

# **Population structure and phenotypic variation of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* from dry bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) in the United States**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The ascomycete pathogen *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* is a necrotrophic pathogen on over 400 known host plants, and is the causal agent of white mold on dry bean. Currently, there are no known cultivars of dry bean with complete resistance to white mold. For more than 20 years, bean breeders have been using white mold screening nurseries with natural populations of *S. sclerotiorum* to screen new cultivars for resistance. It is thus important to know if the genetic diversity in populations of *S. sclerotiorum* within these nurseries a) reflect the genetic diversity of the populations in the surrounding region and b) are stable over time. Furthermore, previous studies have investigated the correlation between mycelial compatibility groups (MCG) and multilocus haplotypes (MLH), but none have formally tested these patterns. We genotyped 366 isolates of *S. sclerotiorum* from producer fields and white mold screening nurseries surveyed over 10 years in 2003–2012 representing 11 states in the United States of America, Australia, France, and Mexico at 11 microsatellite loci resulting in 165 MLHs. Populations were loosely structured over space and time based on analysis of molecular variance and discriminant analysis of principal components, but not by cultivar, aggressiveness, or field source. Of all the regions tested, only Mexico (n=18) shared no MLHs with any other region. Using a bipartite network-based approach, we found no evidence that the MCGs accurately represent MLHs. Our study suggests that breeders should continue to test dry bean lines in several white mold screening nurseries across the US to account for both the phenotypic and genotypic variation that exists across regions.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary is an ascomycete plant pathogen with a worldwide distribution (Bolton et al., 2006). This is a necrotrophic pathogen that is primarily homothallic (self-fertilization) and has the ability to survive for more than five years in soil using melanized survival structures called sclerotia (Bolton et al., 2006; Sexton et al., 2006). It causes disease on more than 400 plant species belonging to 75 families (Boland & Hall, 1994) including crops of major economic importance such as sunflower (*Helianthus spp.*), soybean (*Glycine max L.*), canola (*Brassica napa L.*, *Brassica campestris L.*), and dry bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris L.*) (Bolton et al., 2006).

On dry bean, *S. sclerotiorum* is the causal agent of white mold, a devastating disease that can be yield-limiting in temperate climates (Steadman, 1983). All above-ground tissues (flowers, stems, leaves, pods) are susceptible to infection, first appearing as wet lesions with white mycelial tufts, and then bleaching as the tissue senesces (Steadman, 1983; Bolton et al., 2006). For many years, white mold has been the most serious dry bean disease in the Northwestern United States (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011; Knodel et al., 2012, 2015, 2016). The impact of white mold on the dry bean industry in the Northwestern United States

45 alone has been estimated at a loss of 140 kg/ha with just 10% disease incidence (Ramasubramaniam et al.,  
46 2008).

47 Currently, there are no commercially available resistant cultivars of dry bean (Otto-Hanson et al.,  
48 2011). Organized breeding efforts have used a common-garden approach with white mold screening  
49 nurseries in dry bean production areas across the United States with additional sites in Australia, France,  
50 and Mexico (Steadman et al., 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; Otto-Hanson & Steadman, 2007, 2008; McCoy &  
51 Steadman, 2009). These white mold screening nurseries use no chemical or cultural treatments against *S.*  
52 *sclerotiorum* and employ standardized protocols for screening new cultivars for resistance to white mold  
53 (Steadman et al., 2003; Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). These protocols included three established cultivars  
54 used for comparison in the trials: Beryl (great northern bean, susceptible), Bensi (a.k.a. Ex Rico, navy  
55 bean, low susceptibility), and G122 (cranberry bean, partial resistance) (Tu & Beversdorf, 1982; Steadman  
56 et al., 2005; Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). It was previously shown that aggressiveness (the severity of disease  
57 symptoms on the host) is significantly different across white mold screening nursery sites in separate  
58 geographic regions (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). The genetic structure and mode of reproduction in these  
59 populations, however, is currently unknown.

60 Understanding genetic relationships and reproduction behavior of *S. sclerotiorum* populations is  
61 beneficial for breeders seeking to develop new resistant cultivars for worldwide deployment (Milgroom,  
62 1996; McDonald & Linde, 2002). In particular, genetically diverse populations with high rates of sexual  
63 reproduction are more likely to overcome host resistance. Most populations of *S. sclerotiorum* are  
64 predominantly clonal with low genetic diversity and have a large degree of population fragmentation  
65 (Kohli et al., 1995; Cubeta et al., 1997; Kohli & Kohn, 1998; Carbone & Kohn, 2001; Ekins et al., 2011;  
66 Attanayake et al., 2012). Some studies, however have found populations that show signatures of sexual  
67 reproduction (Atallah et al., 2004; Sexton & Howlett, 2004; Attanayake et al., 2013; Aldrich-Wolfe et al.,  
68 2015).

69 Nearly all population genetic studies of *S. sclerotiorum* employ a macroscopic assay to determine  
70 mycelial compatibility, the ability for fungal hyphae from different colonies to appear to grow together  
71 without forming a barrier of dead cells between them (known as a barrage line, Fig. S1B) (Leslie, 1993;  
72 Sirjusingh & Kohn, 2001). Mycelial compatibility has been used as a proxy for vegetative compatibility,  
73 a fungal trait controlled by several independent genes controlling the ability for two hyphae to fuse and  
74 grow as a single unit (Fig. S1A) (Leslie, 1993; Schafer & Kohn, 2006). Because of the genetic connection  
75 to vegetative compatibility, two isolates that are mycelially compatible were considered clones (Leslie,  
76 1993); but correlation with genetic markers, such as microsatellites, have shown inconsistent results (Ford  
77 et al., 1995; Micali & Smith, 2003; Jo et al., 2008; Attanayake et al., 2012; Papaioannou & Typas, 2014;  
78 Lehner et al., 2017). Thus, the relationship between mycelial compatibility groups and clonal genotypes  
79 remains unclear.

80 In the present study, we analyze and characterize the genetic and phenotypic diversity of 366 *S.*  
81 *sclerotiorum* isolates collected between 2003 and 2012 from dry bean cultivars among different geographic  
82 locations in the Australia, France, Mexico, and the United States. We wanted to know if the *S. sclerotiorum*  
83 populations from white mold screening nurseries were representative of the producer fields within the  
84 same region. As these nurseries were not treated with any chemical or cultural control of white mold, we  
85 hypothesized that these nurseries would represent the natural population of *S. sclerotiorum*. Furthermore,  
86 we wanted to investigate the potential effect of cultivar on genetic diversity of the pathogen by assessing  
87 three dry bean cultivars with different levels of resistance, Beryl (great northern bean, susceptible),  
88 Bensi (navy bean, low susceptibility), and G122 (cranberry bean, partial resistance) (Otto-Hanson et  
89 al., 2011). We additionally wanted to determine categorical or phenotypic variables that best predicted  
90 genetic structure and if there was correlation between multilocus haplotype and mycelial compatibility  
91 group. Knowing what variables predict genetic structure can help direct breeding efforts. By investigating  
92 these aims, we will effectively describe the population structure of *S. sclerotiorum* in the USA and make  
93 available our database of isolates for use in future dry bean breeding efforts.

## 94 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 95 Isolate collection

96 Several (156) of the isolates used for this study were collected as reported in previous studies using  
97 the same methods (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). Broadly, isolates were collected from two sources: white  
98 mold screening nurseries (wmn) or producer fields. White mold screening nurseries were 5m x 10m in

size and maintained without application of fungicides to observe natural incidence of white mold. The early nursery plots were incorporated with a basal dressing of N:P:K = 1:3:2 and side dressing of 0:3:2 during the growing season (Steadman et al., 2003).

Sampling was carried out by collecting sclerotia from diseased tissue in zig-zag transects across field plots. Because sampling depended on disease incidence, the number of samples isolated varied from year to year. Although the nursery locations were the same over sampling years, sampling plots within a location varied for sampling years.

Sclerotia of *S. sclerotiorum* were collected over several years from grower fields and/or wmn in 11 states of the Australia, France, Mexico, and the United States (Table S1). After collection, sclerotia were stored in Petri plates lined with filter paper, then stored at 20 °F or -4 °C. Sclerotia were surface-sterilized with 50% Clorox bleach (at least 6% NaOCl, The Clorox Company, Oakland, CA) solution for 3 min, and double rinsed with ddH<sub>2</sub>O for 3 min. The sterilized sclerotia were then placed on water agar plates (16g of Bacto agar per liter of ddH<sub>2</sub>O, BD Diagnostic Systems, Sparks, MD), with four to five sclerotia of each isolate separated on each plate and stored on the counter top at room temperature for 5 to 6 days. An 8-mm plug from a 5- or 6-day-old culture was transferred from the advancing margin of the mycelia onto a plate of Difco potato dextrose agar (PDA at 39 g/liter of ddH<sub>2</sub>O) (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). In combination with the 156 isolates described previously, we collected 210 isolates for a total of 366 isolates (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011).

### **Mycelial compatibility**

MCG was determined as described previously through co-culturing pairs of 2-day-old isolates 2.5 cm apart on Diana Sermons (DS) Medium (Fig. S1) (Cubeta et al., 2001). Incompatibility of different MCGs resulted in formation of a barrage line accompanied by formation of sclerotia on either side of the barrage line, indicating the limits of mycelial growth (Kohn et al., 1990; Leslie, 1993; Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). Isolates were compared in a pairwise manner for each site and then representatives among sites were compared to determine mycelial compatibility groups by scoring compatible and incompatible interactions (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). No MCGs were compatible with any other MCG.

### **Aggressiveness**

Aggressiveness of each isolate was assessed using a straw test as described in Otto-Hanson et al. (2011) that rated necrotic lesion size (Petzoldt & Dickson, 1996; Teran et al., 2006). Briefly, the straw test uses 21-day-old G122 plants as the host in a greenhouse setting. Clear drinking straws cut to 2.5 cm and heat sealed were used to place two mycelial plugs of inoculum on the host plant after removing plant growth beyond 2.5 cm above the fourth node. Measurements of the necrotic lesion were taken 8 days later using the Modified Petzoldt and Dickson scale of 1–9, where 1 is no disease and 9 is plant death (Petzoldt & Dickson, 1996; Teran et al., 2006).

