



Instituto Nacional de
Investigação Agrária e
Veterinária, I.P.



Improvement
Implementation
Project



EAAP
European Federation
of Animal Science

Optimizing COI Barcoding for molecular detection of hidden insect infestation in rice grains: evaluating primer efficiency and detection limits

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1.

RICE: a staple food

Portugal: 17kg/person/year

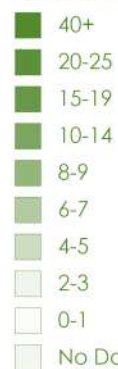
2.

3.

4.

5.

Yearly Rice Consumption
Per Capita (kg)



Source: FAOStat via HelgiLibrary
Created with MapChart

1.

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Sitophilus spp. cereal life cycle $\pm$ 28 DAYS

2.

Favourable temperatures:
25 to 30 °C
High relative humidity:
70 to 80%

3.

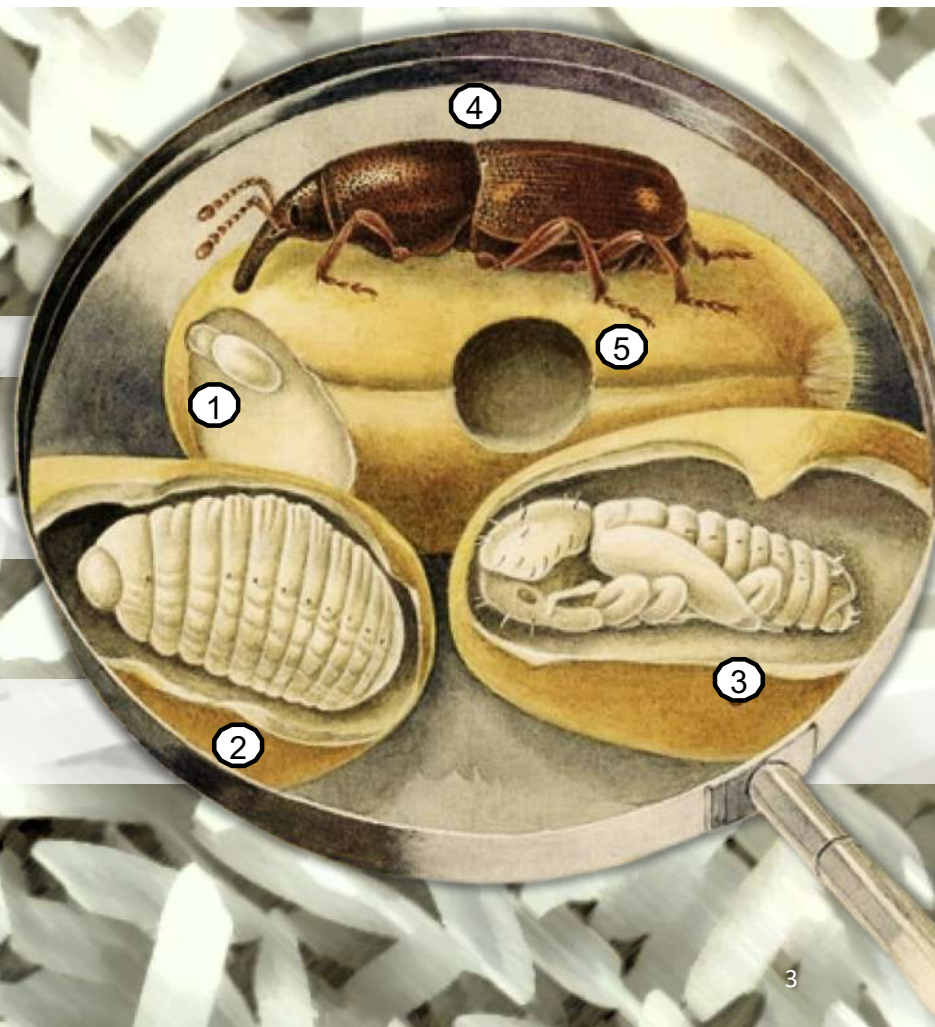
① Deposition of eggs inside the rice grain

4.

② ③ The pupation process

5.

④ ⑤ Exit hole is made, from which it then emerges the adult insect



WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

ISO 6339-4:1987 - Cereals and Pulses—Determination of Hidden Insect Infestation

2.

- DETERMINATION OF CO₂ PRODUCTION METHOD
- NINHYDRIN METHOD



NEGATIVE
TEST

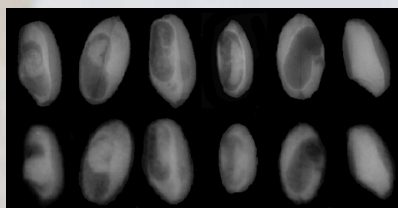
Free α -amino
group not present



POSITIVE
TEST

Free α -amino
group present

- X-RAY METHOD



Instar 4 PrePupa Pupa Adult Vacant Uninfested



- ACOUSTIC METHOD
- FLOTATION METHOD

1.

