

A Hierarchical Zero-Inflated Gamma Analysis of Chemical Efficacy on Soil-Borne Pathogens in Soybean

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Abstract

Soybean is a major food and oilseed crop which is valued for its high protein content and use in both human and livestock diets. Decrease in the yield of soybeans in the United States, particularly in Nebraska stirred the need to investigate the potential cause and effective management strategies. This study investigated the efficacy of chemical applications in controlling soil-borne pathogens of soybean and look at the tolerance of the various pathogens to fungicide at different dose level. Four fungal pathogens (*Diaporthe longicolla*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium solani*, and *Rhizoctonia solani*) were exposed to five fungicide treatments (De-laroComplete, Endura, Quadris, Topguard, and Topguard EQ) at various concentration levels in a growth medium (petri dish). The semicontinuous, positively skewed radial growth rate of pathogens were modelling using a zero-inflated gamma model with a split-plot design, with split-plot factor nested in whole-plot. Results showed effective fungal control depends on both selecting the right treatment and optimizing dose for the specific species involved.

Keywords

Soybean; Soil-borne pathogens; Fungicides; In vitro; Radial growth; Resistance

Project Reflection

On Thursday, February 13, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM, I had my initial meeting with my client Kelvin Muchiri. He is currently a Master's student working at the department of plant pathology and his advisor is Garcia-Aroca Teddy. He is interested in investigating the efficacy of chemical applications in controlling soil-borne pathogens of soybean.

The client indicated on the google form that they are interested in performing a two-way ANOVA and Tukey-HSD tests for their data on investigating the efficacy of chemical applications in controlling soil-borne pathogens of soybean. To be able to follow the prepare section of the POWER process, I mailed the client to ask for their dataset and some information on their previously done analysis prior to meeting since they indicated they have initially conducted some analysis on the data. This helped with getting prepared for our meeting and also helped implement the PREPARE stage of the power process.

During the open phase, we began by introducing ourselves and took some few minutes to establish rapport between my-

self and the domain expert. Also, before I asked them to give me a more detailed explanation of their project again, we briefly discussed their deadlines, their expectations and I also took the time to explain how I'm going to be helping on the project, after which we transitioned into the work phase. I believe this phase was quite helpful as it kind of set a collaborative and welcoming tone which made the domain expert feel more comfortable.

During the main part of the consultation, which is the work phase, I asked the domain expert to give me detailed explanation of how they conducted the experiment again as it would help me in determining the right approach to model their data. The domain expert ability to clearly provide a pictorial representation of their design was very helpful as it made me see exactly what was going on in their experiment. While describing his experiment, I noticed he had some nested structure he was not aware of and also his dataset contains a lot of zero's which he also was not bothered about. So I had to explain what a crossed and nested structure is and also asked more question about the information the zero-values were providing. The domain expert showed flexibility and willingness to collaborate, as they were open to suggestions with regards to analyzing their dataset in alignment with the way their experiment was designed. Their consistent engagement, insightful questions and calling my attention to explain what they do not understand reflected their trust in our expertise and a readiness to co-work with me on the analysis. After the initial meeting a document summarizing the experiment objectives and design was sent to the domain experts in order to be sure everyone is aware of the work we've gotten so far and so to ask some other questions that came up when I was reflecting on our meeting.

In general, I had an amazing experience working on this project with the domain-expert. Having the opportunity to collaborate directly with domain experts was a really great experience. I learned so much just listening to them explain their research approach and methodology. It was fascinating to see how they conducted their work in practice. Being part of a real-world project rather than just theoretical exercises really deepened my understanding and made the whole experience worthwhile.

Introduction

Soybeans is a food and oilseed crop which is rich in both protein and edible oil. It is a major source of protein for both human and livestock but is prone to many disease that could

cause a significant decrease in yield. As reported by Navi and Rajasab (2016) in their paper, in 2013, soybean was grown in 70 countries with an annual production of 268 million metric tons with United states (31%), Brazil (31%) and Argentina (19%) being the highest producer of soybeans. However, report from the USDA website showed that in 2024/2025 (Marketing Year 2024 from September – August), Brazil is currently the largest producer of soybeans with about 169 million metric tons, followed by USA with about 118.84 million metric tons and the third largest producer is Argentina with 49 Million metric tons. The production from these three countries makes up 80% of the global population of soybeans around the world with 40% from Brazil, 28% from USA, and 12% from Argentina (USDA 2025). This reduction in yield of soybeans varies over the years as there are many factors that could affect grain yields and some of them include environment, production practices, and a variety's susceptibility to disease (Allen et al. 2023). In 2022, About 3 out of 4 the soybeans production in the United States comes from the northern states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and all of these states jointly has a yield loss of 71.3% of the total soybeans loss in 2022. Seedling diseases due to Fusarium, Pythium, Phomopsis and Rhizoctonia are one of the major causes of soybeans loss in 2022 (Allen et al. 2023). Despite the advancements in soybean cultivation practices, plant pathogens continues to limit soybean yields. According to farm journal, the following soil-borne fungal pathogens (Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, and Phytophthora) are some of the major causes of seedlings blights in soybeans and they are attributed to the loss of about 6 million bushels of soybeans in the United State and Canada in 2023 (Farm Journal 2025).