### **Microsatellite genotyping**

Prior to DNA extraction, isolates were grown on PDA and plugs were subsequently transferred to Potato Dextrose Broth (PDB) where they were grown until there was significant mycelial growth, but before the mycelial mat became solidified (4–5 days). Each mycelial mat was collected in a filtered Büchner funnel, agar plugs removed, lyophilized and pulverized manually in Whirl-pak® HDPE sampling bags (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). Lyophilized mycelia was then stored in microcentrifuge tubes at -20 °C until needed for DNA extraction. DNA from 25mg of pulverized mycelia was purified using a phenol-chloroform extraction method followed by alcohol precipitation and evaporation, suspending the DNA in 200μl TE (Sambrook et al., 1989). Suspended DNA was stored at 4 °C until genotyping.

We genotyped each *S. sclerotiorum* isolate using 16 microsatellite primer pairs developed previously (Sirjusingh & Kohn, 2001). PCR was carried out as described previously, using primers labeled with FAM fluorophore. Resulting amplicons were first resolved in a 1.5% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide to ensure product was within the expected size range prior to capillary electrophoresis. Capillary electrophoresis (fragment analysis) of amplicons, with size standard GeneScan™ 500 LIZ®, was performed using an ABI 3730 genetic analyzer (Life Technologies Corporation, Carlsbad, CA) at the Michigan State University Genomic Sequencing Center (East Lansing, MI). Alleles were scored using PeakScanner version 1.0 (Life Technologies Corporation, Carlsbad, CA) and recorded manually in a spreadsheet.

151 **Data processing and analysis**

152 All data processing and analyses were performed in a Rocker “verse” project container running R ver-  
153 sion 3.4.2 (Boettiger & Eddelbuettel, 2017; R Core Team, 2017) and are openly available and reproducible  
154 at <https://github.com/everhartlab/sclerotinia-366/>. Of the 16 microsatellite loci  
155 genotyped, five included compound repeats, which made it challenging to accurately/confidently bin alle-  
156 les into fragment sizes expected for each locus based on the described repeat motif. Loci with compound  
157 repeats were removed for the reported statistics. To ensure the integrity of the results we additionally  
158 processed these loci and included them in concurrent analyses. We assessed the power of our 11 markers  
159 by generating a genotype accumulation curve in the R package *poppr* version 2.5.0, looking for evidence  
160 of saturation, which would indicate that loci were sufficiently sampled to adequately represent the full set  
161 of haplotypes (Arnaud-Hanod et al., 2007; Kamvar et al., 2015). To avoid including isolates potentially  
162 collected from the same plant (which increases the probability of collecting sclerotia from the same point  
163 of infection more than once), data were clone-corrected on a hierarchy of Region/Source/Host/Year—  
164 meaning that duplicated genotypes were reduced to a single observation when they were collected in the  
165 same year from the same host cultivar located in the same source field (wmn or producer)—for subsequent  
166 analysis. We assessed haplotype diversity by calculating Stoddart and Taylor’s index ( $G$ ) (Stoddart &  
167 Taylor, 1988), Shannon’s index ( $H$ ) (Shannon, 1948), Simpson’s index ( $\lambda$ ) (Simpson, 1949), evenness  
168 ( $E_5$ ), and the expected number of multilocus haplotypes ( $eMLH$ ) (Hurlbert, 1971; Heck et al., 1975;  
169 Pielou, 1975; Grünwald et al., 2003). To assess the potential for random mating, we tested for linkage  
170 disequilibrium with the index of association,  $I_A$  and its standardized version,  $r_d$  using 999 permutations  
171 (Brown et al., 1980; Smith et al., 1993; Agapow & Burt, 2001). Both haplotype diversity and linkage  
172 disequilibrium were calculated in *poppr* (Kamvar et al., 2014).

173 **Assessing importance of variables**

174 **Distance-based redundancy analysis**

175 A distance-based redundancy analysis (dbRDA) (Legendre & Anderson, 1999) was performed with  
176 the function *capscale()* in the *vegan* package version 2.4.4 (Oksanen et al., 2017). This method  
177 uses constrained ordinations on a distance matrix representing the response variable to delineate relative  
178 contribution of any number of independent explanatory variables. We used this method to delineate  
179 the phenotypic (Aggressiveness, Mycelial Compatibility Group (MCG)), geographic (Region, Host,  
180 Location), and temporal (Year) components in predicting genetic composition of the populations. The  
181 distance matrix we used as the response variable was generated using Bruvo’s genetic distance from  
182 clone-corrected data (procedure described above) as implemented in *poppr*, which employed a stepwise  
183 mutation model for microsatellite data (Bruvo et al., 2004; Kamvar et al., 2014). Because aggressiveness  
184 measures differed between isolates that were reduced to a single observation during clone-correction,  
185 aggressiveness was first averaged across clone-corrected isolates. To identify explanatory variable(s)  
186 correlated with genetic variation, a forward-backward selection process was applied with the *vegan*  
187 function *ordistep()*. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was then performed to test for significance of  
188 the reduced model and marginal effects using 999 permutations. The *varpart()* function of *vegan* was  
189 used to determine variation partitioning of explanatory variables.

190 **Aggressiveness assessment**

191 We used ANOVA to assess if aggressiveness (determined via straw test on a scale of 1–9 as described  
192 above) was significantly different with respect to Region, MCG, or multilocus haplotype (MLH). To  
193 minimize complications due to small sample sizes, we chose the top 10 MCGs, representing 56.5% of the  
194 isolates collected, the 10 most abundant MLHs representing 26.7% of the isolates, and populations with  
195 more than five isolates. If ANOVA results were significantly different at  $\alpha = 0.05$ , pairwise differences  
196 were assessed using Tukey’s HSD test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) using the *HSD.test()* function in the package  
197 *agricolae* version 1.2.8 (Mendiburu & Simon, 2015).

198 **Correlating multilocus haplotypes with mycelial compatibility groups**

199 We wanted to assess if there was correlation between MLHs and MCGs. This was performed using a  
200 network-based approach where both MLHs and MCGs were considered nodes and the number of isolates  
201 in which they were found together was the strength of the connection between an MLH and and MCG  
202 node. The network-based approach allowed us to assess the associations between MLHs and MCGs.  
203 To construct the network, a contingency table was created with MLHs and MCGs and converted to a

204 directed and weighted edgelist where each edge represented a connection from an MCG to an MLH,  
205 weighted by the number of samples shared in the connection. This was then converted to a bipartite  
206 graph where top nodes represented MLHs and bottom nodes represented MCGs. To identify clusters of  
207 MLHs and MCGs within the network, we used the cluster walktrap community detection algorithm as  
208 implemented in the `cluster_walktrap()` function in *igraph* version 1.1.2 (Csardi & Nepusz, 2006;  
209 Pons & Latapy, 2006). This algorithm attempts to define clusters of nodes by starting at a random node  
210 and performing short, random “walks” along the edges between nodes, assuming that these walks would  
211 stay within clusters. For this analysis, we set the number of steps within a walk to four and allowed the  
212 algorithm to use the edge weights in determining the path. All of the resulting communities that had fewer  
213 than 10 members were then consolidated into one. Community definitions were used to assess the average  
214 genetic distance (as defined by Bruvo’s distance) within members of the community (Bruvo et al., 2004).

## 215 **Genetic diversity**

### 216 **Population differentiation**

217 We used analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) with Bruvo’s genetic distance in *poppr* to test for  
218 differentiation between populations in wmn and producer fields from the same region and collected in  
219 the same year (Excoffier et al., 1992; Bruvo et al., 2004; Kamvar et al., 2014). To identify Regions with  
220 greater differentiation, we used discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC) as implemented in  
221 *adegenet* version 2.1.0, assessing the per-sample posterior group assignment probability (Jombart, 2008).  
222 This method decomposes the genetic data into principal components, and then uses a subset of these as  
223 the inputs for discriminant analysis, which attempts to minimize within-group variation and maximize  
224 among-group variation (Jombart et al., 2010). To avoid over-fitting data, the optimal number of principal  
225 components was selected by using the *adegenet* function `xvalDapc()`. This function implements a  
226 cross-validation procedure to iterate over an increasing number of principal components on a subset  
227 (90%) of the data, trying to find the minimum number of principal components that maximizes the rate of  
228 successful group reassignment. To assess if cultivar had an influence on genetic diversity between wmn,  
229 we first subset the clone-corrected data to contain only samples from wmn and from the cultivars Beryl,  
230 Bansi, and G122 and tested differentiation using AMOVA and DAPC as described above. We additionally  
231 assessed population stability over time by calculating DAPC over the combined groups of Region and  
232 Year as described above.

### 233 **Analysis of shared multilocus haplotypes**

234 We wanted to evaluate patterns of connectivity between shared multilocus haplotypes across geo-  
235 graphic regions. We first tabulated the multilocus haplotypes shared between at least two populations  
236 (defined as states or countries) with the *poppr* function `mlg.crosspop()` (Kamvar et al., 2014). From  
237 these data, we constructed a graph with populations as nodes and shared haplotypes as edges (connections)  
238 between nodes using the R packages *igraph* (Csardi & Nepusz, 2006), *dplyr* version 0.7.4 (Wickham et  
239 al., 2017), and *purrr* version 0.2.4 (Henry & Wickham, 2017). Each node was weighted by the fraction of  
240 shared MLHs. Each edge represented a single MLH, but because a single MLH could be present in more  
241 than one population, that MLH would have a number of edges equivalent to the total number of possible  
242 connections, calculated as  $(n*(n-1))/2$  edges where n represents the number of populations crossed. Edges  
243 were weighted by  $1 - P_{sex}$ , where  $P_{sex}$  is the probability of encountering the same haplotype via two  
244 independent meiotic events (Parks & Werth, 1993; Arnaud-Hanod et al., 2007). This weighting scheme  
245 would thus strengthen the connection of edges that represented genotypes with a low probability of being  
246 produced via sexual reproduction. We then identified communities (among the Regions) in the graph  
247 using the `cluster_optimal()` function from *igraph* (Csardi & Nepusz, 2006). The graph was plotted  
248 using the R packages *ggplot2* version 2.2.1 (Wickham, 2009) and *ggraph* 1.0.0 (Pedersen, 2017). To  
249 ensure that we captured the same community signal, we additionally performed this analysis including  
250 the five polymorphic markers described above.

## 251 **RESULTS**

252 A total of 366 isolates were collected from 2003 to 2012 (except 2006 and 2011) from diseased dry  
253 bean plants in 11 states in the United States as well as Australia, France, and Mexico (Table S1). With the  
254 11 loci used in the analyses (Table 1), we observed a total of 165 MLHs (215 with 16 loci). These 11  
255 loci are located on 7 chromosomes in the *S. sclerotiorum* genome with a minimum distance of 55Kbp

256 between two loci on the same chromosome. Over 50% of the isolates came from four states, MI (62), ND  
 257 (60), WA (59), NE (47). Four regions had fewer than 10 isolates, Australia (6), WI (2), NY (1), ID (1).  
 258 We observed 87 MCGs, the most abundant of which ('MCG 5') was represented by 73 isolates over 37  
 259 MLHs (Fig. 1A,C).

