



# Control of cyst nematodes using egg hatching compounds

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## The problem of potato cyst nematodes (PCNs)

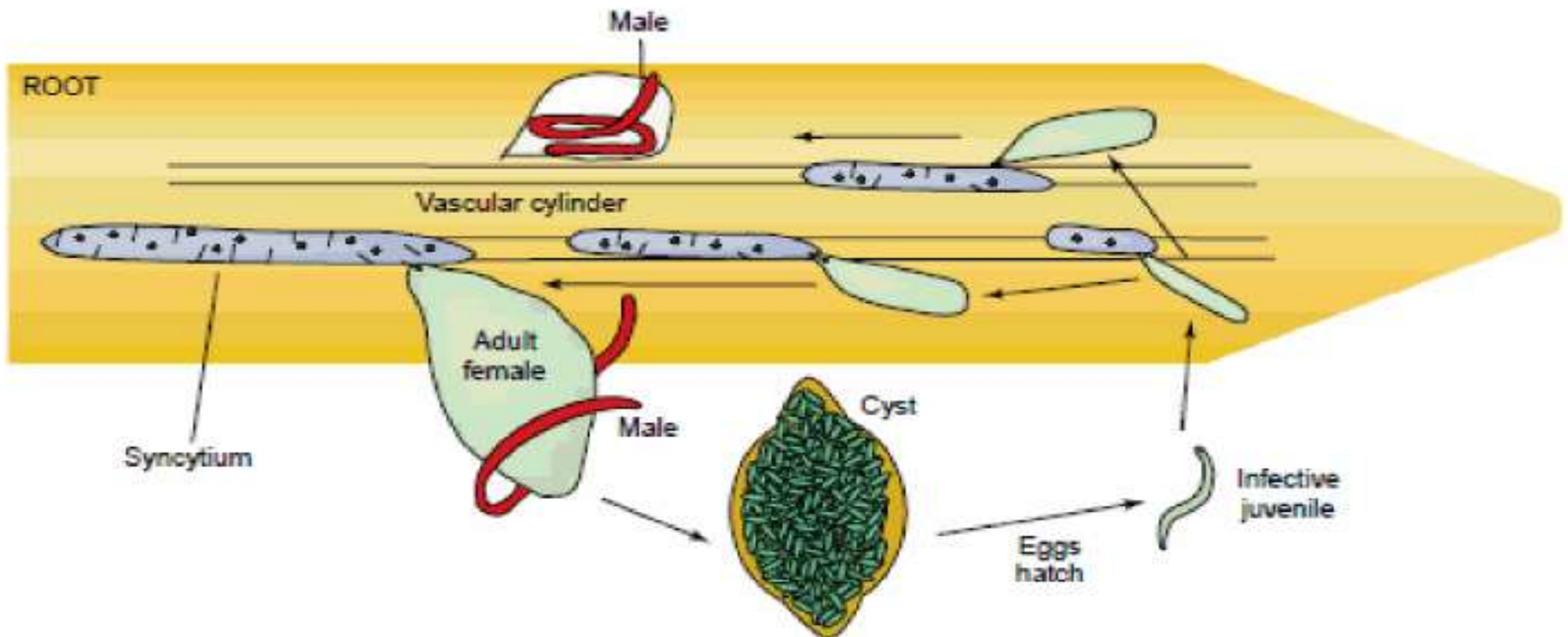
- Potato cyst nematodes (PCNs) *Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis* are economically important pests of potatoes worldwide.
- PCNs cause losses of 9% of total potato production worldwide (Turner and Rowe, 2006).
- In the UK loss is estimated at around £50 million per annum ([www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)).
- In Scotland, data collected by SASA show a steady increase in the incidence of *G. pallida* in statutory PCN tests over the past 25 years.
- Once established they persist for long periods.
- Changes in legislation regarding chemical use exacerbates the threat.



