

Dear Vineyard Manager/Winemaker,

Bragato Research Institute and Victoria University of Wellington are collaborating on a project to understand diversity among the *Botrytis* strains that infect our fruit.

We are into our second year of sequencing *Botrytis cinerea* genomes from around the country, to better understand varietal and geographic diversity and to help guide future management strategies. We have a specific focus on the laccase enzymes encoded in the *Botrytis* genomes. We plan to biochemically characterise the predominant laccases, with the ultimate goal of developing new strategies for inhibiting their activities during grape growing and winemaking.

We hope to collect samples of *Botrytis*-infected fruit from different vineyards. Would you be willing to help? If so, we request that you send us berry samples of any diseased fruit that you might encounter this season. We are particularly interested in receiving samples from multiple regions, which will enable us to see the diversity in *B. cinerea* across the length of New Zealand.

Up to a maximum of four samples from your vineyard would be very gratefully received. These can be placed in ziplock bags and posted (at room temperature) to us at:

Lyle Cornish
VUW, School of Biological Sciences
c/o SCPS Store, Laby Building Room 113
Gate 7, Kelburn Parade
Wellington 6012

Please include information on the variety of each sample and information on where you sampled it (region, sub-region, soil type, age of vine, disease status e.g. trunk disease, GLRaV)

We will attempt to isolate pure cultures of *B. cinerea* from your samples. This will allow us to sequence their genomes and look for novel characteristics of their laccases. We are happy to share any results or data in which you might be interested, and we will also acknowledge you in any publications or presentations arising from this work (unless you request otherwise).

Thank you in advance, and please let us know if you have any queries.
Regards,

Ngarita Warden & Annabel Whibley, Bragato Research Institute
Wayne Patrick & Lyle Cornish, Victoria University of Wellington