In Nebraska, the largest producer of beef and pork, Soybeans is one of the major ingredient used in the beef and pork production. However, Nebraska experiences an estimated annual loss exceeding 9 million bushels due to pathogenic organisms (CropWatch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln n.d.). According to Navi and Rajasab (2016), several fungal pathogens such as Colletotrichum truncatum, Fusarium virguliforme, Macrophomina phaseolina, Pythium irregulare, Rhizoctonia solani, and Sclerotinia sclerotiorum, are major contributors to soybean seedling diseases, which leads to decrease in soybeans yield. Their study evaluated the efficacy the following fungicides: Foliar fungicides picoxystrobin (Aproach®), fluoxastrobin (Evito), pyraclostrobin (Headline EC) and azoxystrobin (Quadris), pyraclostrobin + fluxapyroxad (Priaxor), trifloxystrobin + prothioconazole (Stratego YLD), and fluxapyroxad (Sercadis) on the following pathogens: Colletotrichum truncatum (CT), Fusarium virguliforme (FV), Macrophomina phaseolina (MP), Pythium irregulare (PI), Rhizoctonia solani (RS), Sclerotinia sclerotiorum (SS), Septoria glycines (SG) using an in vitro culture plug method. The result showed that, all of the fungicide except Sercadis reduced the growth of CT isolates. Headline EC, Priaxor, and Stratego YLD significantly reduced the growth of Fusarium virguliforme (FV), Macrophomina phaseolina (MP), Rhizoctonia solani (RS), and Sclerotinia

sclerotiorum (SS). Sercadis was very effective against Rhizoctonia solani (RS) while Aproach and Quadris were effective against Fusarium virguliforme (FV). The objective of this study is to investigate the efficacy of chemical applications in controlling soil-borne pathogens of soybean and to look at the tolerance of the various pathogens to fungicide at different dose level.

Materials and Method

This experiment was conducted to determine the effectiveness of fungicides against soil-borne pathogens in soybeans. The fungicide was incorporated into the growth medium (petri dish) to ensure homogeneous distribution of this chemical across the different fungal species. To achieve this, data were collected based on the species of pathogens (isolates), different types of fungicide treatments, and at varying dose levels. This setup was designed to mimic how different fungicides would react with the pathogens in natural soil conditions.

Experimental Design Details

The following isolates (species) were used in this study: Diaporthe longicolla, Fusarium oxysporum, Fusarium solani and Rhizoctonia solani. Also, the following fungicide was used: DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop), Endura 1 active ingredients (Boscalid), Quadris 1 active ingredients (Azoxystrobin), Topguard 1 active ingredient (Flutriafol), and Topguard EQ 2 active ingredient (Flut+Azoxys) Each of the fungicide treatments got 3 levels of doses (Dose in mg/ml) with one control. Each fungicide treatment had 3 levels of doses plus one control (no fungicide).

Table 1: Fungicide active ingredients and their dose levels (mg/ml).

Fungicide	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3	Control
Proth+Trif+Fluop	6.292	0.6292	0.06292	0
Boscalid	4.011	0.4011	0.04011	0
Azoxystrobin	6.1036	0.61036	0.061036	0
Flutriafol	5.7975	0.57975	0.057975	0
Flut+Azoxys	4.9128	0.49128	0.049128	0

Response Variable: Radial growth rate of pathogens was measured in the presence and absence (dose = 0) of fungicides. Each petri dish had 4 measurements (radial growth), which indicates that fungi often grow unevenly, so taking multiple measurements improves precision.

Table 2: Skeleton ANOVA (Split-Plot Factor Nested in Whole-plot factor)

Source of Variation	df
Treatment	(5-1) = 4
Dose(Treatment)	(4-1)*5 = 15
Species	(4-1) = 3
Treatment*Species	(5-1)*(4-1) = 12
Species*Dose(Treatment)	3*15 = 45
Error(Dish(Dose*Species*Treatment))	(3-1)*(4*4*5) = 160

The model specification is given as:

$$\text{Avg_Measurement} = \text{Species} \times \text{Treatments} + (1|\text{Dose:Treatments}) + (1|\text{Species:Dose:Treatments}) \quad (1)$$

Where:

- Species \times Treatments is the fixed effects interaction which enables us to determine how different fungal species respond to different fungicide treatments.
- (1|Dose:Treatments): This nested structure accounts for random variability due to different doses within each treatment.
- (1|Species:Dose:Treatments): This nested structure accounts for the random variation in species responses within specific dose-treatment combinations.

Two-Part Model (Zero-Inflated Gamma)

We model the growth of the fungus (mix of zero and positive values) using the two-part model as shown below:

$$f(y) = (1 - \pi)I(y = 0) + \pi G_{\theta}(y|y > 0) \quad (2)$$

Where $\pi = \text{logit}(x\beta) = \log\left(\frac{x\beta}{1+x\beta}\right)$, representing the parameters used in modeling the probability of fungal growth greater than zero. $G_{\theta}(y|y > 0)$ follows a Gamma (α, β) distribution with α as the shape parameter, and β as the scale parameter. The zero-inflated gamma distribution is given as ZIGamma(π, α, β), where π is the probability that the fungus dies ($y = 0$), while α and β provide information about the gamma distribution for the non-zero part of the model. For the zero-inflated gamma model, the probability that the fungus does not die is modeled using logistic regression, while the distribution of the non-zero growth is modelled using the gamma distribution with a log-link (Mills 2013). Figure 1 shows the histogram of the average fungal measurements. The distribution is right-skewed, with a high concentration of observations clustered at lower growth values.