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## Life Cycle of PCN



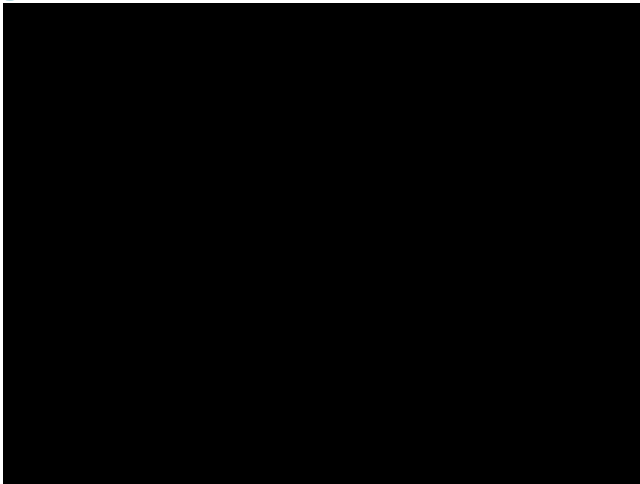


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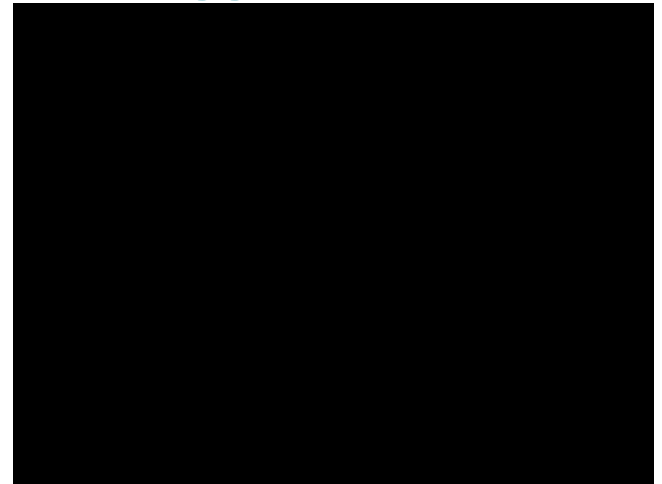
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## Hatching in Potato cyst nematode