260 The number of observed alleles per locus ranged from two to 10 with an average of 6.27 (Table  
 261 1). Locus 20-3, which contained only 2 alleles, showed low values of both  $h$  (0.0533) and evenness  
 262 (0.42), indicating that there was one dominant allele present. Analysis of the haplotype accumulation  
 263 curve showed no clear plateau for 11 or 16 loci (See section on 'Loading Data and Setting Strata' in the  
 264 MLG-distribution.md<sup>1</sup> file in the supplemental files (Kamvar et al., 2017)), indicating that we would  
 265 likely obtain more multilocus haplotypes if we were to genotype more loci.

266 After clone-correction on the hierarchy of Region/Source/Host/Year, a total of 48 isolates were  
 267 removed from the data set, resulting in 318 isolates representing 165 MLHs that were used in subsequent  
 268 analyses (Table 2). The results showed that, in terms of genotypic diversity ( $H$ ,  $G$ , and  $\lambda$ ), WA was the  
 269 most diverse population with both  $G$  (54.3) and  $e^H$  (55.3) being close to the observed number of MLHs  
 270 (56). This indicated that there are few duplicated genotypes in WA (Table 2). A more useful metric to  
 271 compare populations, however, is  $E_5$ , which scales from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates all unique genotypes  
 272 (Grünwald et al., 2003). Evaluating by  $E_5$  shows that both MI and NE exhibit lower than average values,  
 273 indicating that there are over-represented genotypes in the popualtions (table 2). When we look at Mexico,  
 274 we observed that it had relatively high values of  $E_5$  and genotypic diversity, but low richness, as measured  
 275 by  $eMLG$ . Moreover, Mexico had the lowest value for  $h$ , which is a measure of allelic diversity. Nearly  
 276 all populations showed evidence of linkage (Table 2), which serves as evidence for clonal reproduction  
 277 or other forms of non-random mating. The only exceptions were CA ( $P = 0.043$ ) and Australia ( $P =$   
 278 0.052). Both of these populations showed only moderate significance with  $\bar{r}_d$  values of 0.03 and 0.12,  
 279 respectively.

**Table 1.** Allelic diversity on full data set at loci used in this study.  $h$  = Nei's Gene Diversity (Nei, 1978). Average  $h$  = 0.583, average Evenness = 0.693, average no. alleles = 6.27

Locus	Range	Repeat Motif	No. alleles	$h$	Evenness
5-2	318–324	(GT)	4	0.45	0.62
6-2	483–495	(TTTTTC)(TTTTTG)(TTTTTC)	3	0.64	0.95
7-2	158–174	(GA)	7	0.73	0.76
8-3	244–270	(CA)	7	0.74	0.79
9-2	360–382	(CA)(CT)	9	0.35	0.41
12-2	214–222	(CA)	5	0.58	0.78
17-3	342–363	(TTA)	7	0.55	0.53
20-3	280–282	(GT)GG(GT)	2	0.05	0.42
55-4	153–216	(TACA)	10	0.72	0.66
110-4	370–386	(TATG)	5	0.76	0.91
114-4	339–416	(TAGA)	10	0.83	0.80

<sup>1</sup>Direct link: <https://github.com/everhartlab/sclerotinia-366/blob/master/results/MLG-distribution.md#loading-data-and-setting-strata>

**Table 2.** Genotypic diversity and Linkage Disequilibrium summary for geographic populations arranged by abundance after clone-correction by a hierarchy of Region/Source/Host/Year. Pop = Population, N = number of individuals (number of MLH in parentheses), eMLH = expected number of MLHs based on rarefaction at 10 individuals (standard error in parentheses), H = Shannon-Weiner Index, G = Stoddardt and Taylor's Index,  $\lambda$  = Simpson's Index,  $h$  = Nei's 1978 gene diversity,  $E_5$  = Evenness,  $\bar{r}_d$  = standardized index of association. An asterix indicates a significant value of  $\bar{r}_d$  after 999 permutations,  $P \leq 0.001$ .

Pop	N	eMLH	H	G	$\lambda$	$E_5$	$h$	$\bar{r}_d$
WA	58 (56)	9.95 (0.23)	4.0	54.3	0.98	0.98	0.60	0.07*
MI	58 (43)	9.3 (0.79)	3.6	29.0	0.97	0.78	0.54	0.14*
ND	41 (35)	9.44 (0.73)	3.5	25.9	0.96	0.82	0.54	0.1*
NE	37 (28)	8.93 (0.94)	3.2	17.8	0.94	0.75	0.55	0.25*
CO	34 (28)	9.46 (0.67)	3.3	24.1	0.96	0.92	0.56	0.27*
France	21 (14)	8.5 (0.85)	2.6	12.6	0.92	0.95	0.48	0.11*
CA	18 (15)	9.12 (0.72)	2.7	13.5	0.93	0.94	0.51	0.03
OR	17 (13)	8.52 (0.85)	2.5	10.7	0.91	0.89	0.47	0.1*
Mexico	15 (9)	7.1 (0.85)	2.1	7.3	0.86	0.89	0.28	0.37*
MN	9 (7)	7 (0)	1.9	6.2	0.84	0.93	0.47	0.19*
Australia	6 (6)	6 (0)	1.8	6.0	0.83	1.00	0.48	0.12
WI	2 (2)	2 (0)	0.7	2.0	0.50	1.00	0.27	-
NY	1 (1)	1 (0)	0.0	1.0	0.00	NaN	NaN	-
ID	1 (1)	1 (0)	0.0	1.0	0.00	NaN	NaN	-

## 280 Variable assessment

### 281 Variable contributions

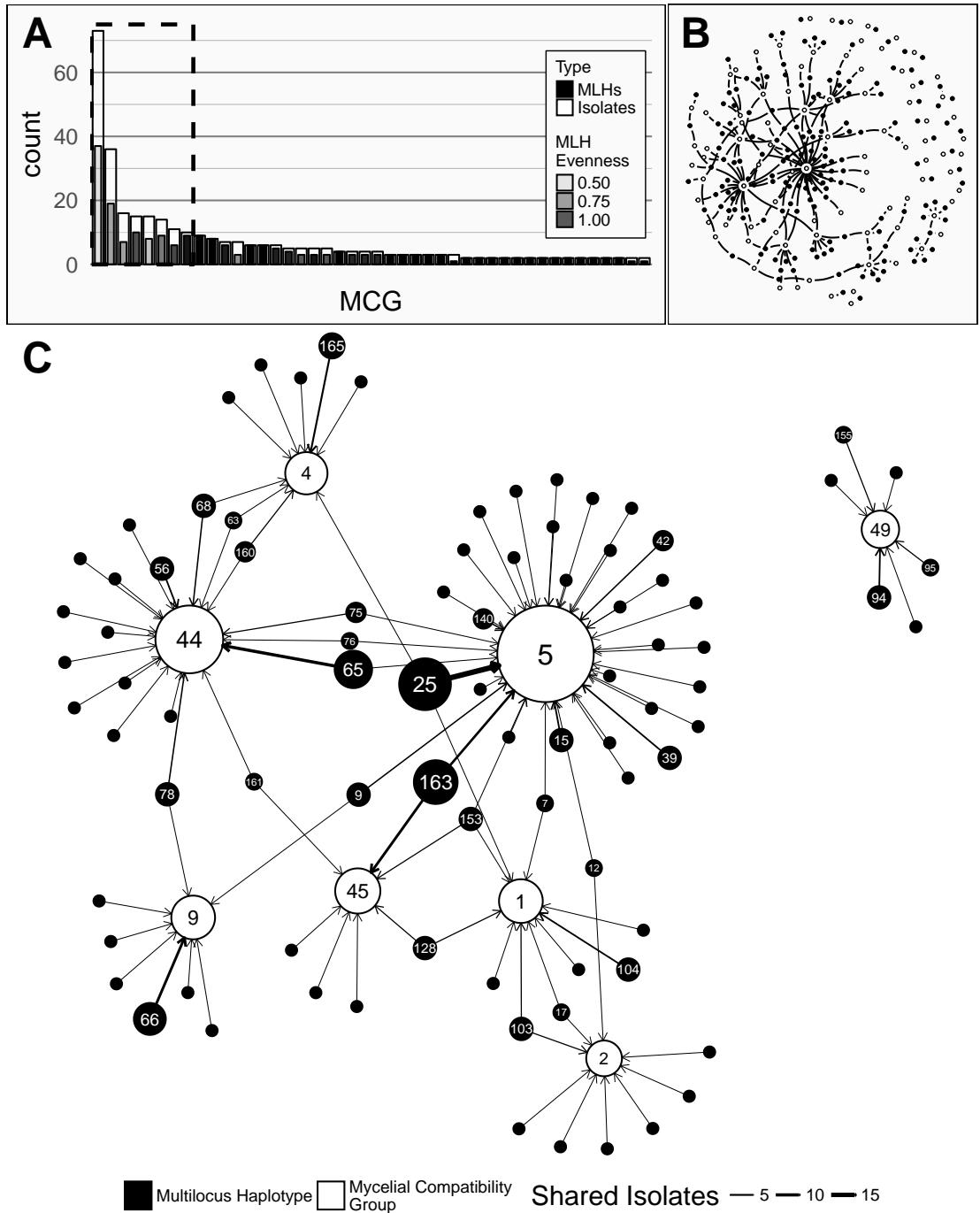
282 The forward-backward selection process of the dbRDA models on clone-corrected data revealed Year,  
 283 Region, Host, and MCG to be the optimal variables for the reduced model, accounting for 45% of the  
 284 total variation. ANOVA showed that the reduced model was significant with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.0675  
 285 ( $P = 0.001$ ). Assessment of the marginal effects showed that all variables significantly explained genetic  
 286 variation ( $P \leq 0.007$ ). We found that there was multicollinearity when MCG was combined with any  
 287 other variable, so repeated the analysis, dropping MCG from the list of potential predictors. From these  
 288 results, Year, Region, Host, and Aggressiveness were found to be optimal, accounting for 17.6% of the  
 289 total variation. ANOVA revealed significant effects with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.0325 ( $P = 0.001$ ). While  
 290 the marginal effect assessment revealed that Year, Region, and Host significantly explained variation  
 291 at  $P = 0.001$ , and Aggressiveness significantly explained variation at  $P = 0.039$ . Much of the variation  
 292 appeared to be driven by isolates from Mexico and 2005 (Fig. 2). Variance partitioning of the independent  
 293 variables without MCG indicated aggressiveness to be the least influential factor with 0.1% contributing  
 294 to explaining the variation of molecular data, whereas the combination of variables accounted for 3.3%.