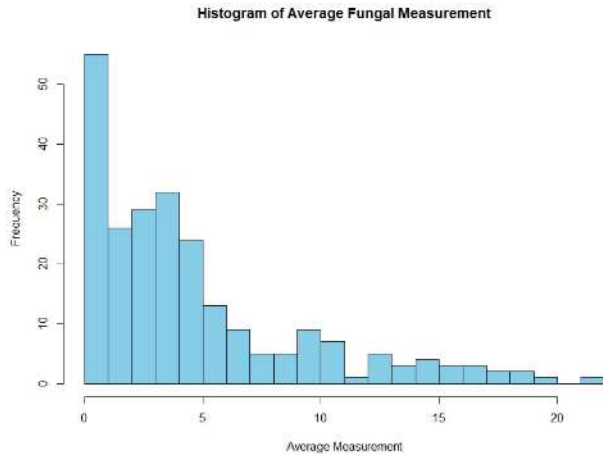


Figure 1: Average Radial growth by Treatment

Model Structure

This study used a zero-inflated Gamma model to examine the effects of species and treatments on the average fungal growth (positive continuous measurements with an excess of zeros), while also accounting for the nested structure of dose. This model was fitted using the glmmTMB package in R. - The

nonzero part (positive fungal growth) was modelled using a Gamma distribution - The zero-inflated part which models the probability of an observation being structurally zero was modelled using a logistic regression. The gamma component consists of the main effect of species and treatment, interaction between species and treatment and Random effects for dose nested within treatment. The zero-inflated component includes only the intercept, assuming a constant probability of excess zeros across groups.

$$Y_{ijkl} \sim \text{Zero inflated Gamma}(\pi_{ijkl}, \alpha, \beta), \text{ where} \quad (3)$$

- $\text{Log}(E[Y_{ijkl}|Y_{ijkl} > 0]) = \mu + \text{Species}_i + \text{Treatment}_j + (\text{Species} \times \text{Treatment})_{ij} + (1|\text{Dose} : \text{Treatment}) + (1|\text{Species} : \text{Dose} : \text{Treatment})$
- $\text{Logit}(\pi_{ijkl}) = \beta_0$
- $\epsilon_{ijkl} \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

Where:

- Y_{ijkl} is the average measurement for the i th species, j th fungicide treatment, k th dose and l th dish
- μ is the baseline log mean fungal growth
- ϵ_{ijkl} is the overall error term
- β_0 is the intercept for the zero-inflation model

Exploratory Analysis

The individual measurement by treatments plot (Appendix) shows the distribution of fungal growth across different treatments. Since fungus spreads out like a circle as it grows, four measurements were taken: from the center to the top (measurement 1), center to the right (measurement 2), center to bottom (measurement 3), and center to the left (measurement 4). This figure shows that the mean growth across the various measurements was similar across directions, thus we took the average of the four values for each experimental unit. Figure 2 shows the average fungal growth across different treatments. Quadris 1 active ingredient has the highest average fungal growth followed by Endura 1 active ingredient, Topguard EQ 2 active ingredient, and Topguard 1 active ingredient.

As also observed in the average measurements by treatment plot (appendix), Quadris 1 active ingredient (Azoxystrobin) showed the highest median fungal growth and the greatest variability, suggesting that this treatment was less effective in fungal control compared to the other treatments. Endura 1 active ingredient (Boscalid) had the next highest median growth but exhibited slightly less variability. Topguard 1 active ingredient (Flutriafol), Topguard EQ 2 active ingredients (Flutriafol + Azoxystrobin), and DelaroComplete 3 active ingredients (Prothioconazole + Trifloxystrobin + Fluopyram) had lower median fungal growth, which suggests better overall control of fungal spread.

Figure 3 shows the average fungal growth across species. Fusarium oxysporum grows the highest, followed by Rhizoctonia solani, Fusarium solani, and Diaporthe longicolla. Figure 6 confirms that Fusarium oxysporum has the highest

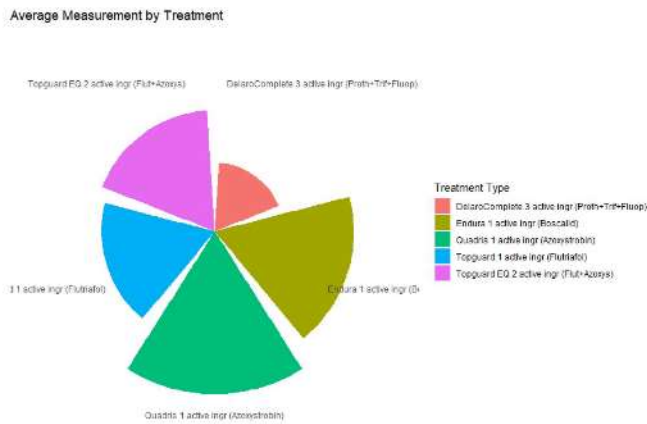


Figure 2: Average Radial growth by Treatment

growth under the experimental conditions, while *Diaporthe longicolla* has the least. Also, the individual measurement by treatments plot (Appendix) shows the distribution of fungal growth across different species. As observed in the average measurements by treatment plot (appendix), the mean growth across the various measurements was similar across directions.