Eggs in Potato root exudates



Eggs in water

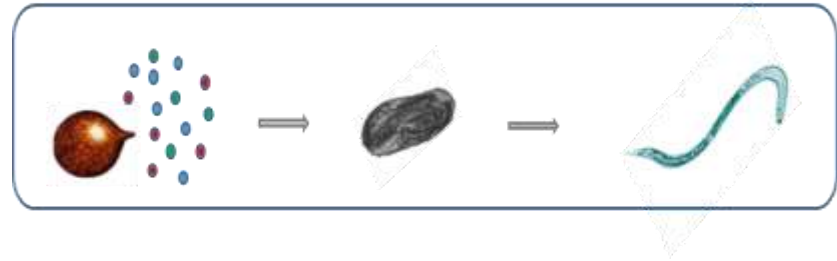




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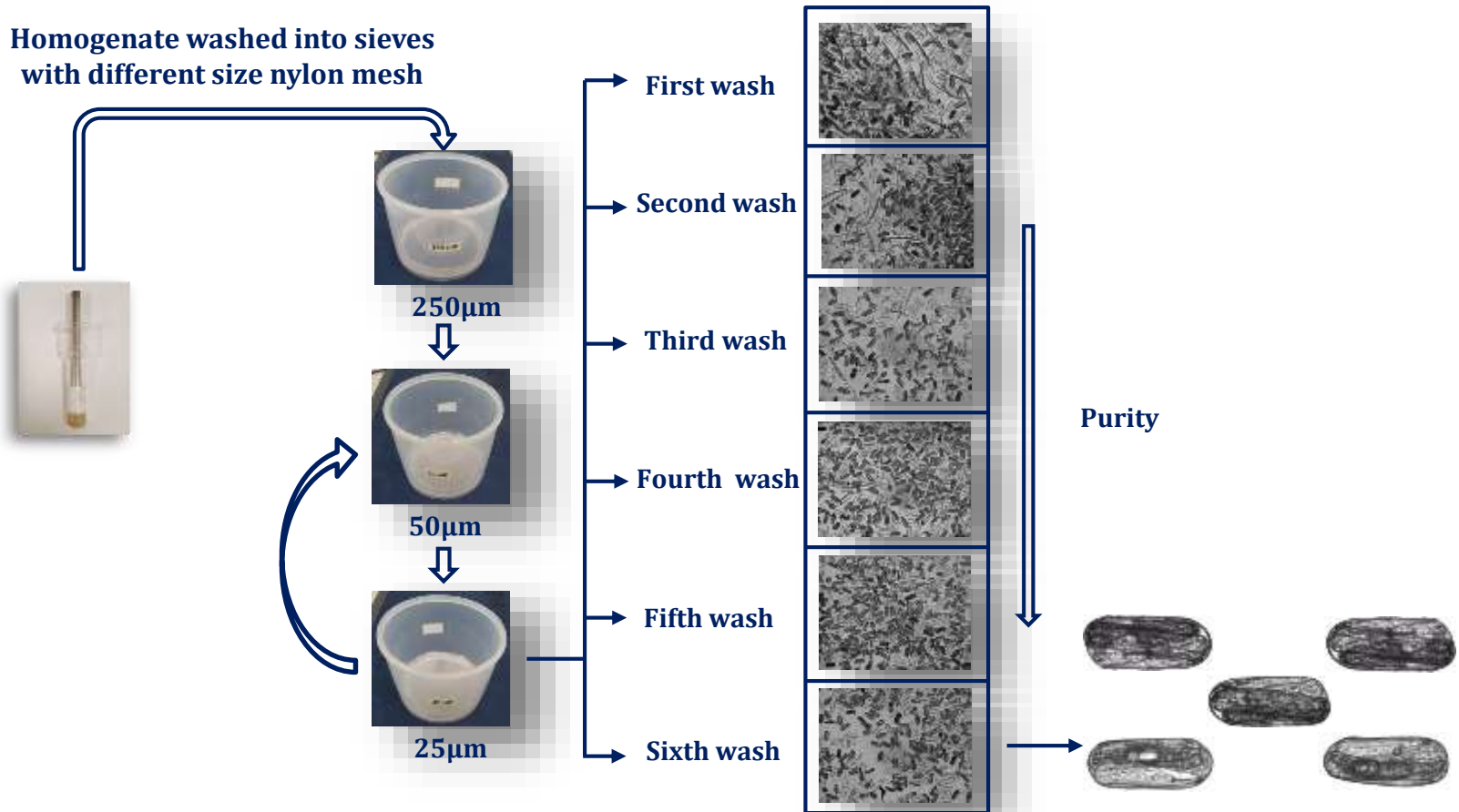
## Aims of the study



- Optimize *in vitro* hatching assays for *Globodera* sp.
- Identify hatching factors from different potato cultivars
- Use this to select potato genotypes with low level of hatching factors that can be used for breeding for PCN non- host cultivars
- Candidates genes that regulate the production of hatching factors can be used in the future to use a synthetic biology approach to produce large amounts of hatching factors in artificial expression systems