### 295 Aggressiveness

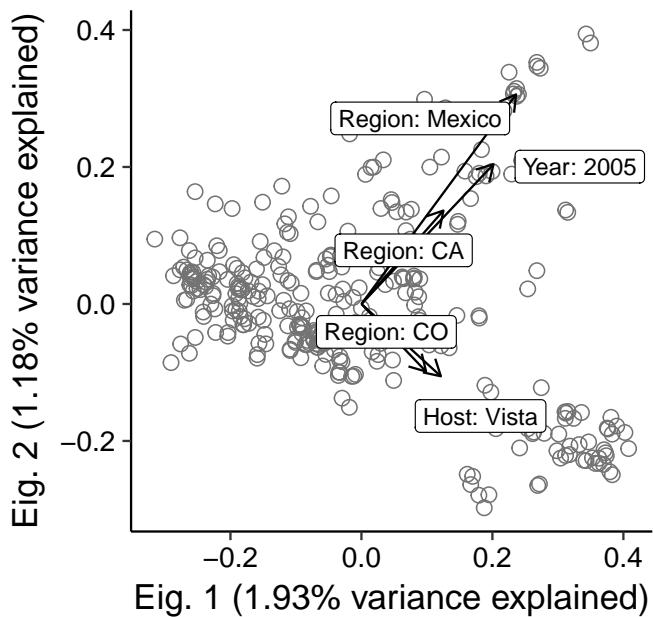
296 Aggressiveness of the isolates ranged from 1.4 to 7.9 with a mean of 5.02 and median of 4.85. The  
 297 group mean averages were 4.88, 5.13, and 5.19 for Region, MCG, and MLH, respectively. A strip plot  
 298 showing the distribution of severity across these three variables simultaneously can be seen in Fig. S2.  
 299 Our assessment of aggressiveness in association with Region showed a significant effect ( $P < 1.00e^{-4}$ ),  
 300 with means that ranged from 5.8 (MN) to 4.0 (CA) (Fig. 3, Table S2). MCGs also showed a significant  
 301 effect ( $P < 0.001$ ), with means that ranged from 6.0 ('MCG 44') to 4.6 ('MCG 49'; Table S3). We  
 302 additionally found a significant effect for MLHs ( $P < 0.001$ ), with means that ranged from 6.0 ('MLH  
 303 78') to 4.3 ('MLH 140') (Table S4).

### 304 Correlation of multilocus haplotypes and mycelial compatibility groups

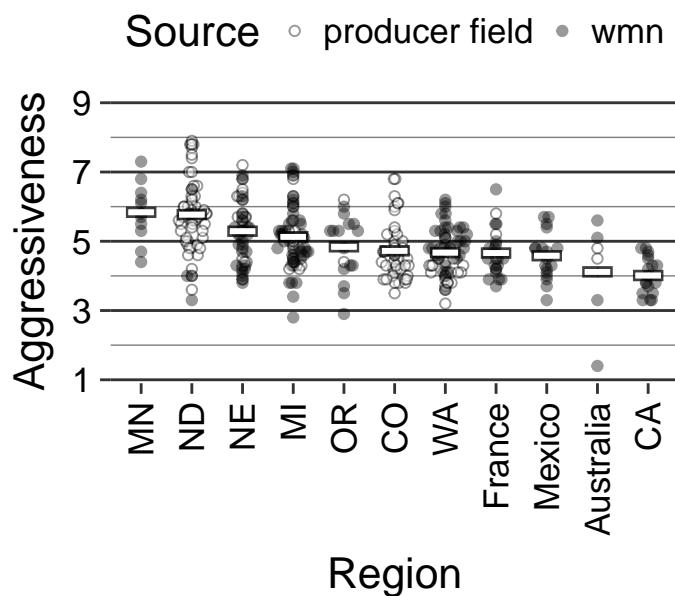
305 In our analysis, we found 165 MLHs with 70 singletons and 87 MCGs with 43 singletons (Fig. 1A,B)  
 306 where the eight most abundant MCGs represented  $> 51\%$  of the data over 11 Regions, and all years  
 307 except for 2012. Our network-based approach to correlating MLHs with MCGs revealed a large and  
 308 complex network (Fig. 1, Table 3). Community analysis showed 51 communities, 15 of which consisted



**Figure 1.** Associations between Mycelial Compatibility Groups and Multilocus Haplotypes. **A)** Barplot of Mycelial Compatibility Group (MCG) abundance in descending order. Singletons (46) were truncated, leaving 41 MCGs. White bars represent sample counts and grey bars represent counts of unique multilocus haplotypes (MLH). The transparency of the bars represent the evenness of the distribution of the MLHs within a given MCG. A dashed box surrounds the eight most common MCGs representing > 51% of the data. **B)** Full graph-representation of the relationship between MCGs (open circles) and MLHs (filled circles). Details in Fig. S3. **C)** A subset of **B** representing the 8 most common MCGs and their associated MLHs (dashed box in **A**). Filled nodes (circles) represent MLHs and open nodes represent MCGs. Node area scaled to the number of samples represented (range: 1–73). Numbers inside nodes are the MLH/MCG label (if n > 1). Edges (arrows) point from MLH to MCG where the weight (thickness) of the edge represents the number of shared isolates (range: 1–19). Edges extending from MLHs displayed to other MCGs are not shown.



**Figure 2.** Biplot showing five most influential explanatory variables (arrows) overlaid on the first two eigenvectors of distance based redundancy analysis of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* isolates. The length of the arrows are directly proportional to the strength of the correlation between explanatory and molecular variables. Open circles represent the 318 clone-corrected haplotypes in ordination space.



**Figure 3.** Strip plot of aggressiveness by population arranged in descending order of mean aggressiveness for all populations with  $N > 5$ . White bars represent mean value. Circles represent individual isolates where filled circles are isolates from white mold screening nurseries (wmn) and open circles are isolates from producer fields.

of a single MLH unconnected with any other community indicating that just 9.09% of the 165 MLHs are unable to cross with any other MLH in this data set (Fig. S3). The three communities with the most members contained eight of the 10 most abundant MCGs. Comparing these communities with Bruvo's genetic distance showed an average distance of 0.451 among communities and an average distance of 0.437 within communities, which were not significantly different. When we assessed the number of times two different MLHs that are in the same MCG, considering these as potential heterothallic pairings that could result in sexual recombination, we found an average of 14.3 potential heterothallic pairings per MLH. Representing just four isolates, 'MLH 75' had 57 neighbors that shared the same MCG (Fig. 1, S3). Overall, there was no clear pattern to the association between MLH and MCGs.

**Table 3.** The five most abundant Multilocus Haplotypes (MLH) with the probability of second encounter ( $P_{sex}$ ), Mycelial Compatibility Groups (MCG), and Regions with sample sizes in parentheses.

MLH	$P_{sex}$	MCG	Region
25	0.016824	5	ND (15), CO (2), MI (2)
		13	ND (3)
		60	ND (2), WA (1)
		1	NE (1)
		4	MI (1)
163	0.049932	45	CO (5), ND (2), NE (1)
		5	MI (7)
65	0.000071	44	NE (10)
		5	MI (1)
140	0.000155	8	CO (5)
		5	MI (3)
		20	MI (2)
66	0.000016	9	NE (4), CO (2), MI (2)

### Structure of shared multilocus haplotypes

The most abundant MLH was represented by 27 isolates (Table 3) from five Regions (NE, MI, WA, CO, and ND). Within Regions, haplotypes were relatively evenly distributed with moderate to high diversity (Table 2). Of the 165 MLHs, 76 (46%) were found in at least two Regions, except those found in WI (2), ID (1), and Mexico (18) (Fig. 4).

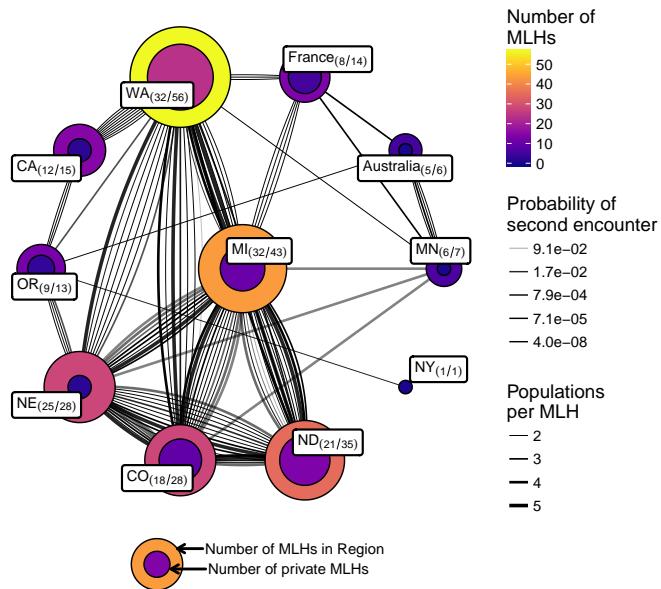
We had performed an analysis on a network where the connections represented shared MLHs across populations, weighted by  $1 - P_{sex}$  (Fig. 4, Table 3). Community analysis of the MLHs shared between populations revealed 4 communities with a modularity of 0.17: A coastal community (CA, OR, WA, and NY), a Midwest community (CO, ND, NE, MI), and an international community (Australia, France, MN). Although analysis with 16 loci resulted in the removal of the NY node because it no longer shared a haplotype with OR, the same overall community structure was present with a modularity of 0.2 (Fig. S4). Relative to the US, the international community appears to be driven by MLH 4, which is shared between all three populations and has a  $P_{sex}$  value of  $2.87e^{-5}$ , in contrast to the abundant MLH 25, which has a  $P_{sex}$  value of 0.0168.

### Population differentiation

#### Analysis of molecular variance

The AMOVA for clone-corrected samples over the hierarchy of Region, Source, and Year showed significant variation between Regions and Years, but no significant variation between wmn and producer fields (Table 4). In contrast, when we compared the three cultivars, Beryl, Bansi, and G122, we found no significant differentiation (See section on 'Host Differentiation' in the wmn-differentiation.md<sup>2</sup> file in the supplemental files (Kamvar et al., 2017)).

