

PurPest: chemical profile of the pinewood nematode for rapid detection



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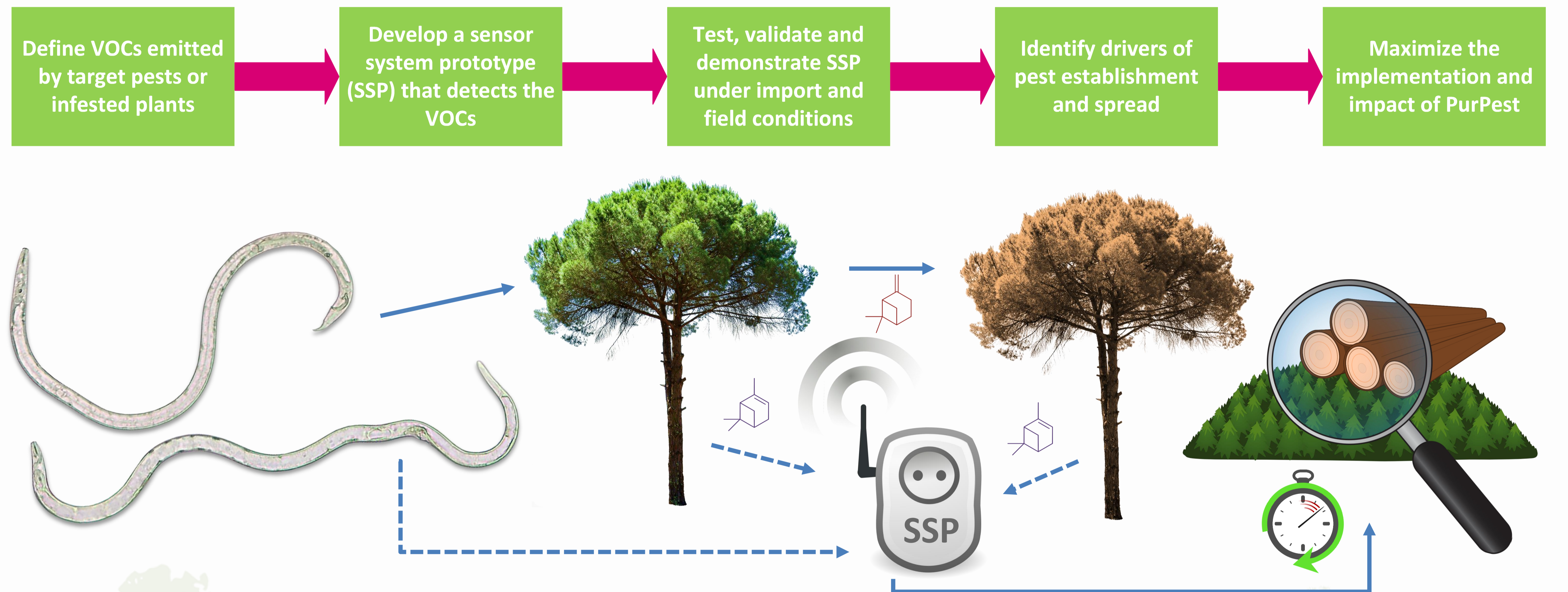


BACKGROUND

The pinewood nematode (PWN), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, is a quarantine pest and the causal agent of pine wilt disease (PWD), a major phytosanitary concern that is ravaging native pine trees in Asia and Europe, having also been detected in Mexico, although its presence has not been further confirmed. Management of PWD involves strict regulations and heavy contingency plans, resulting in the felling, removal, and destruction of infected trees, having serious economic and ecological impacts. Regular monitoring of the PWN and its insect vector is the most common strategy to prevent outbreaks, but introduction and dissemination can eventually occur. Screening of suspected wood material requires highly trained personnel and can be time consuming. Rapid detection is therefore crucial to prevent the establishment of the nematode.



THE PURPEST PROJECT



WORKPLAN