# Optimizing *in vitro* hatching assays





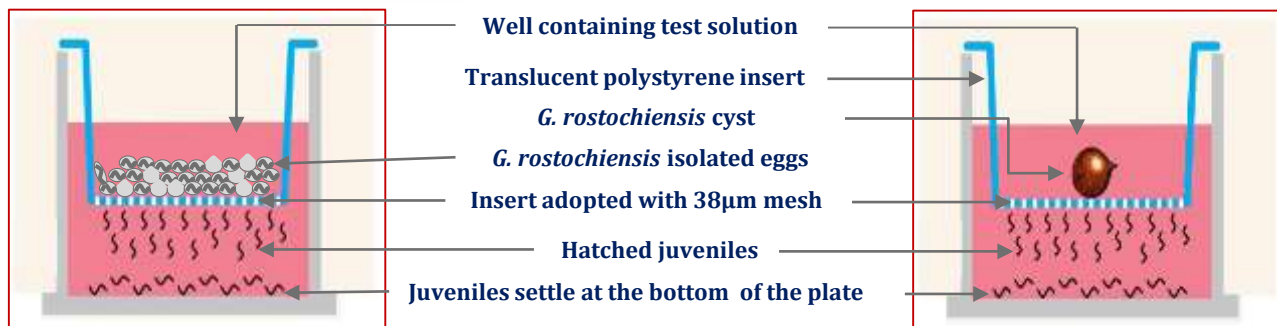


## Design of a hatching device for isolated eggs

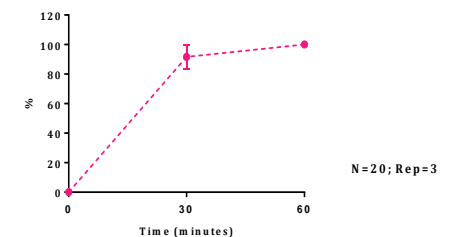


Hatching Devices

- Made up of translucent polystyrene materials (COSTAR)
- Translucent inserts with 6.5mm diameter
- Bottom outer diameter : 9mm
- Bottom inner diameter : 7mm
- Insert height : 18 mm
- Insert depth : 9mm that can hold 300  $\mu$ l of liquid
- Inserts are adapted to have 38- $\mu$ m pore size nylon mesh.

