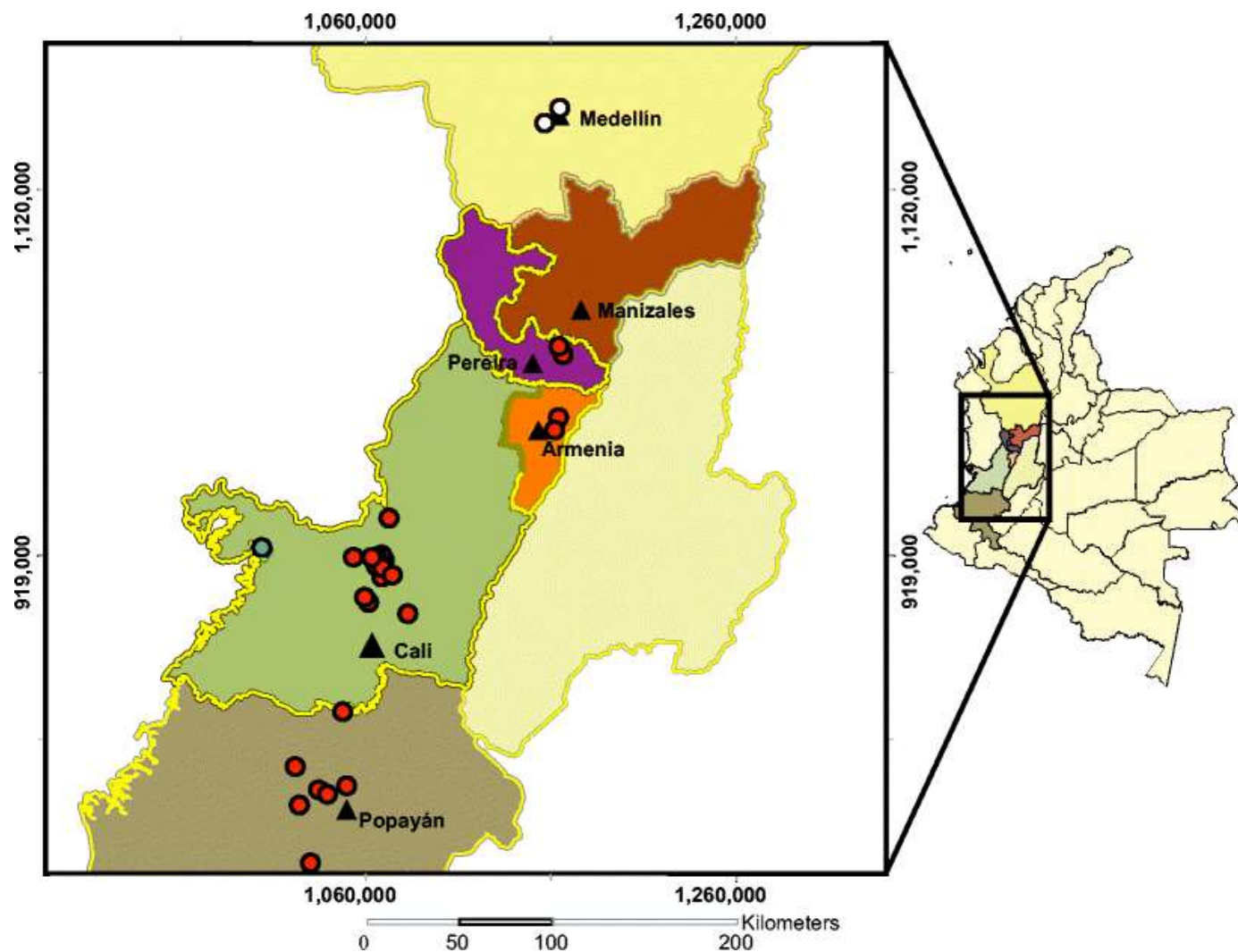
## **Materials and methods**

### *Disease distribution in Colombia*

The occurrence of *Austropuccinia psidii* on Myrtaceae in four provinces of Colombia was assessed between 2010 and 2015. Field surveys were conducted every three months throughout plantations of *Eucalyptus* and private farms. The surveys included 22 sites in the Risaralda, Quindío, Valle del Cauca and Cauca provinces (Figure 1). These sites were selected based on observations made by foresters who reported the possible presence of rust. Infection was assessed based on uredinial symptoms of *A. psidii* on young leaves.

