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# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## Cultivar Susceptibility to Anthracnose and Branch Cankers in an Almond Germplasm Collection

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Almond (*Prunus dulcis* (Mill.) D.A. Webb) is considered a high-value crop worldwide in terms of both production and consumption. In southern Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) crop productivity can be significantly reduced by the emergence of high impact almond diseases. Among them, the following mycoses stand out: almond anthracnose (fruit rot in immature stages) caused by *Colletotrichum acutatum* and *C. godetiae*, with *C. acutatum* being the most aggressive and *C. godetiae* the most frequent; and branch cankers and shoot blight caused by *Diaporthe amygdali*. This study aims to evaluate cultivar susceptibility against these pathogens under controlled conditions to identify genome regions associated with higher tolerance. For this purpose, the susceptibility of a set of genotypes from a germplasm collection was assessed against *C. acutatum* and *D. amygdali*. Shoots were artificially inoculated under controlled conditions, making a wound in the wood tissue, followed by the placement of mycelial agar plugs. Disease severity was monitored over a two-week period, measuring the lesions caused overtime. In the case of the shoots inoculated with *C. acutatum*, there were significant differences in cultivar susceptibility, with Vialfas<sup>®</sup> identified as the most tolerant cultivar and 'Princesse-JR' as the most susceptible. Concerning *Diaporthe* a great variability in disease severity among cultivars was observed. The present study is part of a research line focused on identifying sources of resistance to different fungal diseases in almond cultivars.