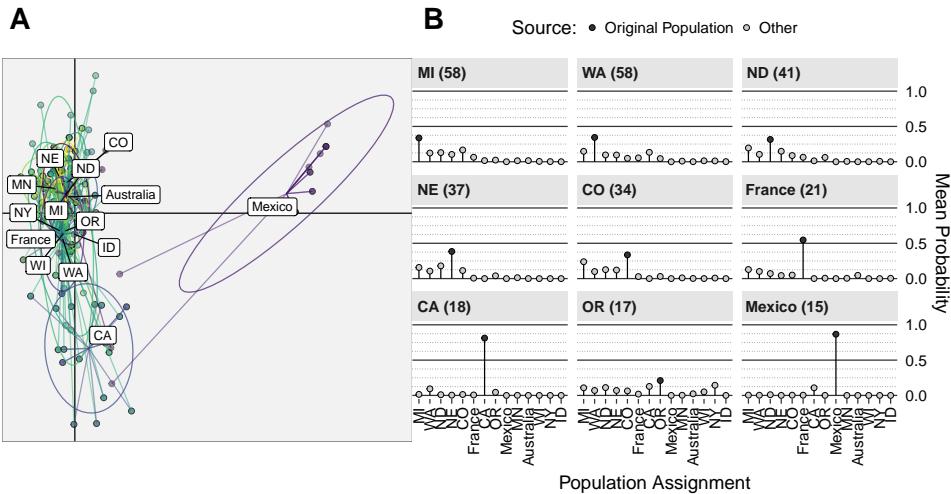
<sup>2</sup>Direct link: <https://github.com/everhartlab/sclerotinia-366/blob/master/results/wmn-differentiation.md#host-differentiation>



**Figure 4.** Network of populations (nodes/circles) and their shared multilocus haplotypes (MLH) (edges/lines) genotyped over 11 loci. Each node is labeled with **name (number of MLHs shared/number of MLHs total)**. The shade and area of the nodes are proportional to the number of unique MLHs within the node and the inner nodes are proportional to the number of private MLHs to the region (bottom legend). Each edge represents a single MLH where its thickness represents the number of populations that share the MLH and the shade represents the value of  $P_{sex}$ , or the probability of encountering that MLH from two independent meiotic events.

**Table 4.** Comparison of populations in the white mold screening nurseries (wmn) and producer fields using an analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) on Bruvo's genetic distance showing no apparent differentiation between wmn and other sources. The hierarchy was constructed as Source/Region where source is defined as belonging to a wmn or producer field. Bold  $\Phi$  values indicate significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ). S.S. = Sum of Squares, d.f. = degrees of freedom.

Hierarchy	d.f.	S.S.	% variation	$\Phi$ statistic	P
Between Region	13	10.19	8.45	<b>0.0845</b>	0.031
Between Source within Region	8	2.74	-2.29	-0.0250	0.497
Between Year within Source	22	9.37	16.28	<b>0.173</b>	0.001
Within Year	274	47.30	77.56	<b>0.224</b>	0.001



**Figure 5.** Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components (DAPC) on regions showing that Mexico is differentiated from other populations. **A)** Scatter plot of first two components from DAPC. Points represent observed individuals connected to the population centroids with ellipses representing a 66% confidence interval for a normal distribution. The center of each component is represented as black grid lines. **B)** Mean population assignment probability from the DAPC for all populations with  $N > 10$  (facets). Populations represented along the horizontal axis and probability of assignment on the vertical. Numbers next to source populations indicate population size. All values sum to one.

### 339 **Discriminant analysis of principal components**

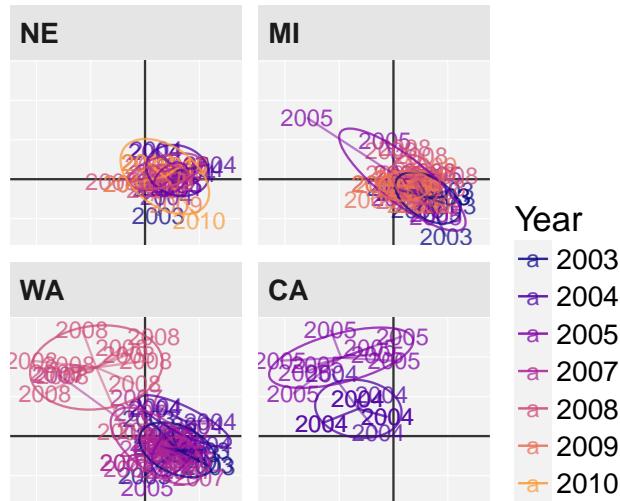
340 DAPC was performed by grouping Region with the first 21 principal components, representing  
 341 88.1% of the total variance. The first discriminant axis (representing 63.9% of the discriminatory power)  
 342 separated the centroid for the Mexico isolates from the rest of the data, indicating strong differentiation  
 343 (Fig. 5b). The second discriminant axis, representing 10.8% of the discriminatory power, separated the  
 344 centroid for the CA isolates. The mean population assignment probabilities for all populations with  $n >$   
 345 10 showed that only isolates from Mexico, CA, and France had  $> 50\%$  probabilities of being reassigned  
 346 to their source populations (Fig. 5a).

347 DAPC grouping by cultivar used the first 20 principal components, representing 89% of the total  
 348 variance. The first two discriminant axes (representing 100% of the discriminatory power) failed to  
 349 separate any of the cultivars where the mean posterior assignment probabilities were 34% (G122), 35.9%  
 350 (Beryl), and 30.1% (Bunsi). DAPC grouping by Region and Year used the first 15 principal components,  
 351 representing 80.3% of the total variance. The North Central USA populations (NE, MI, CO, ND) did not  
 352 appear to have any variation across time in contrast to WA, which showed a shift in population structure  
 353 in the last year of sampling, 2008 (Fig. 6). Further analysis of this population revealed that all 12 isolates  
 354 in WA circa 2008 originated in a wmn; nine haplotypes were shared with CA, and three were shared with  
 355 France (Fig. 4, S4).

## 356 **DISCUSSION**

357 In this study, we characterized the diversity of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* from dry bean fields across  
 358 the United States. Our results suggest that, broadly, populations from white mold screening nurseries  
 359 reflect the populations of the surrounding regions, indicating that resistance screening may be successful  
 360 within regions. We found significant population differentiation by geographic region and year, mainly  
 361 differentiated into three broad North American groups based on shared haplotypes and posterior groupings,  
 362 a Coastal Region, Midwestern Region, and Mexico. To date, with 366 isolates, this is the largest single  
 363 population genetic study of *S. sclerotiorum* assessing population structure within managed and unmanaged  
 364 agricultural environments. These findings indicate that the white mold screening nurseries can be effective  
 365 at screening for potential resistant lines within growing regions.

366 We found that the best predictors of genetic structure are Region and Year, supporting the hypothesis



**Figure 6.** Scatter plot of Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components (DAPC) on Regions and Years showing non-differentiated temporal variation NE and MI and temporal variation in WA and CA. Points (text labels) represent observed individuals connected to the population centroids with ellipses representing a 66% confidence interval for a normal distribution. The center of each component is represented as black grid lines. A more detailed view is shown in Fig. S5.

that *S. sclerotiorum* populations are spatially structured (Carbone & Kohn, 2001). Borrowing a technique often used in the ecological literature, we used dbRDA to elucidate the effect of all variables (MCG, Region, Source, Year, Host, and Aggressiveness) (Legendre & Anderson, 1999). From the initial results, it appeared that the most important factors for predicting genetic structure were MCG, region, and year. When we inspected the biplot of the initial results, we saw that the most important predictors were 'MCG 44', 'MCG 5', and 'MCG 9'. We believe that this was driven by the fact that these particular MCGs have uneven MLH distributions, meaning that they are heavily associated with one particular MLH (Fig. 1). We note these results with caution because of the apparent multicollinearity between MCG and Region, which is a violation of the analysis (Legendre & Anderson, 1999). While the results indicated that Mexico and the year 2005 were the two most important variables, it's worth noting that all Mexico isolates were collected in 2005 (Fig. 2). The results also show that the Vista cultivar explains some of the variance, but this represents six isolates in MI, and thus we cannot draw broad conclusions from this axis. Aggressiveness and source field had little to no effect on prediction of genetic diversity. These results are in agreement with studies that examined differentiation based on Host (Aldrich-Wolfe et al., 2015) and Aggressiveness (Atallah et al., 2004; Attanayake et al., 2012, 2013) reporting little or no correlation of genetic diversity to these variables. This indicates that a) breeders should keep in mind regional differences when assessing resistance and b) it is possible that we have not yet measured biologically relevant variables that can predict genetic differentiation, which could include variables such as soil community composition.

While aggressiveness was not shown to predict genetic structure, it is an important factor in breeding efforts, and we observed significant differences in aggressiveness based on Region (Fig. 3, Table S2). These results show a similar pattern to what was found previously in Otto-Hanson et al. (2011) with the exception of North Dakota, which increased in mean aggressiveness from 5 to 5.77. This increase was due in part to new data from producer field isolates collected after the previous study. These straw tests were performed by a different person for these later isolates, which could suggest a more lenient or strict scoring system. However, when we examined the within-region differences, we found no significant effect by individual. Many of the ND isolates fell within the 6–7 range, which denotes a physical boundary (disease symptoms around the second node) between intermediate and susceptible (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). Thus, we observed a shift in aggressiveness without a significant shift in genotypic structure, which may indicate that aggressiveness may be controlled by environmental factors as opposed to genetic profile.

398 The primary interest of this study was to assess if isolates sampled from white mold screening  
399 nurseries represent isolates from producer fields within the region (Steadman et al., 2003; Otto-Hanson  
400 et al., 2011). According to our AMOVA results, we have evidence for differentiation at the Region and  
401 Year, but little to no differentiation between wmn isolates and production field isolates (Table 4). This  
402 lack of differentiation, however, may reflect the breeder practice of inoculating screening plots with  
403 sclerotia collected from sources within the region. When we analyze the AMOVA results in light of the  
404 DAPC results (Fig. 5), it becomes clear that the regional patterns of differentiation are largely driven by  
405 isolates from Mexico and CA. Isolates from these Regions had a higher posterior probability ( $> 0.75$ ) of  
406 being reassigned to their own populations than any other (Fig. 5A). All other populations in comparison  
407 (except France) has reassignment probabilities of  $< 0.5$ , which is reflected in the failure of the first two  
408 discriminant functions to separate these populations (Fig. 5B).

