



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

NIB-PT-2017-01, Proficiency tests for the molecular detection of bacterial pathogens of plants:

detection of *Pantoea stewartii*, detection and phylotyping of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (RSSC), and detection of phytoplasmas of the Apple Proliferation group (AP 16SrX group)

1 Background

Proficiency test is a way in which competence of laboratories is assessed and demonstrated. In proficiency testing standardized samples are prepared with known status regarding the presence of harmful organisms. These are sent out to participating laboratories that analyse them using their own methods, equipment and reagents and send results back to the organiser. The organiser analyses the results and provides a report detailing all participants' results in confidential manner together with actual sample status.

2 Study Materials

This proficiency test is intended for molecular detection of the following organisms/organism groups. The test will be organized in accordance with the EPPO 7/122 guidelines. Please note that the samples are not suitable for analysis with tests other than molecular tests.

The following organisms/organism groups are available:

- ***Pantoea stewartii*** (deactivated target in plant material background). Five (5) samples.
- ***Ralstonia solanacearum***: the samples contain DNA of various *R. solanacearum* (RSSC) phylotypes. You can choose (i) detection only or (ii) detection and phylotyping. Seven (7) samples.
- **Phytoplasmas of the Apple proliferation group** (AP 16SrX group: '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma mali' which causes apple proliferation (AP), '*Ca. P. prunorum*', associated with European stone fruit yellows (ESFY) and '*Ca. P. pyri*', associated with pear decline (PD)): DNA extracted from leaf mid-vein tissue and/ or vascular tissue from roots of fruit trees of the family *Rosaceae* and/ or other hosts. Results may be provided as negative/ positive for phytoplasma or negative/ positive for AP 16SrX group or negative/ positive for AP/ ESFY/ PD. Seven (7) samples.

Material does not contain living bacteria and does not pose any danger to humans, animals, plants or environment.

3 Timeline

The expected timeline:

- Samples sent out in the week of October 23-27, 2017
- Results to be delivered by December 14, 2017
- Reports on performance sent out by January 30, 2018

4 Queries and Communication

For all queries and communications, please use niblabfito@nib.si and niblabfito@gmail.com.

5 Registration

To register, please fill in the contract in following pages and return it to addresses listed above by October 13, 2017.

Participant's contract for proficiency test 'NIB Proficiency Test 2017-01'

LABORATORY

Institute (full name)	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

My institute would like to participate in the proficiency tests for the following ¹		
Organism/organism group	Participation (check Yes or No)	Price
<i>Pantoea stewartii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	450 € + VAT
<i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> (RSSC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	450 € + VAT
	<input type="checkbox"/> detection only <input type="checkbox"/> detection & phylotyping	
Phytoplasmas of the AP 16SrX group	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	790 € + VAT
Total cost		

Shipping address: (Please no P.O.-box)	
Billing address (if different from the shipping address)	
VAT payer (check Yes or No)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ² (please provide a statement)
VAT number	
When would you like to be invoiced	<input type="checkbox"/> in 2017 (before 15 November 2017) <input type="checkbox"/> in 2018

¹ The laboratory can choose one or several organisms/organism groups.

² If your institute is not VAT payer and not have VAT number, please, provide a signed statement declaring that you do not carry out an independent economic activity, are not VAT payer and do not have an VAT number. The statement should be addressed to the National Institute of Biology, Department of Biotechnology and Systems Biology, Vecna pot 111, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia and can be sent via e-mail to niblafbifo@nib.si and niblafbifo@gmail.com.

CONTACT

A correspondent of your laboratory for this proficiency test:

First name	
Family name	
E-mail address	
Telephone number	

An alternative correspondent of your laboratory for this proficiency test:

First name	
Family name	
E-mail address	
Telephone number	

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Precise the requirements concerning the plant health regulatory of your country (territory) to allow the sending of the samples

No requirements	
Requirements ⁽³⁾ , please, specify	

CONDITIONS

(1) By registering and signing the contract, the laboratory identified on the first page of the contract ('participating laboratory') agrees to participate in the inter-laboratory proficiency test organized by the National Institute of Biology ('organiser'), under the following conditions:

1) Implementation of the proficiency test:

The participating laboratory agrees to perform analyses in its laboratory according to the instructions of the organiser, which will be sent together with the panel of samples, and in its usual conditions of work. Any modification should be reported to the organiser. This kind of information can be very important for the interpretation of results.

The participating laboratory commits:

- to communicate about any difficulties encountered during the implementation of the proficiency test.
- to report the results of the test on the result form provided together with the samples within the deadline.

The participating laboratory is informed that it can submit complaints within the proficiency-testing round and that it is given the opportunity to appeal the evaluation of its performance within one month after the sending of the proficiency testing report.

³ IMPORTANT, if requirements are specified and if the organizer doesn't have the necessary documents before the date set for sending the samples, the legislation will not allow to send the parcel of samples and the participation of the laboratory will be compromised.

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The participating laboratory is well aware that it will be invoiced according to selected options checked above (if not selected then invoice will be send in, 2018) and according to prices indicated in the contract. Any registration involves the payment of the participation.

2) Transmission of the results:

The proficiency testing report summarizing the individual results of the participating laboratory and allowing the decoding of the report will be transmitted in electronic format to each participating laboratory.

Concerning the proficiency testing report, the following convention of proof applies. The proficiency testing report is transmitted in a protected pdf format attached to an e-mail sent to the two electronic addresses communicated in writing by the participating laboratory in the participant's contract. The signatures of the authorized persons on the first page of the proficiency testing report constitute proof of its validation and its authenticity. The organiser keeps the original file (electronic version and paper version) and the evidence of its authenticity, which could be used in the event of litigation.

Moreover, the participating laboratory:

- commits to not modify the proficiency testing report.
- is informed that the paper editions from the transmitted pdf file are under its sole responsibility.
- recognizes the validity and the convincing strength of this file.

3) Confidentiality and collusion:

The organiser will provide each participating laboratory with a panel of coded samples. Each panel of samples will be the same for all participating laboratories, but the individual coding of samples may be randomised and may be different for each participating laboratory. The different panels will be randomly assigned to the different participating laboratories. Coding of the samples will be kept confidential by the organiser until the end of the proficiency test.

The summary of the processing of results will be presented in the form of a proficiency testing report to the participating laboratories, which will be coded for confidentiality purposes. For the exploitation of results, each laboratory will be informed only of its own lab code identification (panel code). **A list of participating laboratories is provided.**

The participating laboratories are informed that the proficiency testing results could be used by the organiser for scientific purposes and for publications reporting on the results provided the laboratories are not identifiable.

Participating laboratories are informed that they have the right to waive confidentiality within the proficiency testing scheme for the purposes of discussion and mutual assistance or for scientific purposes.

Participating laboratories are informed that the proficiency testing results could not be used for any commercial purposes.

4) Confinement:

The participating laboratory must have adopted measures to prevent the risk of unintentional release of plant pathogens for which it is approved (containment, processing of waste, etc.).

The participating laboratory commits to inform the organizer in the participant's contract of the plant health regulatory requirements of its country (territory), in order to allow the sending of the samples in conformity with its regulatory. The participating laboratory also commits to complete the necessary formalities to allow the receipt of the samples and so to ensure its participation in the proficiency test.

Signed by the responsible person from the participating laboratory:

First name	
Family name	
Signature	
Date	