WHICH INSECTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO DETECT ?

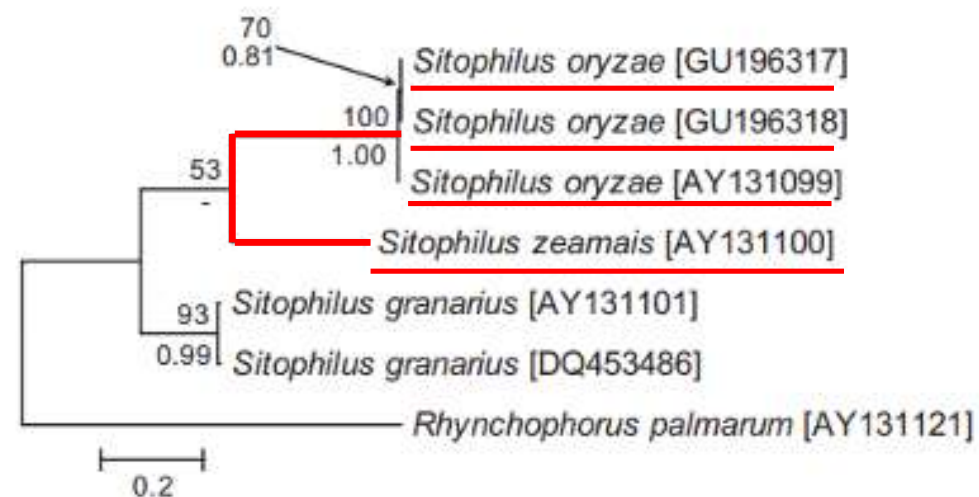
2.



Sitophilus zeamais



Sitophilus oryzae



Toju et al., Nature, 2013

COI BARCODING

PRIMERS AND PROBES DESIGN



S. oryzae and *S. zeamais* mtDNA
Cytochrome oxidase subunit 1
COI

Compilation of DNA
sequences from GenBank®
211 COI sequences of S0

NIH National Library of Medicine
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Nucleotide Advanced

FASTA +

Sitophilus oryzae mitochondrion, complete genome
NCBI Reference Sequence: NC_030765.1
[GenBank](#) [Graphics](#)

>NC_030765.1:3308-2870 Sitophilus oryzae mitochondrion, complete genome
ATTATCGCTTAATCTCAGCCATTTTACCGAATAAATGATTTCTCTACTAACCAACAAATATCGAA
CATTATACCTTTATTTTGGACATGATCAGGAATAGTAGGATACCTTAAGTTTGCTAATTCGGGCAGAACTAG
AAATCTCTGGATCACTAATGGAATGACCAATTTATAATACATATTGTCACAGCACATGATTCATTAT
AATTTCTTTATAGTAATACCAATATAATTGGAGGATTGGAACTGATTATCCCATTAATATTAGGA
GCCCCAGATATAGCATTCCCGGTTTAAATAATATAAGATTGATTACTCCACCTCCCTTAACCTTTT
TACTAATAAGAAAGATTATTGAAAAGGGAGCAGGAACAGGATGAACCGTCTACCCCGGCTCTCATCCAA
TATTGCCCATGAAGGAGCTTCTGTTGATCTGGCCATTTTCAGTTTACATATAGCAGGAATTTTCATCTATT
CTAGGAGCTATTAAATTTTATCAACAGCCCTATAATATACAGCCCTCAGGAATATTCTGAACGAATAA
CCCTATTATTGAGCAGTAAAGATCACTGCTATTCTCTCTCTTTAGATTACCTGTATTAGCAGGAGC
AATCACTATATCTTCTACTGATCGAAATATTAACTCTCTTTTGTATCTTCCCGGAGGAGACCCA
ATTCTCTATCAACATTTATTTGATTTTTT

Gene COI_S0.fa

Ficheiro Editar Ver

>M2736596.1 Sitophilus oryzae voucher USDAMHK cytochrome c oxidase subunit I
(COX1) gene, partial cds; mitochondrial
TACTTTATTTTGGAACTGATCAGGAATAGTAGGATACCTTAAGTTTGCTAATTCGGGCAGAACTAG
GAATCTCTGGATCACTAATGGAATGACCAATTTATAATACATATTGTCACAGCACATGATTCATTAT
AATTTCTTTATAGTAATACCAATATAATTGGAGGATTGGAACTGATTATCCCATTAATATTAGGA
GCCCCAGATATAGCATTCCCGGTTTAAATAATATAAGATTGATTACTCCACCTCCCTTAACCTTTT
TACTAATAAGAAAGATTATTGAAAAGGGAGCAGGAACAGGATGAACCGTCTACCCCGGCTCTCATCCAA
TATTGCCCATGAAGGAGCTTCTGTTGATCTGGCCATTTTCAGTTTACATATAGCAGGAATTTTCATCTATT
CTAGGAGCTATTAAATTTTATCAACAGCCCTATAATATACAGCCCTCAGGAATATTCTGAACGAATAA
CCCTATTATTGAGCAGTAAAGATCACTGCTATTCTCTCTCTTTAGATTACCTGTATTAGCAGGAGC
AATCACTATATCTTCTACTGATCGAAATATTAACTCTCTTTTGTATCTTCCCGGAGGAGACCCA
ATTCTCTATCAACATTTATTTGATTTTTT