### *Genotyping of Austropuccinia psidii*

Representative single-pustule isolates of *A. psidii* from the four surveyed Provinces of Colombia and five additional countries were included in the genotype analyses. These included single-pustule isolates from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Paraguay and South Africa, from different hosts (Table 1). The Australian isolates were from the same hosts and sampling sites used by Machado et al. (2015), who reported the pandemic biotype as the only biotype present in Australia. Based on this finding, the Australian samples were treated as the pandemic biotype, however, a direct comparison of the samples used in the present study was not made with those from Machado et al. (2015).



**Fig. 1.** Geographic distribution of *Austropuccinia psidii* in Colombia. Red dots represent the surveys. White dots are from first reports of *A. psidii* in the early 1920s from the Antioquia province. Additionally, the biggest Pacific Marine (Buenaventura) port close to the surveyed areas, which may serve as an entry point for pests and diseases, is marked on the map as a blue dot

**Table 1** Samples of *Austropuccinia psidii* from different hosts and countries used in this study

<b>Population (country)</b>	<b>Host*</b>	<b>Specimen number</b>
Australia (AUS)	<i>Backhousia citriodora</i> (1)	BRIP 63352
	<i>Gossia inophloia</i> (1)	BRIP 63351
	<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> (1)	BRIP 63350
	<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i> (1)	BRIP 63353
	<i>Rhodamnia sessiflora</i> (1)	BRIP 57793
Brazil (BRA)	<i>Psidium guajava</i> (1)	BRA08
	<i>Syzygium jambos</i> (7)	BRA01 - BRA07
Colombia (COL)	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> (2)	SKC-H 15-016/
	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> (12)	SKC-H 15-17/20/28-37/
	<i>Psidium guajava</i> (7)	SKC-H 15-18/21-22/38-40/42-43
	<i>Syzygium jambos</i> (8)	SKC-H 15-015/19/41/23-27
Indonesia (IND)	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> x <i>pellita</i> (1)	PREM 61284
	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> (2)	PREM 61282, PREM 61283
Paraguay (PAR)	<i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i> (1)	PAR06
	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> (2)	PAR03, PAR05
	<i>Eucalyptus</i> hybrids (3)	PAR01, PAR02, PAR04
South Africa (SA)	<i>Backhousia citriodora</i> (1)	SA124
	<i>Eugenia erethrophylla</i> (1)	SA145
	<i>Eugenia natalitia</i> (2)	SA065, SA171
	<i>Heteropyxis natalensis</i> (1)	SA146
	<i>Myrtus communis</i> (2)	SA155, SA156

\* number in parentheses indicates number of samples from each host. BRA = Isolate numbers collected from Brazil; BRIP = Queensland Plant Pathology Herbarium; PAR = Isolate numbers collected from Paraguay; PREM = South African National Fungus Collection; SA = Isolate numbers collected from South Africa; SKC-H = SmurfitKappa Forestry Health Protection Programme Herbarium.

Seven microsatellite loci were scored for samples of *A. psidii*. The seven microsatellite markers (EF523501, EF523502, EF523503, EF523504, EF523508, EF523511 and EF523513) were developed by Zhong et al. (2008) and modified by Graça et al. (2013). Genomic DNA was extracted from a single uredinium per host using the Ultraclean® Microbial DNA Isolation Kit (MoBio Laboratories, Carlsbad, California, USA). The markers were labelled with either NED™, FAM™, PET® or VIC™ fluorescent dye on the forward primer. PCR mixtures included 1x PCR Fast Taq Buffer with MgCl<sub>2</sub> (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA), 200 µM dNTPs, 0.1 µM primers, 1 unit Fast Taq DNA polymerase (Sigma-Aldrich) and DNA template in 12.5 µL reaction volumes. PCR products were amplified with the following conditions: one cycle at 95°C for 5 min, followed by three cycles at 95°C for 30s, 52–56°C (depending on the primer pair) for 30s, 72°C for 80s, 35 cycles at 94°C for 15s, 52–56°C (depending on the primer pair) for 15s and 45s at 72°C. Fragment analyses were performed using an ABI Applied Biosystems PRISM 3500xl (Life Technologies) at the Sequencing Facility of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of Pretoria. Samples were run with Liz500 (-250) size standard and scored with Genemapper® Software 4.1 (Applied Biosystems, Thermo Fischer Scientific, Carlsbad, USA).