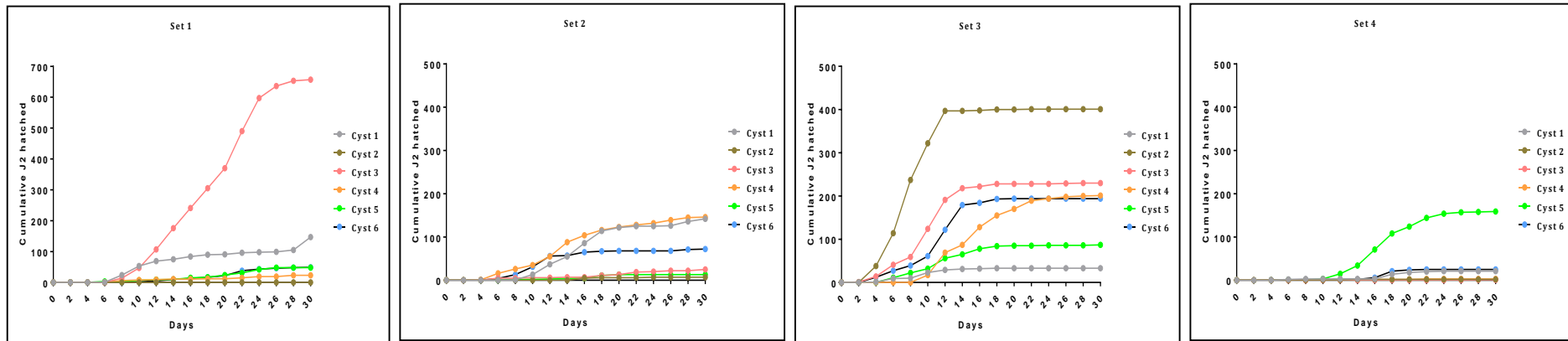


Time taken by the juveniles to pass through 38  $\mu$ m pore size mesh

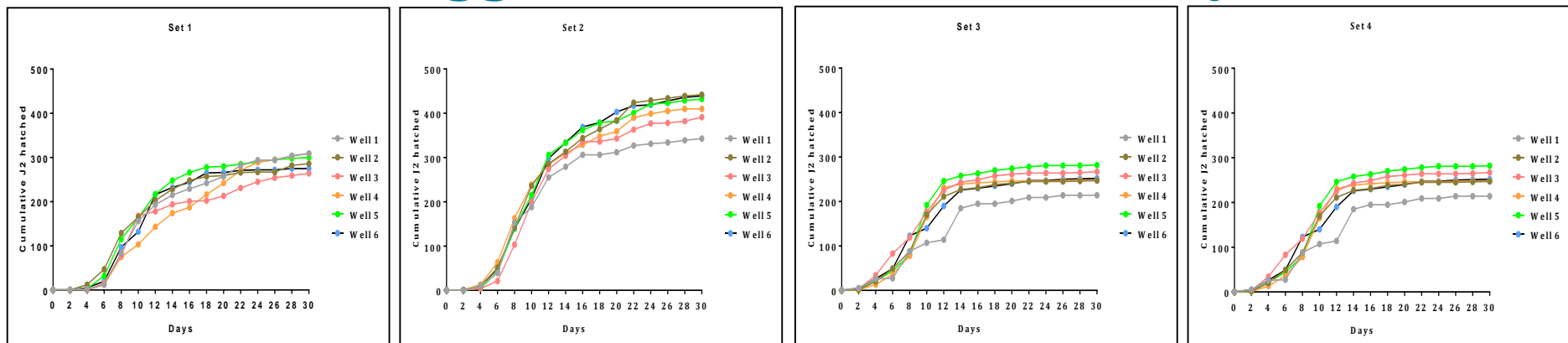




## Cyst shows HIGH variability



## Eggs shows LOW variability







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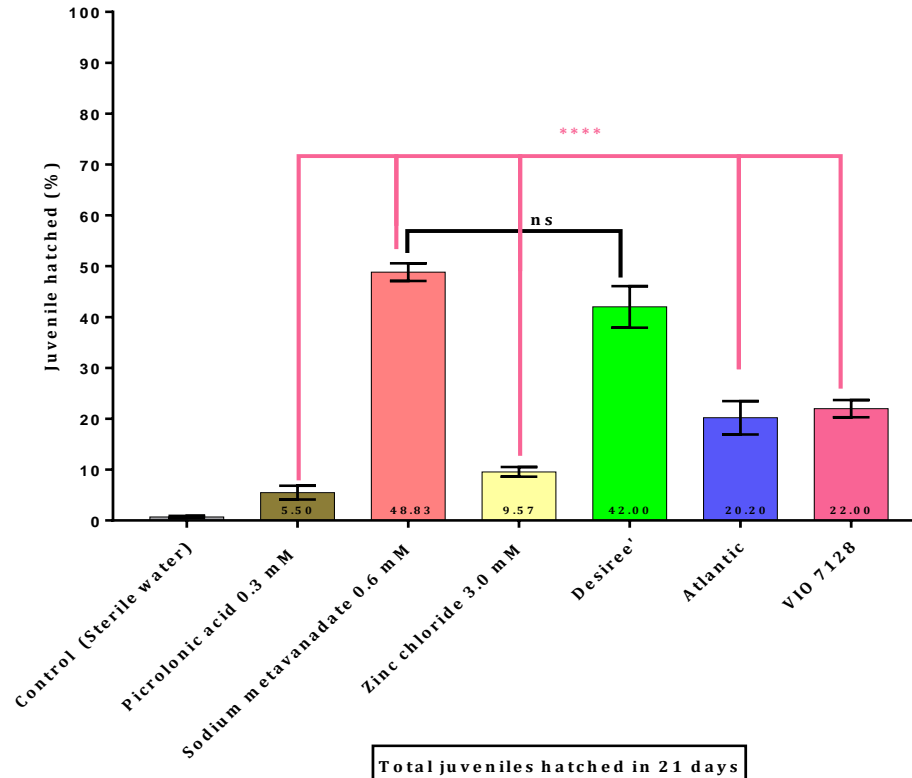
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## Providing a benchmark for the efficacy of root exudates

