PRIMER

## Gene transfer between fungal species triggers repeated coffee wilt disease outbreaks

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Two outbreaks of coffee wilt disease have devastated African coffee production. A PLOS Biology study suggests that horizontal gene transfer via large Starship transposons between 2 fungal species played a key role in the repeated emergence of the disease.





Coffee Wilt disease caused by Fusarium xylarioides



Coffea excelsa No longer planted

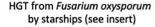








Replaced *C. exclesa* but now threatened by *F. xylarioides* "Robusta"











Threatened by F. xylarioides "Arabica"

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