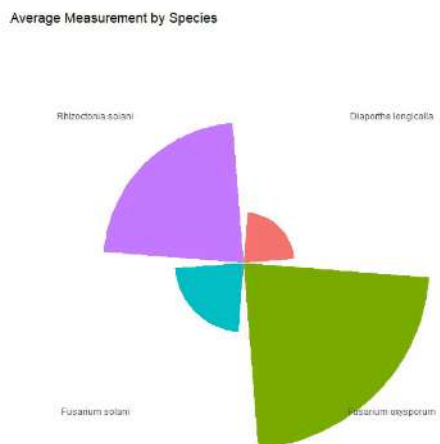


Figure 3: Average Radial growth by Species

Figure 4 shows the distribution of average fungal growth measurements across different fungicide dose levels, split by fungal species. For *Diaporthe longicolla*, the following doses: 6.292, 5.7975, 4.9128, 0.6292, 0.57975, 0.49128, 0.06292, and 0.057975, resulted in complete inhibition of fungal growth (growth = 0). For *Fusarium solani*, the doses of 6.292, 0.6292, and 0.06292 completely inhibited fungal development. However, *Fusarium oxysporum* showed resistance to fungicide treatments across all dose levels. Similar resistance was observed for *Rhizoctonia solani*.

Figure 5 shows the distribution of average fungal growth across different fungicide dose levels, split by fungicide treatment. This plot highlights the nested structure

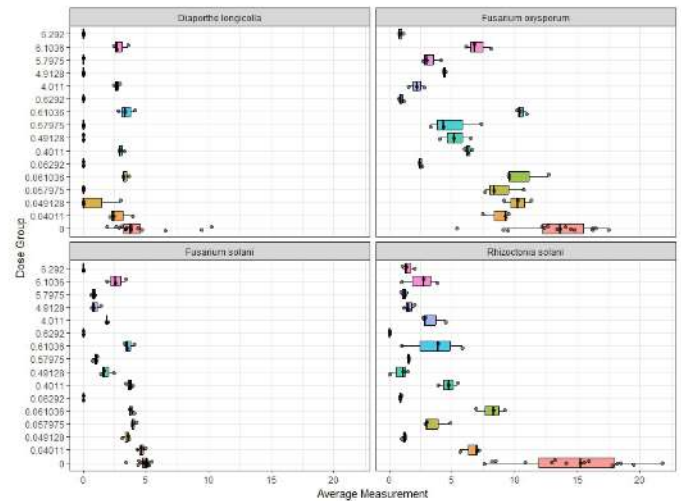
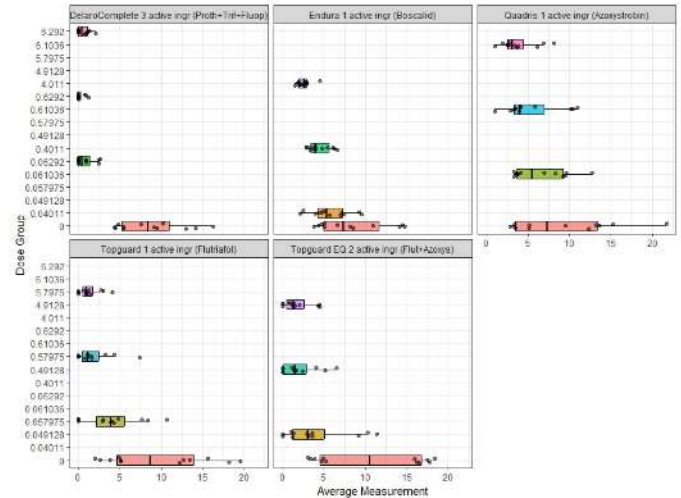


Figure 4: Fungal Growth by Dose and Species

of dose within treatment. Across all treatments, fungal growth decreased with increasing fungicide dose levels.



Advanced Analysis

The major goal of performing this experiment is to determine the effectiveness of fungicides against resistant pathogens.

Random Effect Structure:

This part of the result shows the nested structure variability in both the conditional and the zero-inflated model.

Conditional Model Variance Components: These results show the variability in the pathogen growth for dose nested in treatment and for species crossed with treatment nested within dose. The variation in pathogen growth due to the random effect of dose nested within treatments is 0.3823, while the variation due to the random effect of species crossed with treatments nested within dose is 0.1007.

Fixed Effect Structure

The ANOVA table shows the effect of species, treatments, and their interaction for the gamma regression section of the zero-inflated model. The results indicate a marginally significant


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Random effects:
Conditional model:
Groups          Name          Variance Std.Dev.
Dose:Treatments (Intercept) 0.3823   0.6183
Species:Dose:Treatments (Intercept) 0.1007   0.3173
Number of obs: 239, groups: Dose:Treatments, 20; Species:Dose:Treatments, 80
Dispersion estimate for Gamma family (sigma^2): 0.0586

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Figure 5: Radial growth by Species

interaction between species and treatment ($p > 0.05$). We investigated further to determine which treatment and species combinations differ in growth. Table 3 shows the interaction between fungal species and different treatments with respect to their average growth. The results revealed a statistically significant interaction between *Fusarium oxysporum* species and Azoxystrobin treatments ($p = 0.0115$).

