



**Figure S13:** Germination of *C. zeina* conidia *in vitro* and after maize leaf inoculation. **(I)** Light microscopy of ungerminated conidium (C) in water at 0 h (40X). **(II)** Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image of ungerminated *C. zeina* conidium (C) on a maize leaf surface at 3 hours post inoculation (hpi), stomata (ST) near the conidium is indicated with arrow. **(III)** Light microscopy of germinating conidium (C) with germ tube (GT) extended from germinated conidia in water at 24 h (40X). **(IV)** Scanning electron microscopy image of germinated *C. zeina* conidium (C) on a maize leaf surface at 16 hpi, germ tubes (GT) showed positive tropism towards the plant stomata (ST).