- Literature search for chemical activators of hatching
- Testing chemicals for hatching efficacy using the isolated egg preparation
- Optimization of sodium metavanadate as an artificial hatching factor



Juvenile emergence from isolated eggs of *Globodera rostochiensis*  
exposed to different normalised PRE and artificial hatching factors  
(NORMALISED & DILUTED IN STERILE WATER) POOLED

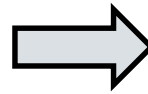




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## Identifying hatching factors from different potato cultivars



### Step 1

Quantify hatching efficacy of  
root exudates prepared in a  
standardised manner  
relative to sodium  
metavanadate



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## Identifying hatching factors from different potato cultivars

### Step 2

Concentrate samples of root  
exudate by lyophilisation  
(Freeze- drying)







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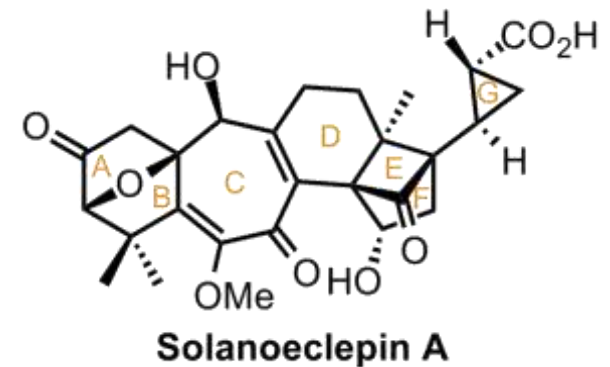
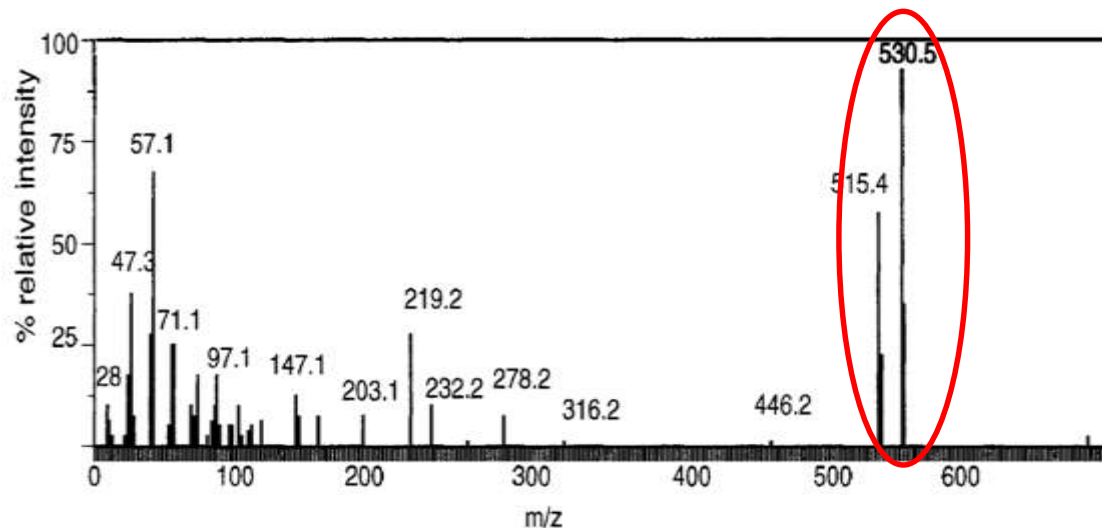
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## Identifying hatching factors from different potato cultivars