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Analysis of Deviance Table (Type III Wald chisquare tests)

Response: Avg_Measurement
              Chisq Df Pr(>Chisq)
(Intercept)    1.6882  1    0.19384
Species         1.9564  3    0.58150
Treatments      4.8059  4    0.30780
Species:Treatments 18.7860 12   0.09382
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Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

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Figure 6: ANOVA for Fixed Effects

Table 4 shows the significant pairwise comparisons between species and treatment combinations. Some key findings include:

- *Diaporthe longicolla* showed 0.33 times lower average growth compared to *Fusarium oxysporum* under Azoxystrobin treatment
- *Fusarium oxysporum* showed 2.741 times higher average growth compared to *Fusarium solani* under Azoxystrobin treatment
- *Fusarium oxysporum* under Azoxystrobin treatment showed 9.412 times higher average growth compared to *Diaporthe longicolla* under Flutriafol treatment
- *Diaporthe longicolla* growth was 0.159 times lower than *Fusarium oxysporum* growth under Flutriafol treatment
- *Fusarium oxysporum* growth was 3.26 times greater than *Fusarium solani* growth when treated with Flutriafol

Table 5 shows the Best Linear Unbiased Predictor (BLUP) for the random factor (dose nested within treatment). The BLUP result describes the effect of each level of the nested structure on average fungal growth. The value and sign describe the size and direction of the effect respectively. The result from the BLUP output below shows that the highest predicted fungal growth per each of the treatment was observed when dose was equal to zero. At dose = 0, the treatment DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop) has the highest predicted fungal growth (BLUP = 1.41), followed by Topguard 1 active ingr (Flutriafol) (BLUP = 0.98), Topguard EQ 2 active ingr (Flut+Azoxys) (BLUP = 0.92), Endura 1 active ingr (Boscalid) (BLUP = 0.46), and Quadris 1

active ingr (Azoxystrobin) (BLUP = 0.33). For DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop) treatment, increasing the dose showed a decreasing trend in the BLUP values, suggesting that higher doses for this treatment is associated with a reduced fungal growth. For Endura 1 active ingr (Boscalid), the predicted average growth at dose of 0.04011 is 0.13 i.e. the fungal are predicted to grow by 0.13 for the 0.04011: Boscalid dose treatment combination, however increasing the dosage to 0.4011 and 4.011 showed a decrease in the average growth of the fungal. For Quadris 1 active ingr (Azoxystrobin), Topguard 1 active ingr (Flutriafol), and Topguard EQ 2 active ingr (Flut+Azoxys), we also observed an increase in the predicted growth of fungus for the second dose level. However, the third and fourth level showed a decrease in the predicted growth of fungus.

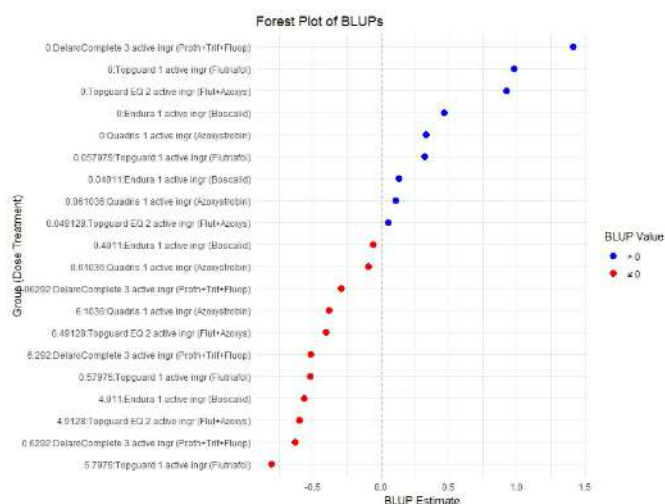


Figure 7: Fungal Growth by Dose and Treatment

A Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) was conducted to estimate the random effects of Species crossed with Dose nested within Treatment, on fungal growth (Table 6). For *Diaporthe longicolla*, increasing growth was predicted for high dose of Endura 1 active, and Quadris 1 active, low dose of Topguard EQ2 and medium dose of Quadris 1 active. Stable growth was predicted for high and medium dose of DelaroComplete, Topguard 1 active, Topguard EQ 1, low and control dose of DelaroComplete and Toguard 1 active. Other dose treatment combination for this species saw a decreasing growth. Here, the DelaroComplete (Proth+Trif+Fluop) and Topguard (Flutriafol) treatment showed little decrease with values close to zero in BLUP estimates for dose 0 while for other dose, fungus growth neither increase nor decrease. This suggests that fungal growth under this treatment remained relatively stable when the dose was increased. Endura (Boscalid) showed the highest positive BLUP at dose 4.011 (BLUP = 0.298), indicating increased fungal growth at this dose compared to lower concentrations. However, at lower doses (0.00, 0.04011 and 0.4011), the BLUP estimates were negative, suggesting a decrease in fungal growth. Quadris (Azoxystrobin) demonstrated negative BLUP estimates at lower doses (BLUP = -0.282 at dose 0 and -0.063 at dose 0.061) but increased at higher doses (BLUP = 0.12 and 0.22 at 0.61036 and 6.1036