>M1989875.1 Sitophilus oryzae voucher P5_41 cytochrome c oxidase subunit I
(COX1) gene, partial cds; mitochondrial
AACTTATACCTTTATTTTGGAACTGATCAGGAATAGTAGGATACCTTAAGTTTGCTAATTCGGGC
GAATCTCTGGATCACTAATGGAATGACCAATTTATAATACATATTGTCACAGCACATGATTCATTAT
AATTTCTTTATAGTAATACCAATATAATTGGAGGATTGGAACTGATTATCCCATTAATATTAGGA
GCCCCAGATATAGCATTCCCGGTTTAAATAATATAAGATTGATTACTCCCGGCTCTCATCCAA
TATTGCCCATGAAGGAGCTTCTGTTGATCTGGCCATTTTCAGTTTACATATAGCAGGAATTTTCATCTATT
CTAGGAGCTATTAAATTTTATCAACAGCCCTATAATATACAGCCCTCAGGAATATTCTGAACGAATAA
CCCTATTATTGAGCAGTAAAGATCACTGCTATTCTCTCTCTTTAGATTACCTGTATTAGCAGGAGC
AATCACTATATCTTCTACTGATCGAAATATTAACTCTCTTTTGTATCTTCCCGGAGGAGACCCA
ATTCTCTATCAACATTTATTTGATTTTTT

40 COI sequences of SZ

s voucher ZMU0.025512 cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (COI) gene,
partial cds; mitochondrial
AGGAACCTCATTGAGTTTACTAATTCGGGCTGAATTAGGGA
ATTTCACAACTATTGTTACAGCTCAGCATTCATTATAAT
GAGGTTTCGGAACTGATTGATCCCACTAATCTAGGAGCC
TATAGGTTCTGATTACTCCCTCCATTAATCTTTTAT
GGAACAGGATGAGCTTTATCCCTCATTCCTCAATAT
CAATTTTATGCTTCTATAGCAGGATTTTCATCTATTCTT
TAATATACCCCTCCGGTATATATCAGATCAATAACTT
ATTCCTCTTTTACTTATGATACCTGTTTATAGCTGAGCAAT
ATACCTCTTTTGTATCTGCTGAGGCGGAGACCTTAT

>M2650159.1 Sitophilus zeamais voucher ZMU0.025513 cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (COI) gene,
partial cds; mitochondrial
AACTTATACCTTTATTTTGGAACTGATCAGGAATAGTAGGATACCTTAAGTTTGCTAATTCGGGC
GAATCTCTGGATCACTAATGGAATGACCAATTTATAATACATATTGTCACAGCACATGATTCATTAT
AATTTCTTTATAGTAATACCAATATAATTGGAGGATTGGAACTGATTATCCCATTAATATTAGGA
GCCCCAGATATAGCATTCCCGGTTTAAATAATATAAGATTGATTACTCCCGGCTCTCATCCAA
TATTGCCCATGAAGGAGCTTCTGTTGATCTGGCCATTTTCAGTTTACATATAGCAGGAATTTTCATCTATT
CTAGGAGCTATTAAATTTTATCAACAGCCCTATAATATACAGCCCTCAGGAATATTCTGAACGAATAA
CCCTATTATTGAGCAGTAAAGATCACTGCTATTCTCTCTCTTTAGATTACCTGTATTAGCAGGAGC
AATCACTATATCTTCTACTGATCGAAATATTAACTCTCTTTTGTATCTTCCCGGAGGAGACCCA
ATTCTCTATCAACATTTATTTGATTTTTT

geneious[®]
prime

Alignment View Distances Dotplot Text View Lineage Info

← → ↺ Extract R.C. Translate Edit Annotation Allow Editing Annotate & Predict Save

Consensus Identity

Annotations

Name: RSZ
Type: Primer Bind (primer_bind) (Created by primer3)
Length: 23
Interval: 1,762 -> 1,740 (1,761 -> 1,739)
%GC: 47.8
Hairpin Tm: None
Self Dimer Tm: 11.7
Tm: 62.1
Sequence: AATCAACAGAGGCTCCTTCGTGT
Mismatch Positions: A=====G=====G==T
Mismatches: 4
Local Off-target Sites: 0
Local Off-target: KX373615.1

Selected 23 columns from 1,762 to 1,740 (23 ungapped bases from 1,755 to 1,733) in RSZ (Primer Bind 5 of 6). Mouse

IN SILICO SPECIFICITY PRIMER BLAST

NIH National Library of Medicine
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Primer-BLAST

A tool for finding specific primers

Finding primers specific to your PCR template (using Primer3 and BLAST).