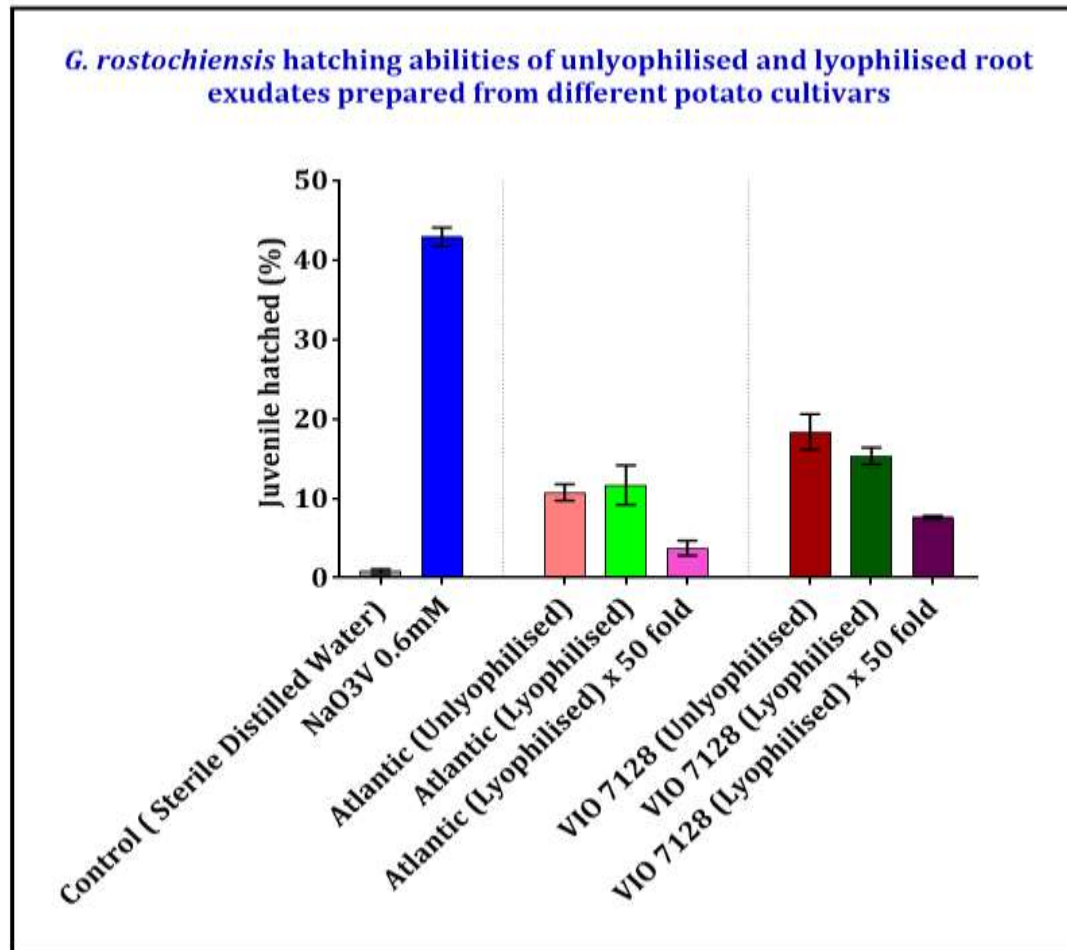
### Step 3

Phyto chemical characterisation  
of root exudates using  
High Performance Liquid  
Chromatography (HPLC)  
Mass Spectrometry