409 Despite the evidence that Mexico and CA contributed to much of the population differentiation,  
410 Regions like WA still had a large amount of internal variation. The two distinct clusters for the WA Region  
411 showed that the 2008 population appeared differentiated and, under further investigation, we found that  
412 all the haplotypes from this year were shared between CA and France (Fig. 4, 6, S5). All of the isolates  
413 from WA in 2003–2005, and 2008 came from the same wmn; within the wmn, those in 2003–2005 came  
414 a Northeastern field location cropped with dry bean since 2002, and those in 2008 from a Southeastern  
415 field that was previously cropped with brassica, sundgrass, peas, beans, and potatoes (Miklas, Phil Pers.  
416 comm.). Both of these fields were inoculated with sclerotia in 2002, the Northeastern field with sclerotia  
417 provided by a commercial bean producer and the Southeastern field with sclerotia from peas (although  
418 this was thought to be unsuccessful). Despite this information, it is still unclear what has contributed  
419 to the differentiation of the 2008 population from WA or why it shares haplotypes with CA and France.  
420 When we assessed aggressiveness between the two fields across years with an ANOVA model, we found  
421 that there was a slight effect based on field ( $P = 0.0127$ ). While the evidence may suggest host as being a  
422 factor, previous studies have shown no significant differentiation across host species (Aldrich-Wolfe et  
423 al., 2015). It was of interest to compare our data with that of Aldrich-Wolfe et al. (2015), but we found  
424 that, due to differences in data generation, we were unable to confidently perform a comparison (See  
425 supplemental file compare-aldrich-wolfe.md<sup>3</sup> (Kamvar et al., 2017)).

426 With the exception of the WA Region, populations that were sampled across several years appeared to  
427 be relatively stable over time with overlapping distributions in the DAPC (i.e. NE and MI, Fig. 6). DAPC  
428 is based on the principal components of allele counts (Jombart et al., 2010). Unlike Bruvo's distance,  
429 this does not take into account the magnitude of the difference between alleles, which could inflate the  
430 distance measure in the presence of private alleles (Bruvo et al., 2004). While we found no evidence  
431 of private alleles in the Mexico and CA isolates, we did find that the alleles driving the first axis in Fig.  
432 5A (alleles 174, 256, and 372 in loci 7-2, 8-3, and 9-2, respectively) were overrepresented in Mexico  
433 (where  $>75\%$  of the alleles came from the region). However, all three of these alleles, i) conform to the  
434 expected stepwise mutation model (Bruvo et al., 2004) and ii) are at or near the extremes of the total range  
435 (except for allele 372 at locus 9-2). Moreover, the fact that we find three alleles at three independent loci  
436 segregating the Mexican genotypes suggests that the pattern separating these populations from the others  
437 was not an artifact. We believe that the differences in populations observed from Mexico may be due to  
438 differences in climate that allow greater diversification via sexual outcrossing.

439 Many of the isolates in our study were from temperate climates and the only isolates representing a  
440 sub-tropical climate were from Mexico. It has been proposed within the *S. sclerotiorum* literature that  
441 isolates from sub-tropical and tropical climates are differentiated or more variable than populations from  
442 temperate climates (Carbone & Kohn, 2001; Attanayake et al., 2013; Lehner & Mizubuti, 2017). This  
443 has been attributed to the notion that the fungus has the chance to undergo more reproductive cycles in  
444 the warmer climate (Carbone & Kohn, 2001; Attanayake et al., 2013). The strongest evidence to date  
445 supporting this hypothesis is from Attanayake et al. (2013), showing that populations in sub-tropical  
446 regions of China have been found to be more variable, sexually reproducing, and unrelated to populations  
447 in temperate regions of the USA. This result however, may be driven more by geography and agricultural  
448 practice as opposed to climate.

449 The results from our shared haplotype analysis showed several populations with at least one haplotype  
450 between them, except for Mexico and two states that had fewer than three samples each (Fig. 4). Our

451 <sup>3</sup>Direct link: <https://github.com/everhartlab/sclerotinia-366/blob/master/results/compare-aldrich-wolfe.md>

network-based approach by treating the haplotypes as edges and weighting each edge with the inverse of  $P_{sex}$  treated the edges as springs connecting the populations with the strength proportional to the probability of obtaining the same haplotype as a clone. This allowed us to use a graph walking algorithm to see how close the populations were, simply based off of the proportion of clones they shared. The most abundant haplotype was shared across four populations, but its high value of  $P_{sex}$  meant that it did not contribute significantly to the overall structure. The graph walking algorithm was able to divide the network into three groups, but had a modularity of 0.17, which indicates that the groups are only weakly differentiated.

The widespread nature of multilocus haplotypes in both wmn and production fields with relatively small values of  $P_{sex}$  may indicate the spread of inoculum between regions. While seedborne transmission is thought to be of insignificant epidemiological importance (Strausbaugh & Forster, 2003), it has since been shown that *S. sclerotiorum* infections can be transmitted through seed (Botelho et al., 2013). Thus, we hypothesize that shared haplotypes between populations may arise due to transmission events of seed or sclerotia. This could explain the fact that we see shared haplotypes with low  $P_{sex}$  values shared between Australia, France, and the United States. While we speculate that these transmission events are rare due to the genetic structuring by Region, these results suggest that seedborne infections may indeed reflect a source of inoculum. This may, in turn increase the risk of introducing new sources of genetic variation through potential outcrossing events.

When we tested for sexual reproduction, we were unable to find evidence for it in any region except for Australia and CA. While the Australia population had a non-significant value of  $\bar{r}_d$ —which would suggest that we cannot reject the null hypothesis of random mating—the sample size was insufficient from which to draw conclusions (Milgroom, 1996; Agapow & Burt, 2001). The low value of  $\bar{r}_d$  in the CA population may represent sexual reproduction, but we can see in Fig. 6 that there is differentiation by year. Thus, this could also be an artifact of sampling two different populations, which is known to reduce the value of  $\bar{r}_d$  (Prugnolle & de Meeûs, 2010).

The previous study of the white mold screening nursery populations used MCGs to assess genotypic diversity (Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). Historically, MCGs have been used as a proxy for clonal lineages, and thus, of interest in this study was testing the association between multilocus haplotypes (MLHs) and mycelial compatibility groups (MCGs) (Kohn et al., 1990; Leslie, 1993; Kohn, 1995; Carbone et al., 1999; Schafer & Kohn, 2006; Otto-Hanson et al., 2011). Our results, however, do not support this assumption. It can be seen in Fig. 1A that the most abundant MCG contains several MLHs, but the diversity of those MLHs are low as indicated by the evenness (transparency), which indicates that there is one dominant MLH ('MLH 25'). What is not shown in Fig. 1A is the MLHs that are shared between MCGs. This is illustrated in both Table 3 and Fig. 1B,C. It could be argued, however that 'MLH 25', with its high value of  $P_{sex}$  represents different true MLHs across the five MCGs it occupies, but this does not account for the overall structure of Fig. S3 where, for example, 'MLH 75' ( $P_{sex} = 1.81e^{-4}$ ) is compatible with 57 other haplotypes through three MCG when the population structure of *S. sclerotiorum* is known to be clonal.

Over the past few years, researchers have noticed inconsistencies among the relationship between MCGs and MLHs (Carbone et al., 1999; Attanayake et al., 2012; Aldrich-Wolfe et al., 2015; Lehner et al., 2015). Either several MCGs belong to one MLH, which could be explained by insufficient sampling of loci; several MLHs belong to one MCG, which could be explained by clonal expansion; or a mixture of both. Some studies have shown a correlation between MCG and MLH (Carbone et al., 1999; Aldrich-Wolfe et al., 2015; Lehner et al., 2015), whereas other studies have shown no apparent correlation, even on small spatial scales (Atallah et al., 2004; Attanayake et al., 2012, 2013).

One long-held assumption was that MCGs (as determined via barrage reaction) represent vegetative compatibility groups (VCGs) (Kohn et al., 1990; Schafer & Kohn, 2006; Lehner et al., 2015), which are known to have a genetic component (Saupe, 2000; Hall et al., 2010; Strom & Bushley, 2016). While our protocol for assessing MCGs utilized Diana Sermons Medium (Cubeta et al., 2001) as compared to Patterson's Medium or Potato Dextrose Agar (Schafer & Kohn, 2006) for the MCG reactions, the patterns we observe are not dissimilar from what have previously been reported in the literature. It has been demonstrated in several Ascomycetes—including *Neurospora crassa* (Micali & Smith, 2003), *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* (Jo et al., 2008), *Verticillium dahliae* (Papaioannou & Typas, 2014), and *S. sclerotiorum* (Ford et al., 1995)—that barrage reactions are independent from stable anastomosis. Thus, the inconsistencies in this study and other studies indicate that researchers studying *S. sclerotiorum* should not rely on MCG data derived from barrage reactions as an indicator for genetic diversity.

506 **Limitations**

507 One of the main limitations of this study is the focus on *P. vulgaris* as a host. It has been shown  
508 that *S. sclerotiorum* in the midwestern United States does not have a particular preference for host  
509 (Aldrich-Wolfe et al., 2015). If the distribution of *S. sclerotiorum* is even across agricultural hosts in the  
510 USA, then our sample may yet be representative of the genetic pool present in other crops and weedy  
511 species. Additionally, while we found no significant association between genotype and aggressiveness, it  
512 is important to note that the straw test is only one measure of aggressiveness. Additional phenotypes for  
513 aggressiveness should be evaluated for future studies.

514 Another limitation was the microsatellite markers used for this particular study (Sirjusingh & Kohn,  
515 2001). The haplotype accumulation curve showed no indication of a plateau, indicating that if we had  
516 sampled more loci, we would have resolved more multilocus haplotypes. While 16 loci showed us  
517 similar results and began to show a plateau for the haplotype accumulation curve, we were unable to  
518 use these results due to our uncertainty in the allele calls for these five extra loci. With the availability  
519 of an optically-mapped genome (Derbyshire et al., 2017), future studies describing the genetic diversity  
520 of *S. sclerotiorum* should employ techniques such as Genotyping-By-Sequencing (Davey et al., 2011),  
521 Sequence Capture (Grover et al., 2012), or Whole Genome Sequencing.

522 **Conclusions**

523 This study represents the largest genetic analysis of *S. sclerotiorum* from the USA to date, giving us a  
524 unique insight to continent-wide population structure and relationships between phenotypic and genotypic  
525 variables. Populations in wmn appear to show no significant differentiation when compared to their  
526 production field counterparts, suggesting that the wmn populations of *S. sclerotiorum* may be considered  
527 representative of the surrounding regions. While we found no direct relationship between haplotype and  
528 severity, it is evident that there is a gradient of severity by region, further supporting the need for screening  
529 in multiple locations. Based on our analysis of the relationships between MCG and MLH, we found  
530 no clear evidence that the two are directly related, suggesting that MCG does not necessarily represent  
531 vegetative compatibility groups and thus should not be used as a proxy for identifying clones.