Primers for target on one template | Primers common for a group of sequences

Retrieve recent results | Publication | Tips for finding specific primers

PCR Template

Enter accession, gi, or FASTA sequence (A refseq record is preferred)

Range From To

Forward primer

Reverse primer

Or, upload FASTA file Nenhum ficheiro seleccionado

Primer Parameters

Use my own forward primer (5'→3' on plus strand)

Use my own reverse primer (5'→3' on minus strand)



Other reports [Search Summary](#)

Detailed primer reports

Primer pair 1	Sequence (5'→3')	Length	Tm	GC%	Self complementarity	Self 3' complementarity
Forward primer	CTTGACGTTTATTTTCGATGC	21	54.28	38.10	4.00	2.00
Reverse primer	TGGTTAATTTTGGCGTCCC	19	56.09	47.37	4.00	1.00

Products on target templates

>AH011302.2 Sitophilus oryzae 18S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence; internal transcribed spacer 1, complete sequence; 5.8S ribosomal RNA genes, partial sequence; internal transcribed spacer 2, complete sequence; and 28S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence

product length = 255

Forward primer	1	CTTGACGTTTATTTTCGATGC	21
Template	1316		1336

Reverse primer	1	TGGTTAATTTTGGCGTCCC	19
Template	1570		1552

>AF276517.1 Sitophilus oryzae 18S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence; internal transcribed spacer 1, 5.8S ribosomal RNA gene, internal transcribed spacer 2, and 28S ribosomal RNA gene, complete sequence

product length = 255

Forward primer	1	CTTGACGTTTATTTTCGATGC	21
Template	1196		1216

Reverse primer	1	TGGTTAATTTTGGCGTCCC	19
Template	1450		1432

AGAINST INSECTS FROM COLEOPTERA ORDER

1.

2.

3.

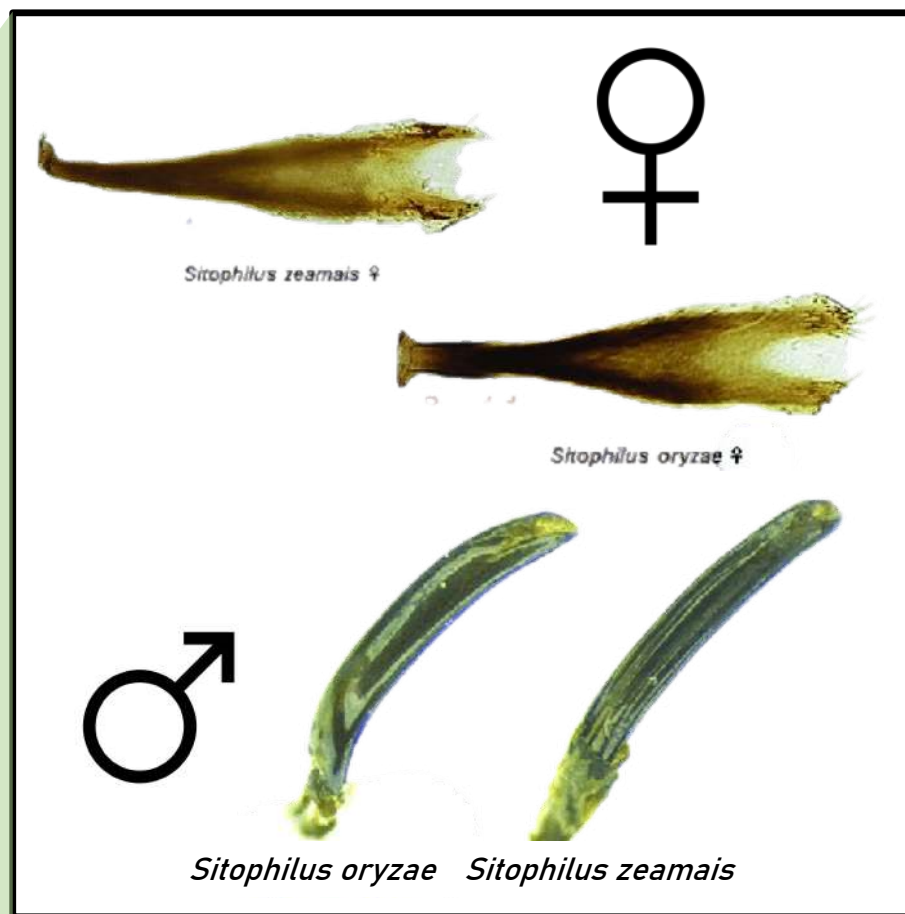
4.

5.



INSECT PRE-IDENTIFICATION

GENITALIA MORPHOLOGY – SELECTING POSITIVE CONTROLS



INSECT DNA EXTRACTION

1.