Table 3: Interaction between Species and Treatments on Average Growth

Species	Treatments	df	Avg Growth	SE	LCL	UCL	p
Diaporthe longicolla	(Proth+Trif+Fluop)	3	1.96	1.01	0.711	5.38	0.4564
Fusarium oxysporum	(Proth+Trif+Fluop)	3	2.2	1.0	0.614	4.081	0.3657
Fusarium solani	(Proth+Trif+Fluop)	3	1.2	0.618	0.435	3.29	0.8737
Rhizoctonia solani	(Proth+Trif+Fluop)	3	2.05	0.778	0.975	4.31	0.3553
Diaporthe longicolla	(Boscalid)	1	3.27	1.1	1.651	6.5	0.9614
Fusarium oxysporum	(Boscalid)	1	6.52	1.31	3.255	10.65	0.1217
Fusarium solani	(Boscalid)	1	5.63	1.3	2.85	10.2	0.1703
Rhizoctonia solani	(Boscalid)	1	5.61	1.19	2.874	11.27	0.2824
Diaporthe longicolla	(Azoxystrobin)	1	3.27	1.1	1.631	6.55	0.9614
Fusarium oxysporum	(Azoxystrobin)	1	9.9	3.51	4.941	19.83	0.0115
Fusarium solani	(Azoxystrobin)	1	3.61	1.28	1.803	7.24	0.8737
Rhizoctonia solani	(Azoxystrobin)	1	5.99	2.2	1.184	11.99	0.1632
Diaporthe longicolla	(Flutriafol)	1	1.05	0.52	0.399	2.77	0.5177
Fusarium oxysporum	(Flutriafol)	1	6.61	2.34	2.3	13.25	0.0894
Fusarium solani	(Flutriafol)	1	3.9	0.77	2.03	6.4	0.3336
Rhizoctonia solani	(Flutriafol)	1	1.92	0.646	0.905	4.04	0.2261
Diaporthe longicolla	(Flut+Azoxys)	2	1.89	0.785	0.835	4.27	0.3336
Fusarium oxysporum	(Flut+Azoxys)	2	2.87	0.84	1.184	4.75	0.0913
Fusarium solani	(Flut+Azoxys)	2	3.01	0.87	1.055	6.05	0.1187
Rhizoctonia solani	(Flut+Azoxys)	2	2.6	0.926	1.298	5.23	0.6934

respectively). For Topguard EQ (Flut+Azoxys), the prediction showed that fungal growth reduced at dose 0, predicted increase in growth by 0.265 at dose 0.049128 while at dose 0.49128 and 4.9128, there fungus growth neither increase nor decrease.

For Fusarium oxysporum, increasing growth was predicted for high dose of Topguard 1 active, Quadris 1 active, Topguard EQ 2, control dose for Endura 1 active and Delarocomplete, medium dose for Topguard 1 active, Quadris 1 active, Topguard EQ 2 active, low dose for Delarocomplete, Topguard EQ 2 active, and Endura 1 active. Other dose treatment combination for this species saw a decreasing growth. For Fusarium oxysporum species treated with DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop) and Quadris 1 active ingr (Azoxystrobin), the Best Linear Unbiased Prediction result showed an increase in fungus growth for the first two dose while the fungus growth reduced for the other dose. For Fusarium oxysporum species treated with Endura 1 active ingr (Boscalid), the Best Linear Unbiased Prediction result showed an increase in fungus growth for the first three dose (0.0, 0.04011, and 0.4011) while it predicted a reduction in the growth of fungus for dose 4.011. For Fusarium oxysporum species treated Topguard 1 active ingr (Flutriafol), BLUP predicted a decrease in growth for dose level 0 and 0.057975 while the other two level is predicted to increase growth in this specie. For Fusarium oxysporum species treated with Topguard EQ 2 active ingr (Flut+Azoxys), the Best Linear Unbiased Prediction result showed an increase in fungus growth for dose 0.049128 and 4.9128 while the other two dose were predicted to reduce

growth of fungus.

For Fusarium Solani, increasing growth was predicted for high and medium dose of Quadris 1 active, medium dose for Endura 1 active, and Topguard EQ 2, low dose for Topguard 1 active, Topguard Eq 2 active, and Endura 1 active. Stable growth was predicted for high, medium, lowand control dose of Delarocomplete. Other dose treatment combination for this species saw a decreasing growth. For Fusarium solani species treated with DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop), dose 0 showed a reduction in growth while the other dose level showed a zero growth. For Fusarium solani species treated with Endura 1 active ingr (Boscalid), dose 0 and 4.011 showed a reduction in growth while BLUP predicted an increase in growth for dose 0.04011, and 0.4011. For Fusarium solani species treated with Topguard 1 active ingr (Flutriafol), BLUP predicted a reduction in growth at dose 0, 0.57975, and 5.7975 while growth was predicted to increase at dose level 0.057975. For Fusarium solani species treated with Topguard EQ 2 active ingr (Flut+Azoxys), dose 0 and 4.9128 showed a reduction in growth while BLUP predicted an increase in growth for dose 0.049128, and 0.49128.