532 **Data Availability**

533 All scripts, data, and resources used to generate the results presented in this publication (including  
534 Supplementary Information) are fully reproducible and available at The Open Science Framework  
535 <https://osf.io/ejb5y> (Kamvar et al., 2017).

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547 **Conflicts of Interest**

548 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

549 **Author Contributions**

- 550 • **Zhian N. Kamvar** analyzed the data, contributed analysis tools, wrote the paper, prepared figures  
551 and tables, edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.
- 552 • **B. Sajeewa Amaradasa** analyzed the data, contributed analysis tools, wrote drafts of the paper,  
553 edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.

- 554           ● **Rachana Jhala** Carried out experiments (MCG assessment, aggressiveness ratings, genotyping),  
555           edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.
- 556           ● **Serena McCoy** Carried out experiments (MCG assessment, aggressiveness ratings, genotyping),  
557           edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.
- 558           ● **James R. Steadman** Conceived and designed experiments, organized network of white mold  
559           screening nurseries, provided *S. sclerotiorum* isolates, edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.
- 560           ● **Sydney E. Everhart** supervised data analysis, analyzed the data, contributed analysis tools, wrote  
561           the paper, edited and reviewed drafts of the paper.

562 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**Table S1.** Description of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* isolates used in this study. N = Number of Isolates. Key abbreviations: wmn = white mold screening nursery, producer = producer field, unk = unknown cultivar.

Country	State	Field Code	Year	Host	N
USA	CA	wmn	2004, 2005	Beryl, Bansi, G122	18
USA	CO	producer	2007, 2010	Pinto, Yellow	41
		wmn	2003	GH	1
USA	ID	producer	2003	GH	1
USA	MI	wmn	2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009	11A, 37, 38, B07104, Beryl, Bansi, Cornell, G122, Orion, PO7863, WM31	43
		producer	2003, 2008, 2009	BL, Black, Fuji, GH, Merlot, SR06233, unk, Vista, Zorro	19
USA	MN	wmn	2003, 2004	Beryl, Bansi, G122	11
USA	ND	producer	2007, 2010	unk	53
		wmn	2005	Beryl, Bansi, G122	7
USA	NE	wmn	2004, 2005, 2008, 2010	Beryl, Bansi, G122, PO7683, unk	27
		producer	2003, 2007, 2009, 2010	Beryl, Emerson, GH, Orion, Pinto, Weihing	20
USA	NY	producer	2003	GH	1
USA	OR	wmn	2003, 2004	Beryl, Bansi, G122	15
		producer	2003	G122, GH	2
USA	WA	wmn	2003, 2004, 2005, 2008	11A, 37, 38, Beryl, Bansi, Cornell, G122, Orion, PO7 104, PO7863, WM31	36
		producer	2003, 2007	GH, Merlot, Pinto, Redkid	23
USA	WI	producer	2003	GH	2
Mexico	-	wmn	2005	Beryl, Bansi, G122	18
France	-	wmn	2004, 2005	Beryl, Bansi, G122	18
		producer	2012	unk	4
Australia	-	wmn	2004	Beryl, Bansi, G122	4
		producer	2004	Beryl	2

**Table S2.** Mean aggressiveness ratings for Regions with more than five samples; groupings according to 95% family-wise confidence interval.

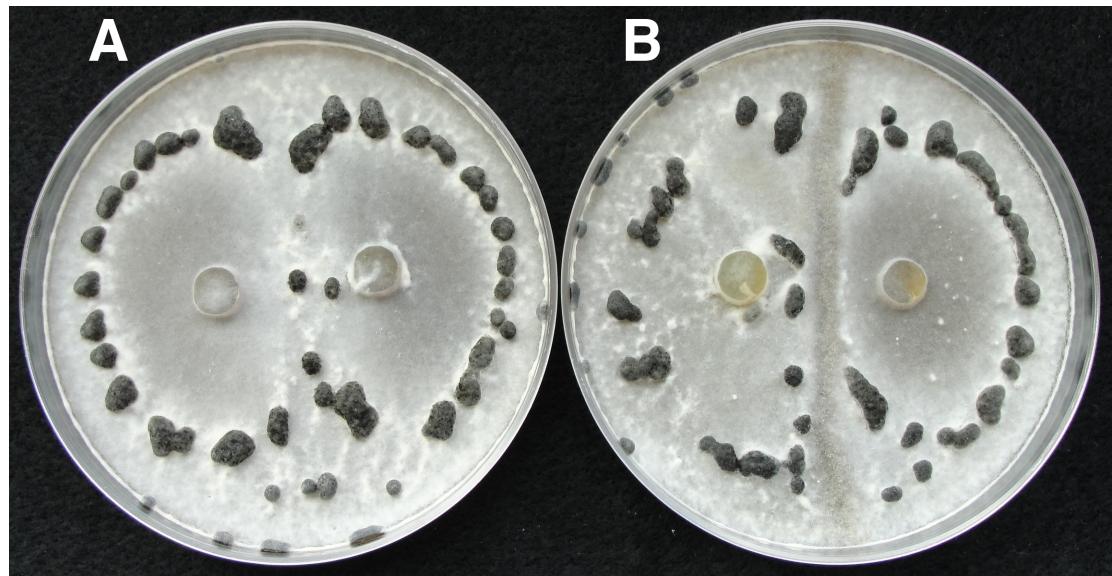
Region	Mean Aggressiveness	Group
MN	5.84	a
ND	5.77	a
NE	5.29	ab
MI	5.13	abc
OR	4.84	abcd
CO	4.72	bcd
WA	4.67	cd
France	4.66	cd
Mexico	4.58	cd
Australia	4.12	cd
CA	4.01	d

**Table S3.** Mean aggressiveness ratings for the 10 most abundant MCG; groupings according to 95% family-wise confidence interval.

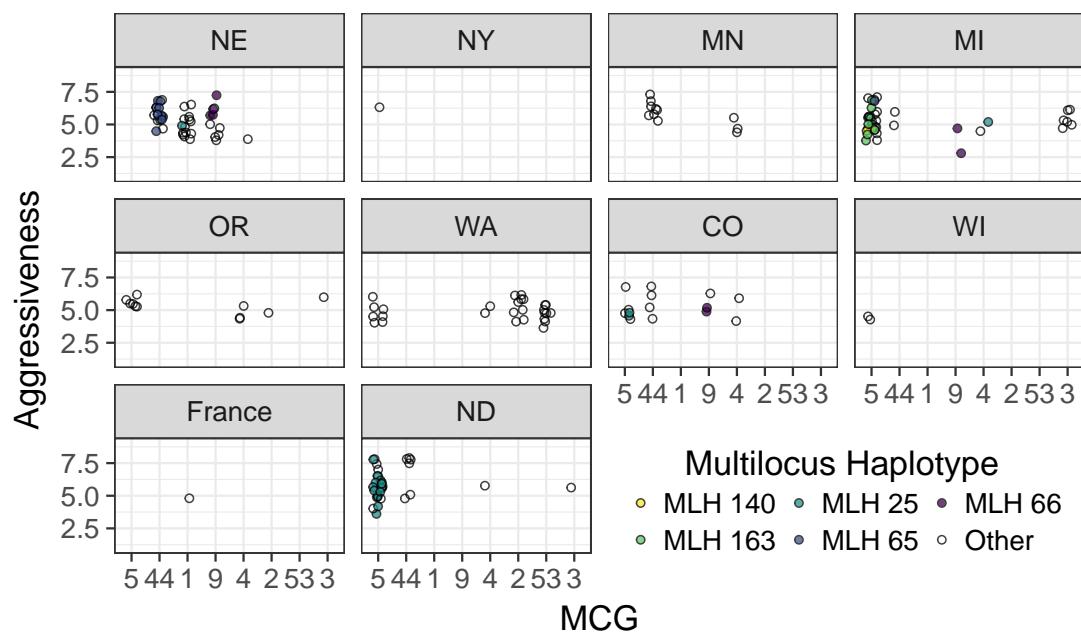
MCG	Mean Aggressiveness	Group
44	6.03	a
3	5.50	ab
5	5.40	b
2	5.25	b
9	5.11	b
1	4.95	b
45	4.88	b
4	4.87	b
53	4.69	b
49	4.60	b

**Table S4.** Mean aggressiveness ratings for the 10 MLH most abundant; groupings according to 95% family-wise confidence interval.

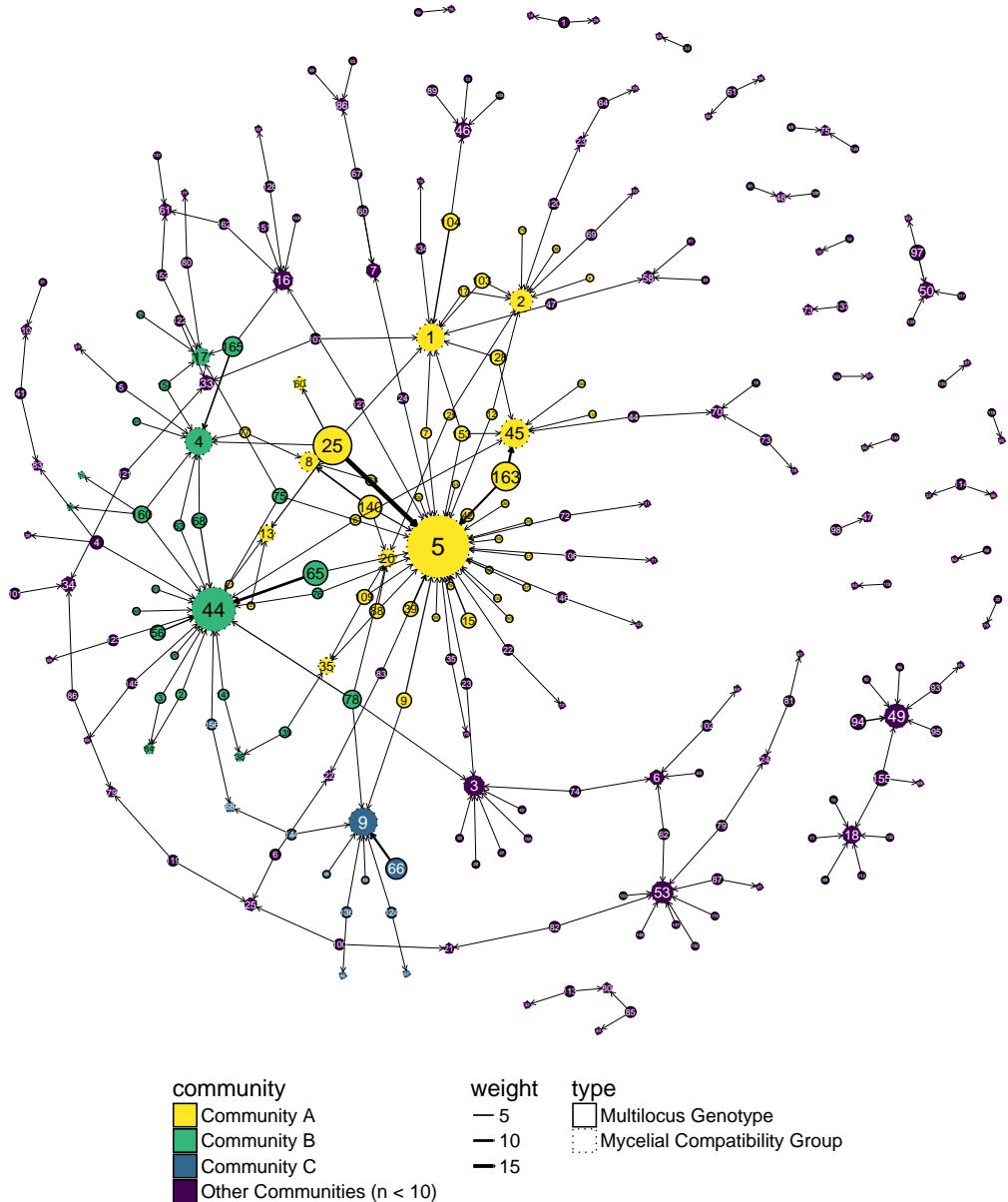
MLH	Mean Aggressiveness	Group
78	6.07	a
65	5.94	a
9	5.67	ab
25	5.41	ab
66	5.30	ab
104	5.22	ab
160	4.80	ab
163	4.80	ab
165	4.34	b
140	4.31	b