#### *Data analyses*

#### *Clonal determination*

GENECLONE 2.0 was used to calculate the minimum, average and maximum multilocus genotypes (MLGs) present in the data set from each sampling area (Arnaud-Haond and Belkhir 2007; Arnaud-Haond et al. 2007). The frequency distribution of the calculated genetic distance (Nei 1978) was used to separate each MLG. Low genetic distance was



treated as an indication that samples belonged to the same “clonal lineage” or the same genetic individual (Arnaud-Haond and Belkhir 2007; Arnaud-Haond et al. 2007).

To determine whether identical MLGs occurred by chance or from distinct reproductive events given the allelic frequency within the population,  $P_{sex}$  was calculated using the “round robin” approach (Parks and Werth 1993). The software MLGsim 2.0 ([www.rug.nl/research/gelifes/tres/software](http://www.rug.nl/research/gelifes/tres/software)) (Stenberg et al. 2003) was used to estimate the statistical significance values for the  $P_{sex}$  probability using Monte Carlo simulation of each  $P_{sex}$  value. Simulations (10 000) were run to estimate a  $P$ -value for each MLG.  $P$ -values higher than 0.001 were considered significant.

#### *Population genetic indices*

The indices to determine diversity and heterozygosity were calculated from the whole data set. The Simpson Index of clonal diversity and evenness was obtained using GENECLONE 2.0 (Arnaud-Haond and Belkhir 2007). Clonal richness was estimated as  $R = (G - 1) / (N - 1)$  where  $G$  is the number of MLGs, and  $N$  the number of individuals (Dorken and Eckert 2001). The genotypic richness corresponded to the number of observed MLGs. The aggregation index estimated if the different MLGs belonged to the same lineage. The edge effect index tested whether clonal lineages were over represented based on the area sampled. All indices were calculated using GENECLONE 2.0 (Arnaud-Haond et al. 2007).

### *Population structure*

Isolation by distance (IBD) was used to determine if geographic distance and genetic distance present in the samples collected from the six different countries were correlated. A Mantel test was used to correlate the matrices generated from GenAlex V. 6.5, assuming 10 000 permutations (Peakall and Smouse 2006, 2012).

The isolates of *A. psidii* collected in six different countries of the Southern Hemisphere were clustered using two methods. Firstly, Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA), implemented in GenAIEx V. 6.5 (Peakall and Smouse 2006, 2012), was used to construct a covariance matrix based on genetic and geographic distance. The sample data consisted of isolates that represented different MLGs found per location. Adobe Illustrator was used to modify the graphics for presentation. The second method, a median-joining (MJ) network, constructed the relationships between MLGs of all isolates of *A. psidii*. This analysis was made in NETWORK V. 5.0 ([www.fluxus-engineering.com](http://www.fluxus-engineering.com)), implementing the default option (Bandelt et al. 1999). To identify the best shortest tree, the output file was subjected to post processing with Farri's Maximum Parsimony calculation that calculates all possible shortest trees (Farri 1970).

## **Results**

### *Disease distribution in Colombia*

Results of the survey showed that *A. psidii* occurred across a broad range of agroecological conditions in provinces of Colombia (Figure 1). These included high altitudes (1015–2116 m.a.s.l.) and across an approximate average temperature of 17–20 °C in the four surveyed Provinces. *Austropuccinia psidii* was confirmed from all 22 of the sites surveyed and

detected in one commercial plantation nursery in Valle del Cauca Province. It affected trees in young established plantations between six-months and three-years-old in 17 of the surveyed sites. Affected hosts included *C. citriodora*, *E. grandis*, the hybrid *E. urograndis*, *P. guajava* and *S. jambos* (Figure 1).

#### *Genotyping of Austropuccinia psidii*

A total of 58 isolates of *A. psidii* were genotyped, of which 29 were from Colombia. The seven microsatellite markers were polymorphic and three to six alleles were detected per locus among all samples (Table 2). A total of seven MLGs were detected for the 58 isolates of *A. psidii*. Two distinct MLGs were obtained from four host genera in Colombia. The genotype of *A. psidii* on *C. citriodora*, species of *Eucalyptus* and *S. jambos* from Colombia was identical to that of isolates from Australia and Indonesia at the seven tested microsatellite loci. These samples from Colombia represent the pandemic biotype. The second MLG in Colombia was of a unique genotype found only on *P. guajava*. This MLG is different to the MLG obtained on *P. guajava* in Brazil. Isolates from Brazil included four MLGs, one of which was shared with Paraguay. The seven isolates of *A. psidii* from South Africa had a genotype not found in any of the other samples tested, as described in Roux et al. (2016).