2.

3.

4.

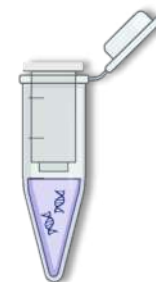
Grinding whole
insects in a mortar

5.

nzytech tissue gDNA isolation kit



4h lysis at 56 °C



Purified DNA extract

qPCR

PROTOCOL OPTIMIZATION

TEMPERATURE GRADIENT

SO

BEST PRIMER ANNEALING TEMPERATURE

60 °C

SZ

PCR CONDITIONS:

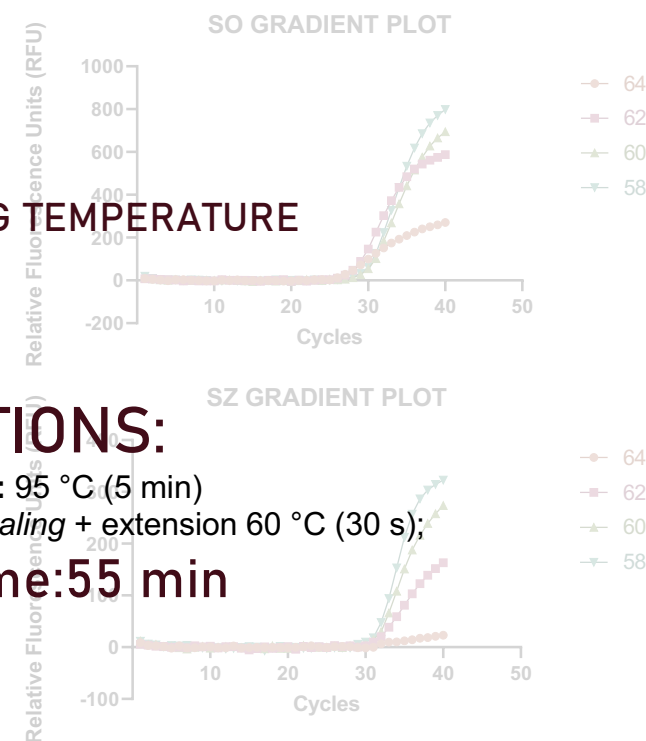
INITIAL DENATURATION: 95 °C (5 min)

40 Cycles - denaturation 95 °C (5 s); annealing + extension 60 °C (30 s);

Total protocol time: 55 min

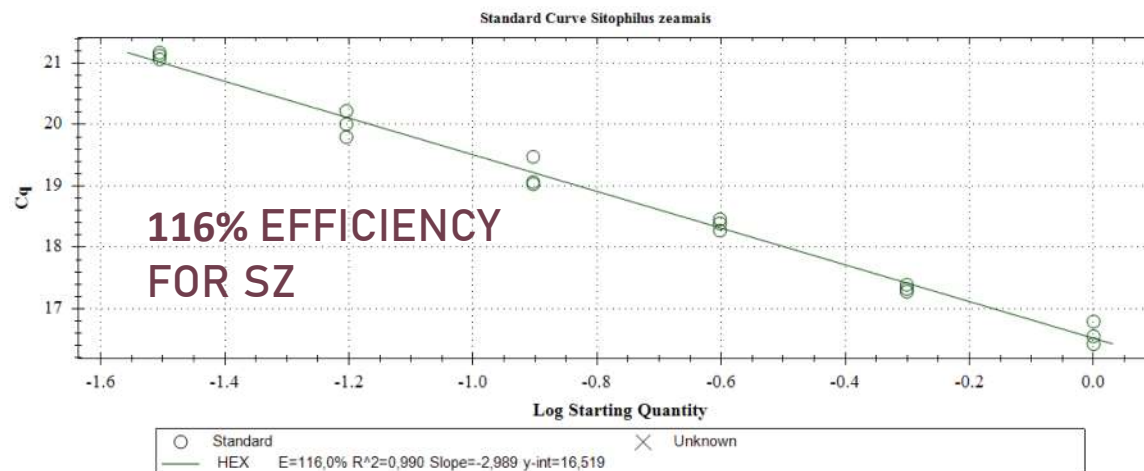
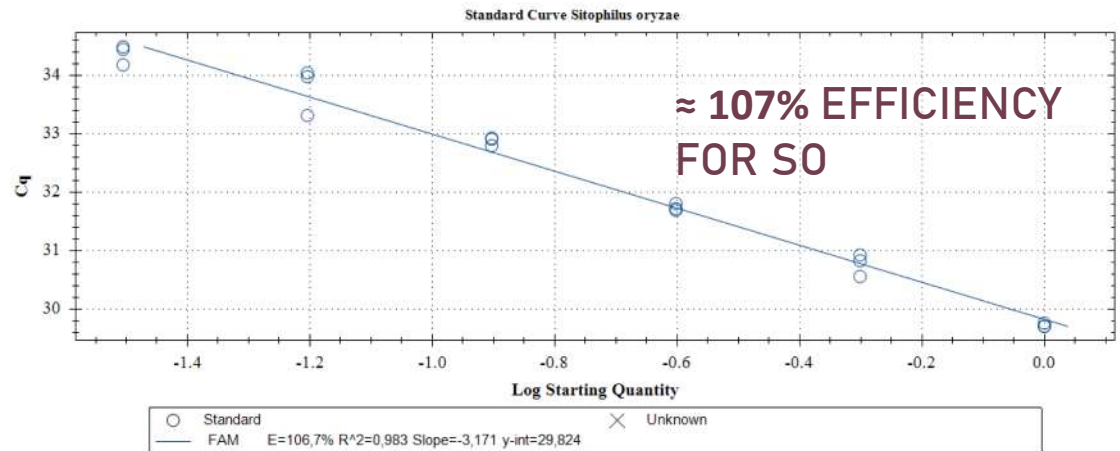
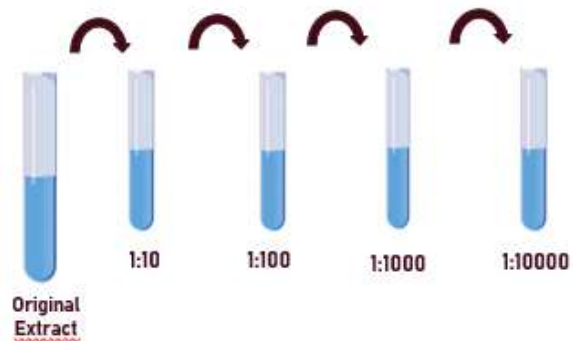
Annealing Temperature (°C)	Mean Cq	Stand. Desv.	Maximum RFU
64	29,99	1,71	LOW
62	29,76	0,38	HIGH
60	29,76	0,38	HIGH
58	29,59	0,14	HIGH