For Rhizoctonia solani, increasing growth was predicted for control dose of Topguard EQ 2, Topguard 1 active, Quadris 1 active, Delarocomplete, and Endura 1 active, low dose of Quadris 1 active and Endura 1 active, high dose of Delarocomplete, Topguard EQ 2, and Endura 1 active. Stable growth was predicted for medium Delarocomplete. Other dose treatment combination for this species saw a decreasing growth.

Table 4: Pairwise Differences in Fungal Growth Under Different Treatments

Pairwise Comparison	Ratio	SE	LCL	UCL	p-value
Diaporthe longicolla (Azoxystrobin) / Fusarium oxysporum (Azoxystrobin)	0.33	0.081	0.1384	0.787	0.0011
Fusarium oxysporum (Azoxystrobin) / Fusarium solani (Azoxystrobin)	2.741	0.672	1.1489	6.537	0.0063
Fusarium oxysporum (Azoxystrobin) / Diaporthe longicolla (Flutriafol)	9.412	5.73	1.0886	81.381	0.0313
Diaporthe longicolla (Flutriafol) / Fusarium oxysporum (Flutriafol)	0.159	0.0674	0.0354	0.714	0.0024
Fusarium oxysporum (Flutriafol) / Fusarium solani (Flutriafol)	3.26	0.8	1.3664	7.776	0.0003
Diaporthe longicolla (Flut+Azoxys) / Fusarium oxysporum (Flut+Azoxys)	0.236	0.0773	0.0736	0.754	0.0018
Fusarium oxysporum (Flut+Azoxys) / Fusarium solani (Flut+Azoxys)	3.378	0.829	1.416	8.058	0.0001
Fusarium oxysporum (Flut+Azoxys) / Rhizoctonia solani (Flut+Azoxys)	3.075	0.759	1.2826	7.374	0.0009

For *Rhizoctonia solani* species treated with DelaroComplete 3 active ingr (Proth+Trif+Fluop) , BLUP showed that dose 0 and 6.292 increased the fungus growth, dose 0.06292 reduced the fungus growth while dose 0.6292 neither increased nor decrease the growth of fungus. With Endura 1 active ingr (Boscalid) treatment, dose 0.4011 was predicted to reduce the growth of fungus while the other dose level increased fungus growth. For Quadris 1 active ingr (Azoxystrobin) treatment, dose 0 and 0.061036 increased fungus growth while the other dose was predicted to reduce dose. For Topguard 1 active ingr (Flutriafol), dose 0 and 5.7975 was predicted to increase fungus growth, while other dose level decreased the growth of fungus. With Topguard EQ 2 active ingr (Flut+Azoxys), dose 0 and 4.9128 increased the growth of fungus while dose 0.049128 and 0.49128 was predicted to reduce their growth.

Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol), and Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys). At control dose, delarocomplete treatment has the highest growth, followed by Topguard 1 active, Topguard EQ 2 active, Endura 1 active, Quadris 1 active. Topguard 1 active, Topguard EQ 2 active, Endura 1 active, Quadris 1 active continued to grow at low dose but delarocomplete decreased in growth. For species crossed with dose nested in treatments, responses varied by species and fungicide, indicating strong species-specific interaction patterns. Notable differences for *F. oxysporum*, which showed variable trends depending on treatment and dose. Overall, effective fungal control depends on both selecting the right treatment and optimizing dose for the specific species involved.

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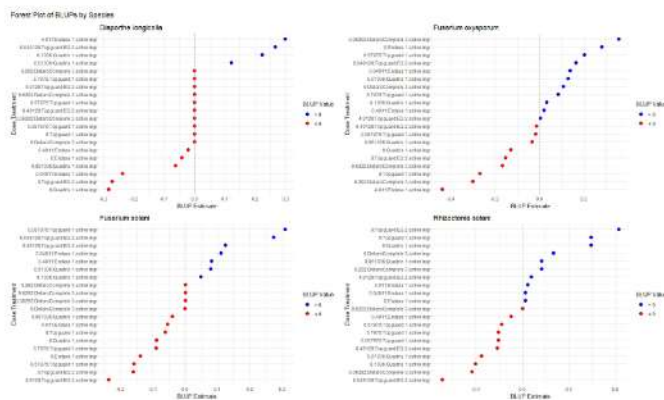


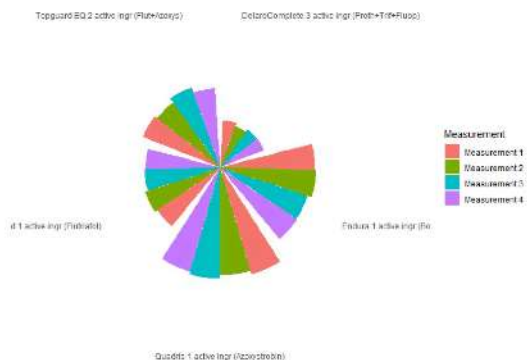
Figure 8: Fungal Growth by Dose and Treatment

Conclusion

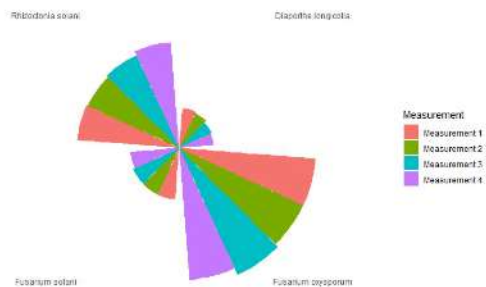
F. oxysporum differed significantly in growth response compared to species: *F. solani*, *D. longicolla*, *R. solani*) under the following treatment Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin),