The recovered *Psex* values ( $P < 0.001$ ) indicated that identical MLGs of *A. psidii* used in the present study did not occur from independent sexual reproductive events. This is an indication that the studied samples were from different clonal populations because clonal richness values were low at  $R = 0.105$ .

**Table 2** Allele sizes of microsatellite markers of *Austropuccinia psidii* from seven different countries. Bold allele sizes correspond to *Psidium guajava* isolates

Country	Allele Size						
	EF523501	EF523502	EF523503	EF523504	EF523508	EF523511	EF523513
Australia	230, 236	207, 211	170, 172	158, 160	140, 140	276, 290	214, 214
Brazil	234, 240	207, 211	170, 172	154, 158	142, 142	276, 290	214, 214
	234, 240	207, 211	170, 172	154, 162	142, 142	276, 290	214, 214
	234, 240	207, 211	170, 170	154, 158	142, 142	276, 290	214, 214
	<b>230, 238</b>	<b>207, 207</b>	<b>170, 170</b>	<b>150, 150</b>	<b>142, 142</b>	<b>276, 288</b>	<b>212, 214</b>
Colombia	230, 236	207, 211	170, 172	158, 160	140, 140	276, 290	214, 214
	<b>230, 244</b>	<b>209, 215</b>	<b>172, 172</b>	<b>154, 154</b>	<b>140, 144</b>	<b>260, 300</b>	<b>214, 218</b>
Indonesia	230, 236	207, 211	170, 172	158, 160	140, 140	276, 290	214, 214
Paraguay	234, 240	207, 211	170, 170	154, 158	142, 142	276, 290	214, 214
South Africa	234, 238	205, 213	165, 174	150, 154	140, 142	270, 288	212, 212