Annealing Temperature (°C)	Mean Cq	Stand. Desv.	Maximum RFU
64	31,46	1,20	LOW
62	30,68	0,40	MEDIUM
60	29,76	0,40	HIGH
58	29,72	0,67	HIGH



PRIMER EFFICIENCY

Serial dilution of the sample:

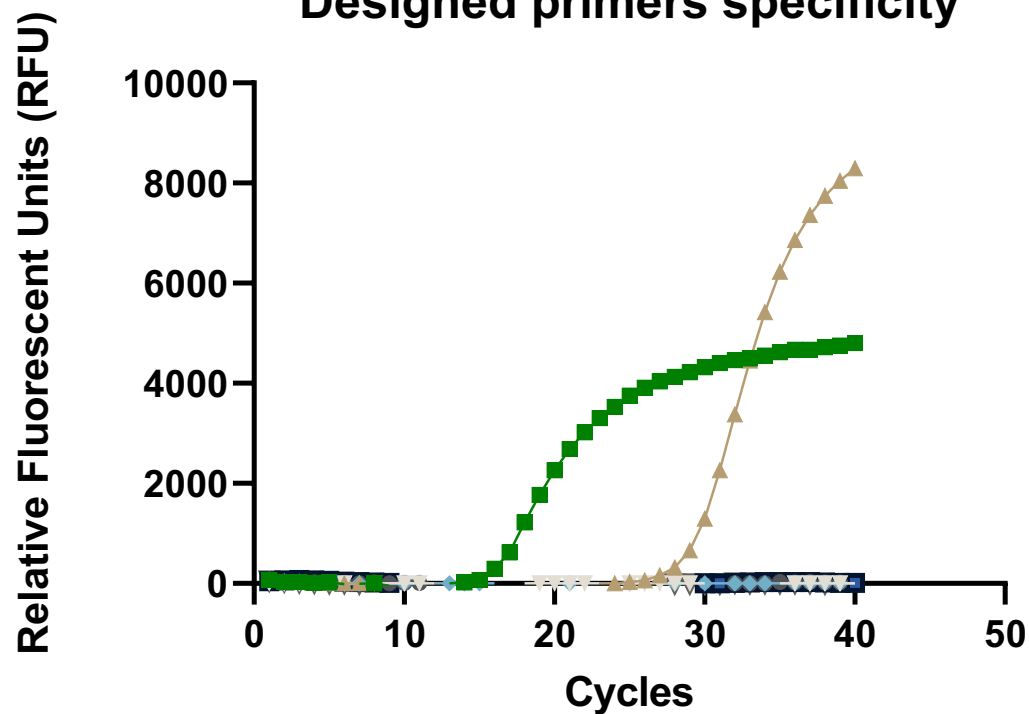


90% 115%

IDEAL EFFICIENCY RANGE

SPECIFICITY ASSAY

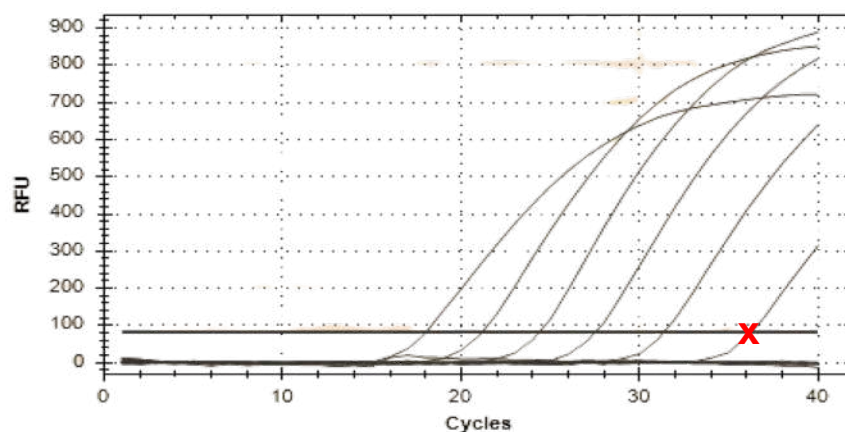
Designed primers specificity



- *Sitophilus zeamais* 
- ▲ *Sitophilus oryzae* 
- ▼ *Acheta domesticus* 
- ◆ *Tenebrio molitor* 
- *Rhyzopertha dominica* 
- *Stegobium paniceum* 