## Hatching assay with lyophilised samples





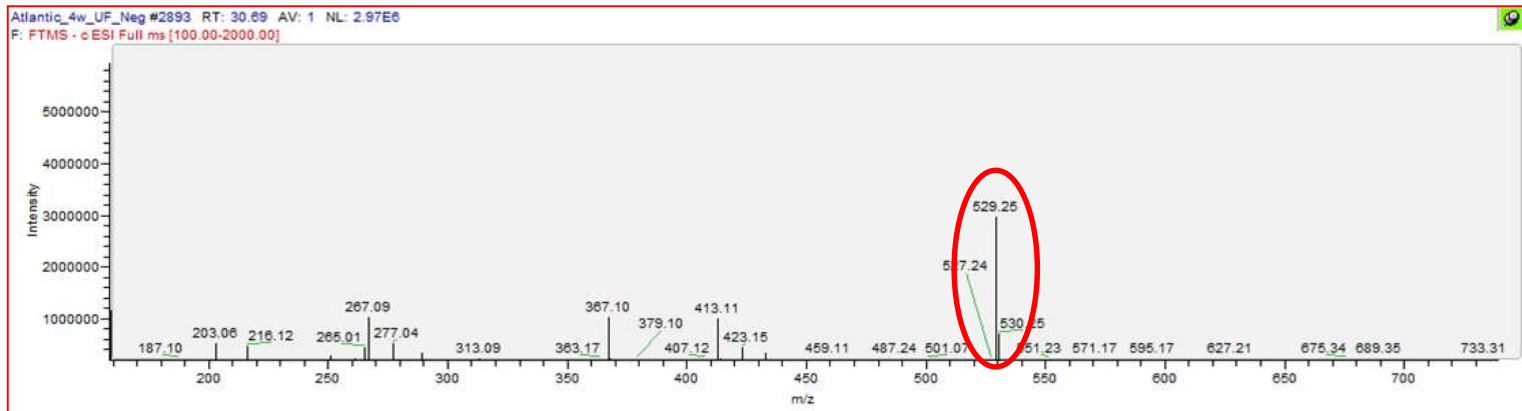


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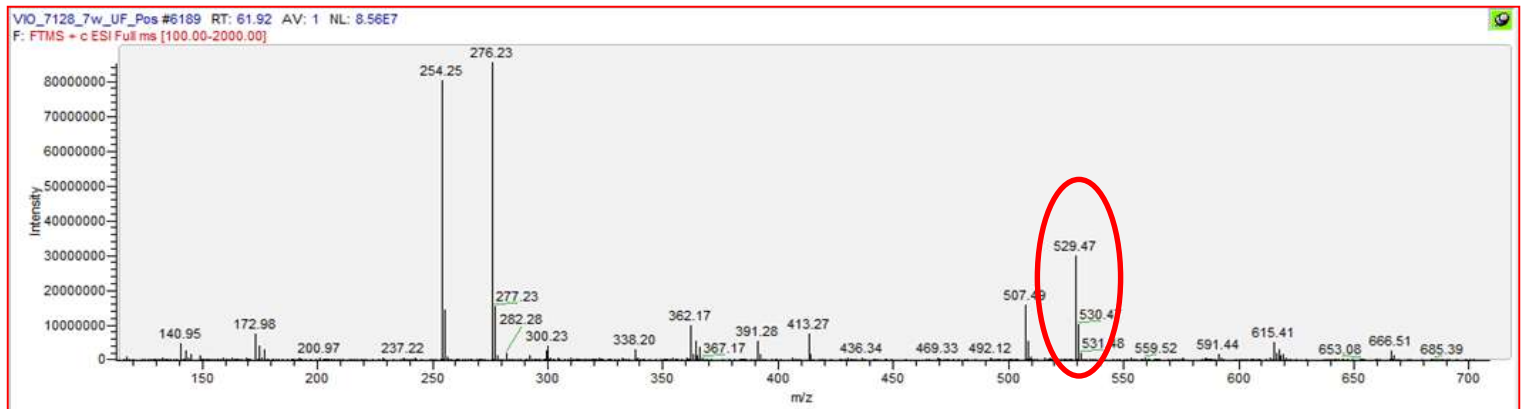
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## Phytochemical analysis using HPLC and Mass Spectrometry

### *Solanum tuberosum* 'Atlantic'



### *Solanum violaceimarmoratum*





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## Summary

An isolated egg preparation is optimal for characterisation of hatching factors

Sodium metavanadate provides a benchmark against which to assay root exudates from different cultivars

Root exudate efficacy is maintained in a freeze dried sample



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## Future work

Subject root exudate samples to phytochemical analysis

Pursue this for different potato cultivars with different susceptibilities to PCN infection

Use the isolated egg assay and the prototype hatching device to develop a high throughput approach for screening root exudate for hatching efficacy

# Acknowledgements

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