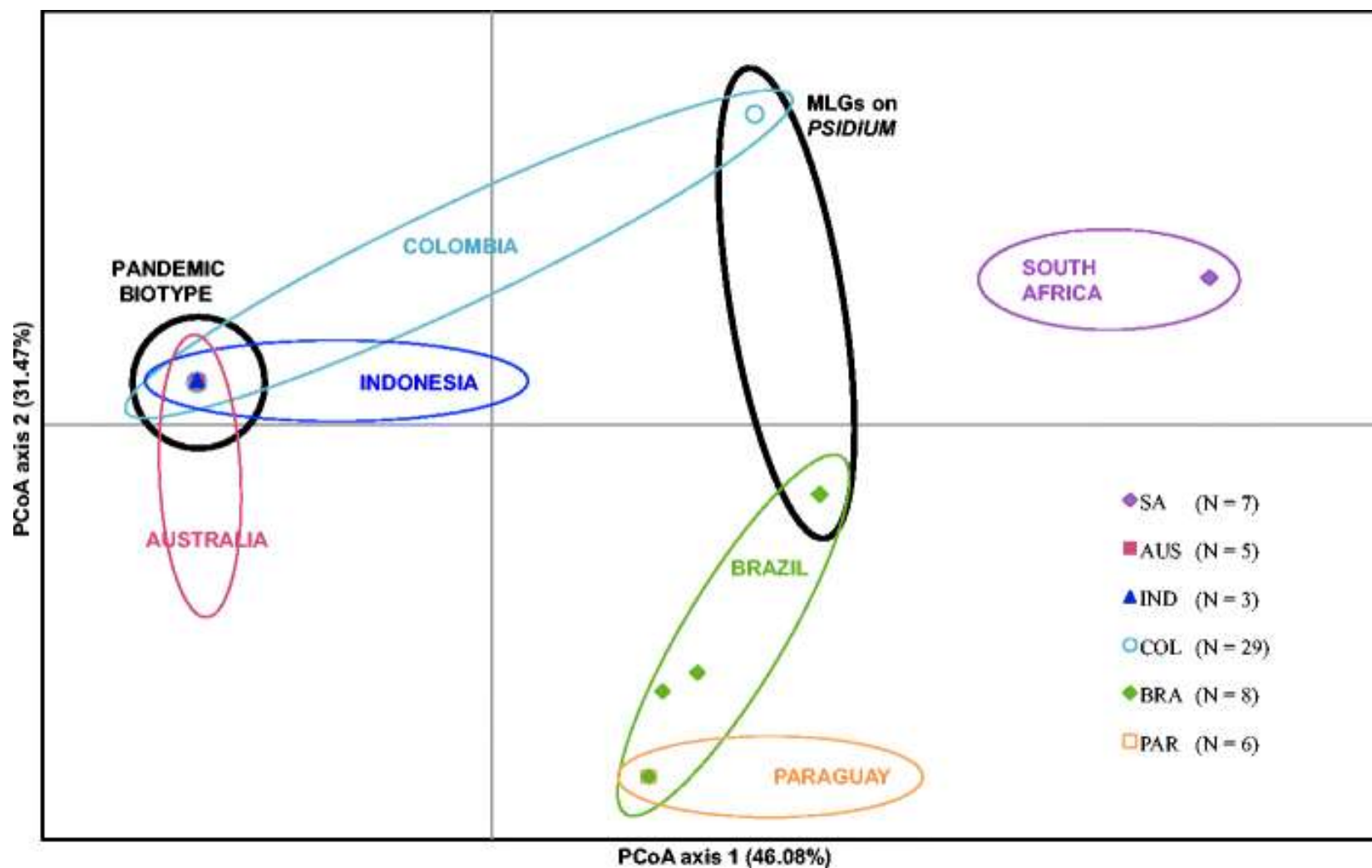
### *Population genetic indexes*

The genotypic richness of *A. psidii* was seven, which corresponded to the number of studied MLGs. Samples from Brazil had the highest genetic diversity with four MLGs present on two host species. The clonal heterogeneity represented by the Simpson Index in this study was 0.664, with a medium probability that two individuals selected at random from the sample would belong to the same genotype. The maximum probability that this could occur was 0.691.

The aggregation and edge effect indices rejected the probability that neighboring samples did not differ on average from the global and Multi Locus Lineages ( $P < 0.001$ ). This provides an indication that there is no correlation between the distance of the samples and the genotype or genetic distance obtained. IBD results were weak and non-significant ( $r^2 = 0.0057$ ,  $P = 0.156$ ) and showed that the IBD model does not apply to these results. The geographic distance among the isolates suggested a Long Distance Dispersal (LDD) model for the spread of *A. psidii* across the Southern Hemisphere.

### *Population structure*

The PCoA analyses revealed the MLGs differed among countries without differentiation by host. The two axes explained 77.6% of the observed variation based on a covariance matrix. The first axis explained 46.1% of variation and the second axis explained the remaining 31.5%. Seven distinct groups were observed (Figure 2). The first group included the isolates from Colombia (*C. citriodora*, *E. grandis* and *S. jambos*), Australia and Indonesia, known as the pandemic biotype. The second group included the isolates from *P. guajava* in Colombia. The third, fourth and fifth groups included isolates from Brazil on *S.*



**Fig. 2.** Principal Coordinates Analysis of 58 isolates of *Austropuccinia psidii* from different hosts in the Southern Hemisphere. The two axes explain 77.55% of the observed variation based in a covariance matrix with data standardization. Purple diamonds correspond to the South African (SA) samples, red squares to the Australian isolates (AUS), blue triangles to Indonesia (IND) and light blue circles to Colombian isolates (COL). Brazil (BRA) is represented by green diamonds and orange squares are Paraguayan isolates (PAR). Each country contains the number of isolates (N). Black circles indicate the pandemic biotype and the genotypes of *A. psidii* on *Psidium*



**Fig. 3.** Graphic representation of the different populations of *A. psidii* and their location. **a** Median-joining network of 58 isolates of *A. psidii*, the size of the circles is proportional to the frequency of different Multilocus genotypes (MLG), the colour represents each of the sampling sites. **b** Map of the Southern Hemisphere showing the *A. psidii* collection sites. \*refers to the isolates of *P. guajava* exclusively from Colombia. \*\*represents the isolate of *P. guajava* from Brazil

*jambos* with three MLGs, one of which was shared with Paraguay. The sixth group included the isolate on *P. guajava* from Brazil. The seventh group included the MLG from South Africa. Furthermore, the MJ network provided similar results to the PCoA, where the pandemic biotype was the most dominant MLG and included isolates from Australia, Colombia and Indonesia (Figure 3).