- ▼ *Tribolium confusum* 

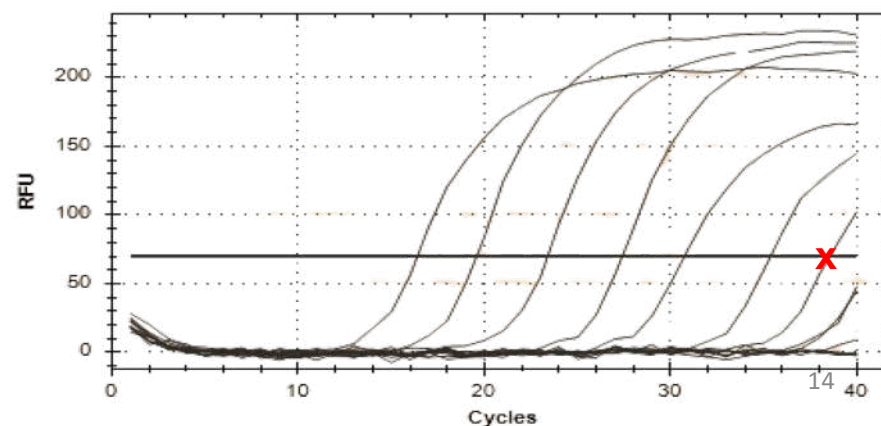
EXPERIMENTAL LIMIT OF DETECTION OF THE qPCR

Sitophilus oryzae LoD plot



LoD=0,0025 ng of DNA per μL

Sitophilus zeamais LoD plot



LoD=0,0005 ng of DNA per μL

EXPERIMENTAL LIMIT OF DETECTION OF THE TECHNIQUE – RICE MATRIX

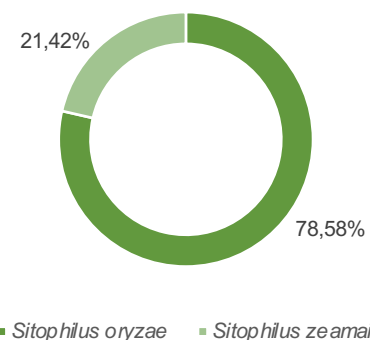
1.

2.

3.

75% OF RICE SAMPLES
WERE POSITIVE AT LEAST FOR
ONE OF THE STUDIED SPECIES

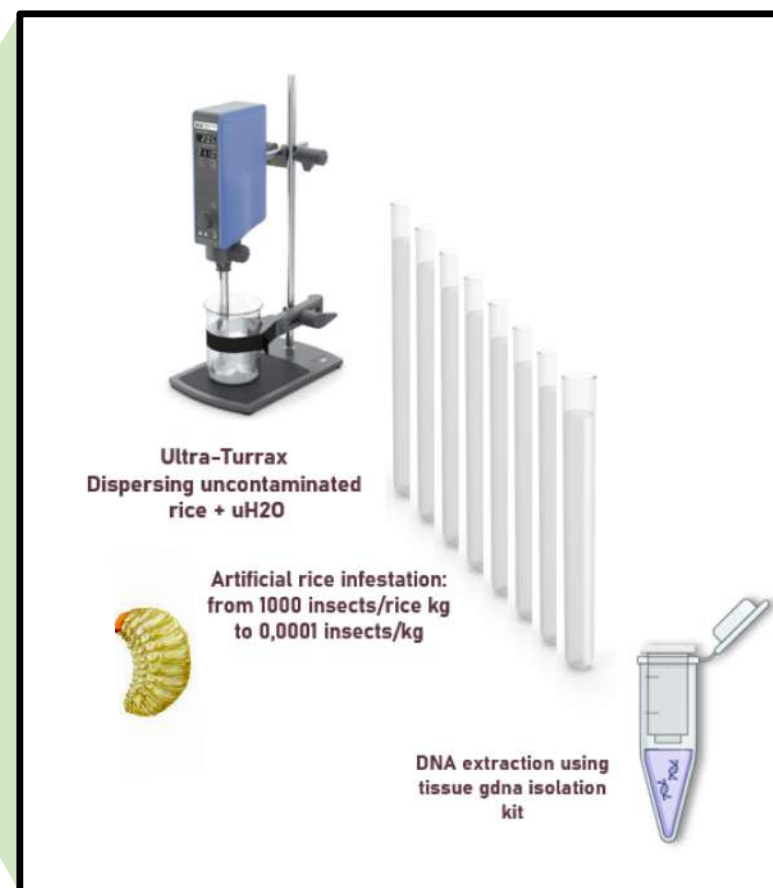
Sitophilus spp. occurrence in supermarket
rice samples