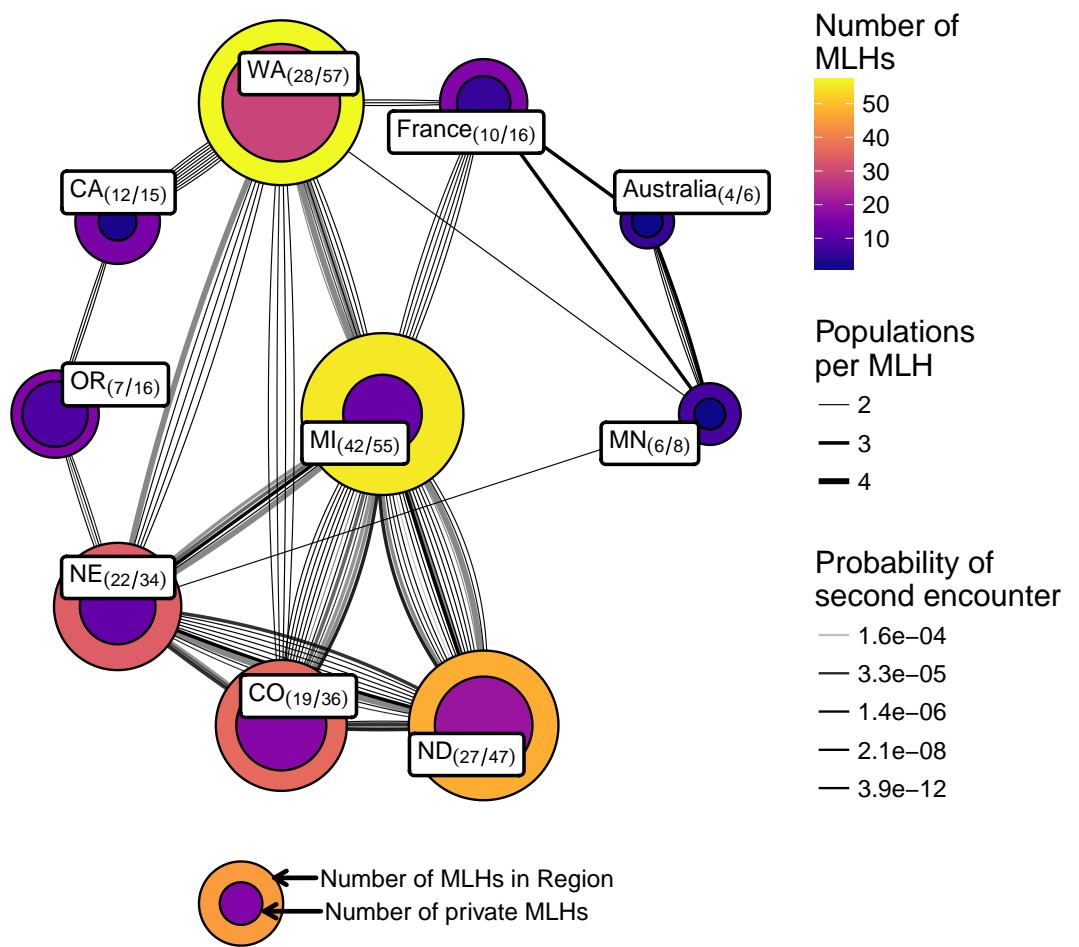
**Figure S1.** Example of MCG test plates showing (A) a compatible reaction with mycelia from two strains overgrowing each other and (B) an incompatible reaction with a barrage line of dead tissue forming between the two strains. Photo Credit: Rebecca Higgins.



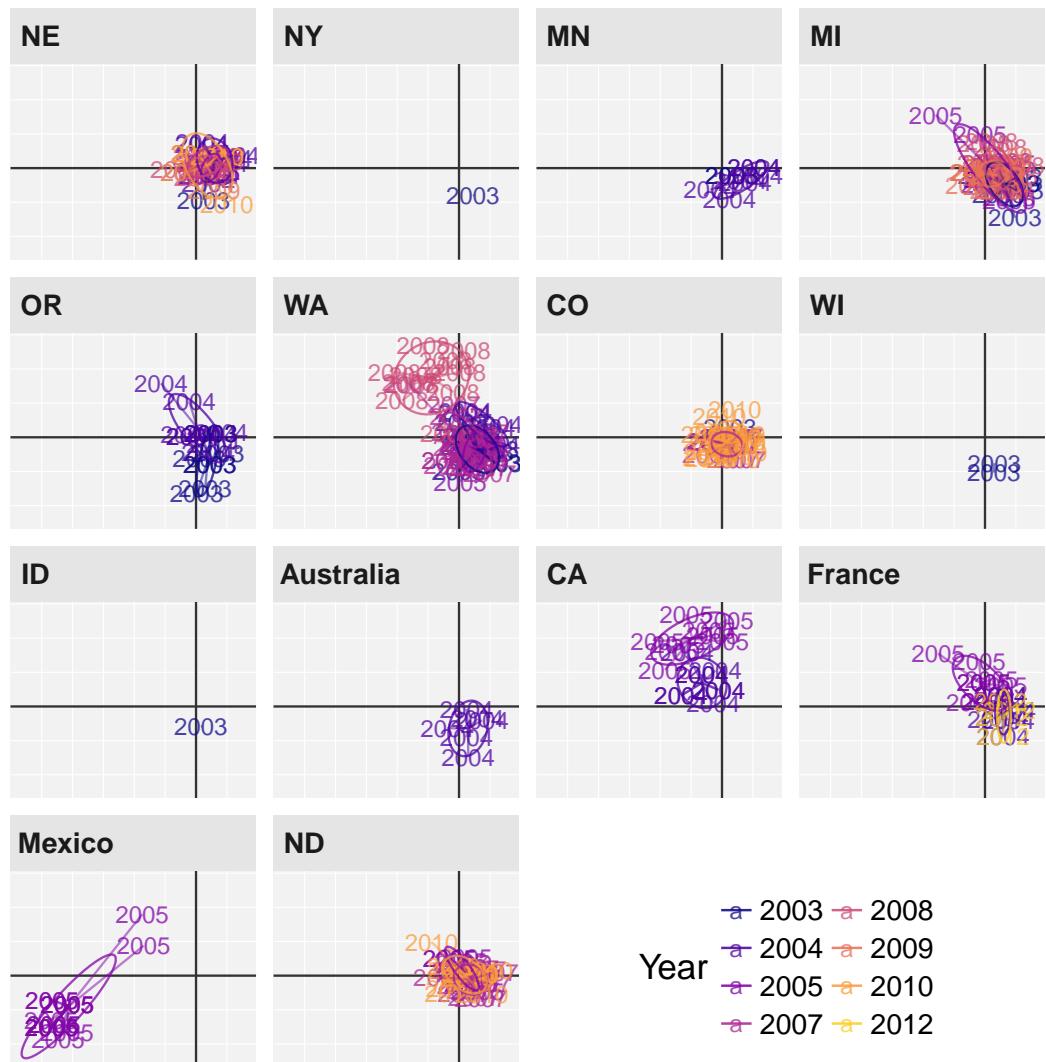
**Figure S2.** Strip plot of aggressiveness for the eight most abundant MCGs partitioned by region. Filled circles indicate one of the five most abundant MLHs and open circles indicate a MLH of lesser abundance.



**Figure S3.** Graph showing complex associations between Mycelial Compatibility Groups (MCG) (dotted nodes) and Multilocus Haplotypes (MLH) (full nodes) where the number in each node represents the MLH/MCG assignment. Node size reflect the number of samples represented by each node (circle). Edges (arrows) point from MLH to MCG where the weight (thickness) of the edge represents the number of samples shared. Node color represents the community assignment based on the walktrap algorithm with a maximum of four steps (Pons & Latapy, 2006). An interactive version of this network can be recreated using the code in the “Interactive visualizations” section of the mlg-mcg.md file in the supplementary information (Direct Link: <https://github.com/everhartlab/sclerotinia-366/blob/master/results/mlg-mcg.md#interactive-visualizations>) (Kamvar et al., 2017).



**Figure S4.** Network of populations (nodes/circles) and their shared multilocus haplotypes (MLHs) (edges/lines) haplotyped over 16 loci. Each node is labeled with **name (number of MLHs shared/number of MLHs total)**. The shade and area of the nodes are proportional to the number of unique MLHs within the node and the inner nodes are proportional to the number of private MLHs to the region (bottom legend). Each edge represents a single MLH where its thickness represents the number of populations that share the MLH and the shade represents the value of  $P_{sex}$ , or the probability of encountering that MLH from two independent meiotic events.



**Figure S5.** Scatter plot of Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components on Regions and Years showing temporal variation across all Regions. Points (text labels) represent observed individuals connected to the population centroids with ellipses representing a 66% confidence interval for a normal distribution. The center of each component is represented as black grid lines.

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