

PRIMER

Gene transfer between fungal species triggers repeated coffee wilt disease outbreaks

Brenda D. Wingfield , Michael J. Wingfield

Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

* Brenda.Wingfield@fabi.up.ac.za

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.