4.

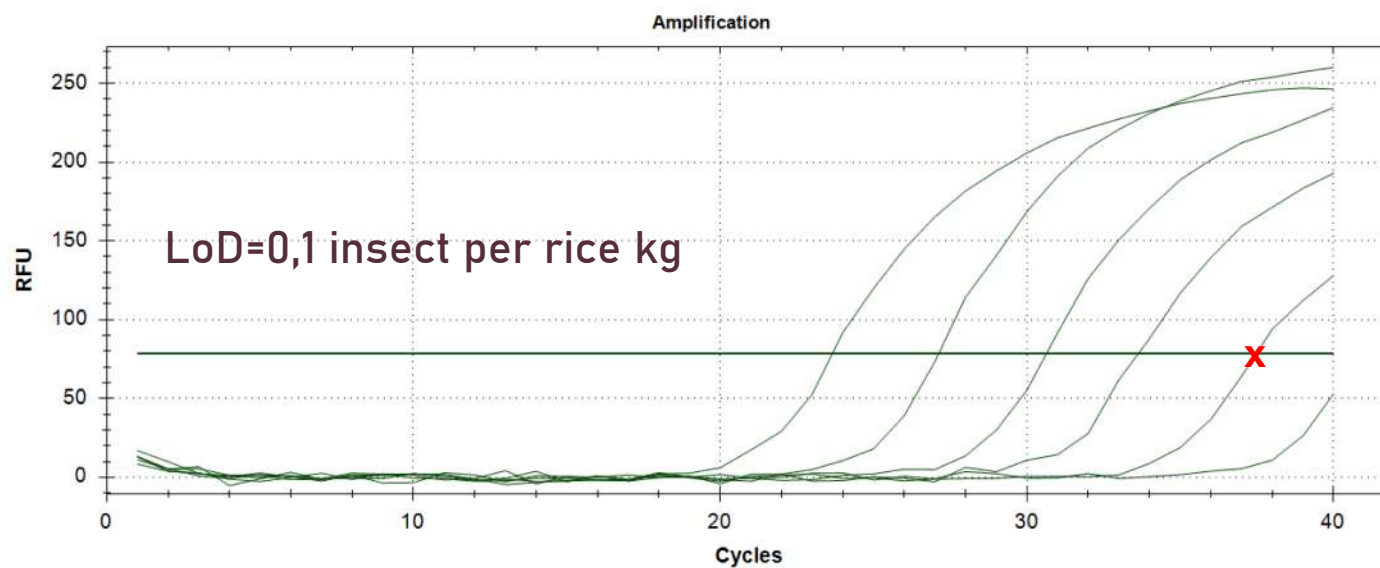
NEGATIVE RICE SAMPLES

5.



EXPERIMENTAL LIMIT OF DETECTION OF THE TECHNIQUE – RICE MATRIX

Sitophilus zeamais LoD plot



Sitophilus oryzae LoD – on going
some associated limitations

WHAT'S NEXT?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- **OPTIMIZATION OF METHODOLOGY DETECTION LIMIT**
STUDY OF OTHER GRINDING ALTERNATIVES (BEAD MILLS, CRIOTECHNIQUES)

- **EXTEND THE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION PANEL**
ANOTHER PREVALENT SPECIES: *RHYZOPERTHA DOMINICA*, *TRIBOLIUM SPP.*



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PRIMA
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA



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THANKS TO MY WONDERFUL TEAM AT INIAV!



Dr. Carina Almeida



Dr. Carla Brites



Dr. Ricardo Oliveira



Inês Sousa
(PhDstudent)



EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



INSECT-IMP

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Knowledge Transfer for Sustainable
Insect Breeding.



EAAP
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And to the Scientific Committee for the
approval and recognition of our work to
be presented at such an esteemed
conference.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



ANY QUESTION?