## **Discussion**

Studies on global populations of *A. psidii* have recorded a pandemic biotype present in areas of the Pacific, including Australia, California, China, Hawaii, Indonesia, Japan and New Caledonia (Ross-Davis et al. 2013; Machado et al. 2015). Results of the present study provide the first report of the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* from South America. This is particularly interesting because South America has been suggested as the most likely centre of diversity of the pathogen (Joffily 1944; Coutinho et al. 1998; Glen et al. 2007; Zhong et al. 2011). The origin of the pandemic biotype is unknown, but Graça et al. (2013) determined that it most likely did not spread from the populations on *Eucalyptus* and *S. jambos*, or guava, in Brazil. The hosts of the pandemic biotype in Colombia are *C. citriodora*, *E. grandis* and *S. jambos*. The pandemic biotype has caused minor symptoms on species of *Eucalyptus* in Australia but very serious damage to various other species of Myrtaceae (Carnegie 2014). *Eucalyptus* trees were infected at 17 of the surveyed sites in the present study, but disease incidence was not assessed. Consequently, it is not possible to make conclusions regarding the threat of the disease to *Eucalyptus* plantation forestry in Colombia. Our results do, however, show that *Eucalyptus* may be at risk from the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* if high levels of disease incidence occur in the field. This could have



implications for management of the disease in Colombia and elsewhere in the world where *Eucalyptus* and the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* co-occur.

Two genotypes of *A. psidii* in Colombia were recovered from 29 isolates. These included the pandemic biotype and a unique genotype on *P. guajava*. The genotype of *A. psidii* on guava has not been found in other studies and is the second known genotype on *P. guajava* in the native range of this host. The difference between the genotypes of *A. psidii* on guava in Brazil and Colombia could be explained by the natural, allopatric barrier of the Amazon jungle, which provides a 4 700 km buffer from admixture between populations.

*Austropuccinia psidii* has been known from Colombia for over a century (Major 1914; Kern et al. 1933; Kern et al. 1935). Despite intensive surveys of *Eucalyptus* and *S. jambos* since 1993, it was not found to cause conspicuous infections on these trees until 2010, when it was observed in plantations by Rodas et al. (2015). There are two possible hypotheses for the presence of the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* in Colombia. One possibility is that this genotype is native to Colombia and is the result of a host shift from native to non-native species of Myrtaceae. Alternatively the pandemic genotype is a recent introduction to Colombia.

If the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* is native to Colombia, it could have evolved with a native plant. This would be a plausible hypothesis because Central and South America are the likely centers of diversity for *A. psidii* and the probable origin of all genotypes of the pathogen. There are several host-associated genotypes of *A. psidii* reported by Graça et al. (2013) on *Eugenia* and *Syzygium*, and a previously unknown genotype on *P. guajava* is

reported in the present study. It is probable that different genotypes of *A. psidii* are host-specific and that they evolved on native South American taxa, which are largely species in the Myrteae. Naïve genera of Myrteae such as *Rhodamnia* and *Rhodomyrtus* in Australia and other countries are highly susceptible hosts and most at risk (Pegg et al. 2014; Carnegie et al. 2016). It is plausible that many other host-associated genotypes of *A. psidii* will be detected in the future and these could be the source of the pandemic biotype. The hypothesis is supported because there was no correlation between location, genotype or genetic distance in the present study. It could thus be an indication of local adaptation and reproductive isolation of *A. psidii* on its hosts (Giraud et al. 2006). Barrès et al. (2008) suggested that when IBD is not significant, plant pathogens might have adapted locally to their host plants. This applies if recombination and selection occur on the same host. If this is the case, genetic diversity of *A. psidii* will be shaped by the location of different species of host plants rather than by geographic distances among the genotypes. However, the fact that the pandemic biotype was not observed to cause severe symptoms on the exotic and highly susceptible *S. jambos* in Colombia until 2010 (Rodas et al. 2015) does not support the hypothesis that this biotype is from Colombia.

The hypothesis that the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* represents a recent introduction into Colombia must be considered. In this case, the distance between one of the most important trade ports and the site where *A. psidii* was first recorded on *C. citriodora* is approximately 94 km. This would be a possible entry point from the Pacific. While quarantine measures are enforced, failures of biosecurity programs globally have resulted in the entry of many pests and diseases of planted forests (Wingfield et al. 2015), and this would also be possible for the pandemic biotype in Colombia.

The presence of the pandemic biotype of *A. psidii* in Colombia on plantation-grown species of *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus* could have repercussions for commercial forestry. The genotype of *A. psidii* on *Eucalyptus* in Brazil has been an important constraint to forestry in the past, but it has not been reported outside of that country. The discovery of a second genotype of *A. psidii* from these trees on the South American continent emphasizes the importance of applying more effective quarantine for *Eucalyptus* and related plants in Myrtaceae. This should include assessing the risk of a pathogen based on its genotype (McTaggart et al. 2016c) and developing a global collaborative strategy (Wingfield et al. 2015) to limit the spread of this rust.

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