Appendix

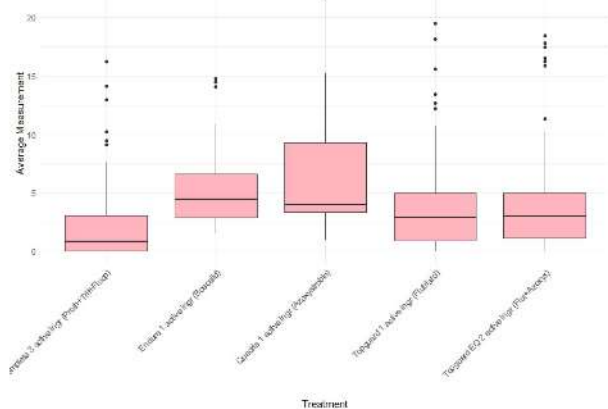
Individual Measurements by Treatment



Individual Measurements by Species



Avg Measurement by Treatment



Avg Measurement by Species

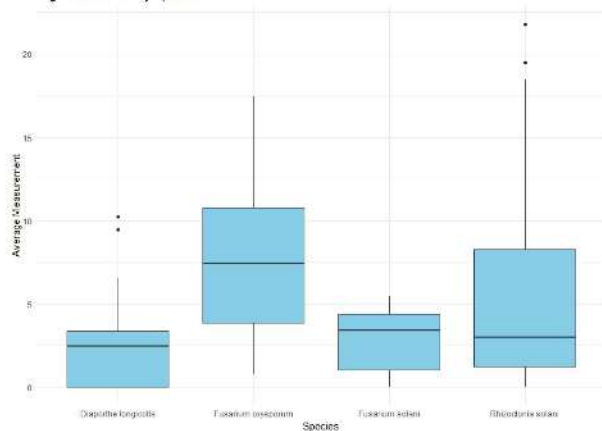


Table 5: Best Linear Unbiased Prediction for Dose nested within Treatment

Dose:Treatment	BLUP
0:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	1.4118
0.06292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.2938
0.6292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.6315
6.292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.5171
0:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.4644
0.04011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.1312
0.4011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.0614
4.011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.5659
0:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.3327
0.061036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.1095
0.61036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.0933
6.1036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.3806
0:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.9781
0.057975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.3181
0.57975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.5203
5.7975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.8084
0:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.9204
0.049128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.0501
0.49128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.4068
4.9128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.5986

Table 6: Best Linear Unbiased Prediction for Dose nested within Treatment for *Diaporthe longicolla*

Dose:Treatment	BLUP
0:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.000616511
0.06292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
0.6292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
6.292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
0:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.041562794
0.04011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.237818396
0.4011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.021039568
4.011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.298317876
0:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.282390186
0.061036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.062961318
0.61036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.121451677
6.1036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.221821793
0:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.000574947
0.057975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0
0.57975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0
5.7975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0
0:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.271722003
0.049128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.265117379
0.49128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0
4.9128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0

Table 7: Best Linear Unbiased Prediction for Dose nested within Treatment for *Fusarium oxysporum*

Dose:Treatment	BLUP
0:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0.106100059
0.06292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0.355692318
0.6292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.166327429
6.292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.299732171
0:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.278496151
0.04011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.136230476
0.4011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.019989513
4.011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.436805234
0:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.129392723
0.061036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.034205375
0.61036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.128827724
6.1036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.032736257
0:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.268141692
0.057975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.017637166
0.57975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.200686125
5.7975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.083511652
0:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.153415918
0.049128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.164391125
0.49128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.014750217
4.9128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.004023557

Table 8: Best Linear Unbiased Prediction for Dose nested within Treatment for *Fusarium solani*

Dose:Treatment	BLUP
0:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.000625527
0.06292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
0.6292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
6.292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
0:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.13874485
0.04011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.110523464
0.4011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.080927519
4.011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.05479903
0:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.088966249
0.061036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.04005418
0.61036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.078676058
6.1036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.048275351
0:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.062226152
0.057975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.308842891
0.57975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.158526749
5.7975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.089786457
0:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.160570939
0.049128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.272726683
0.49128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.124419505
4.9128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.236335868

Table 9: Best Linear Unbiased Prediction for Dose nested within Treatment for *Rhizoctonia solani*

Dose:Treatment	BLUP
0:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0.266911298
0.06292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	-0.433046666
0.6292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0
6.292:DelaroComplete 3 active (Proth+Trif+Fluop)	0.163567614
0:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.02410454
0.04011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.025606511
0.4011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	-0.09605766
4.011:Endura 1 active (Boscalid)	0.044278398
0:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.588356584
0.061036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	0.166050995
0.61036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.353527076
6.1036:Quadris 1 active (Azoxystrobin)	-0.403055423
0:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	0.588507333
0.057975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.20745378
0.57975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.179171739
5.7975:Topguard 1 active (Flutriafol)	-0.206618072
0:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.828083859
0.049128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.689032837
0.49128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	-0.216787688
4.9128:Topguard EQ 2 active (Flut+Azoxys)	0.074685212