

Supplementary material 1 - How to obtain a suitable conidial suspension for inoculating plane trees and analysing conidia germination in a repeatable manner.

A suspension of *C. platani* conidia and ascospores was obtained by adding 1.5 ml sterile distilled water to an actively growing colony and gently scraping on the surface with a zeta-shaped pipette. The suspension was then spread out on fresh PDA plates, and the plates were dried under a laminar flow hood. Plates were then incubated for 48-72 hrs at 25°C in the dark. After this a dense whitish/greyish efflorescence appeared. Gently scraping the efflorescence surface with sterile distilled water enabled to obtain a suspension composed exclusively of (asexual) conidia. Concentration was then adjusted, as needed, with a Burker hemocytometer chamber.

Following these conditions is crucial for germination rate repeatability. For example using older colonies, at any phase, can lead to a decrease of germination rate (data not shown).