

# The role of uncertainty analysis to assess risk of biological invasion

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David Makowski

INRAE

[david.makowski@inrae.fr](mailto:david.makowski@inrae.fr)



# Risk of biological invasion

Risk that an harmful organism present in an area A **enters, establish** and **spread** in an area B (where the organism is absent) and has some negative **impacts**.





Olive tree





*Xylella fastidiosa*



Olive tree





*Xylella fastidiosa*



Olive tree

RISK?





# Many sources of uncertainty in biological invasion risk assessment



# Biological invasion results from a succession of events

- Entry of a pest in a given area
- Establishment of a pest in a given area
- Spread of a pest in a given area
- Impact of a pest on some hosts or on the environment



# Pest risk assessment aims at analyzing these events

- Currently done by national and international agencies
- ANSES in France, USDA in USA, EFSA and EPPO in Europe
- Results of these analyses are used to define official regulations concerning the movements of plant materials
  - Prohibition
  - Test of presence in imported commodities
  - Treatment of commodities



# **Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cubense**

## **An invasive species with potentially high impact on bananas**

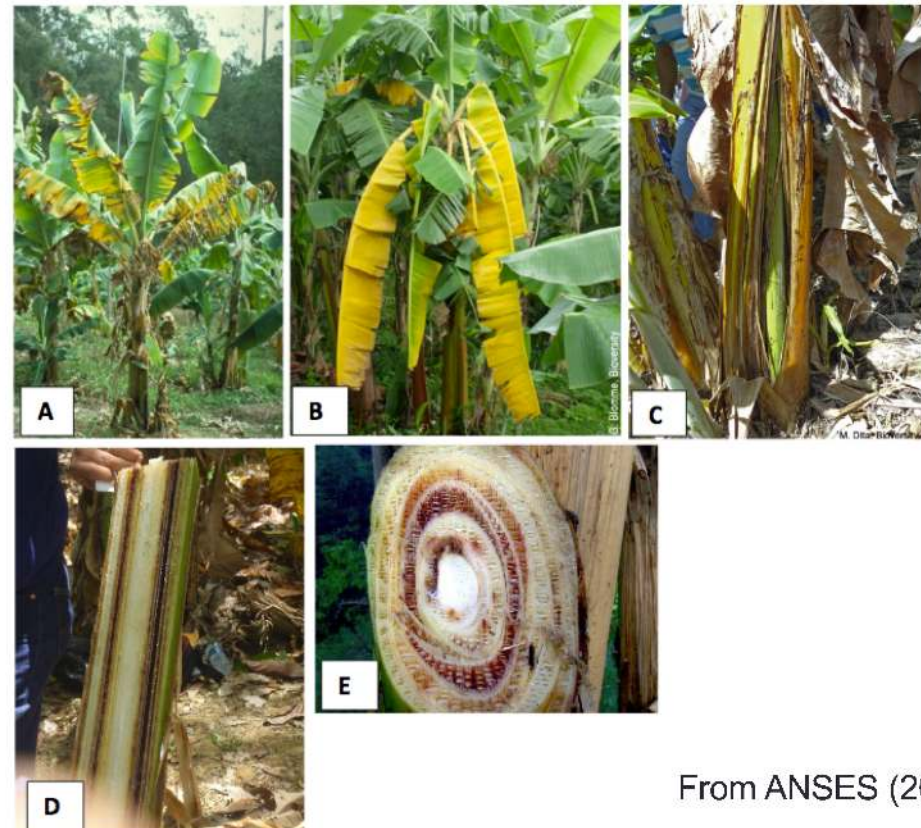
Fusarium



Soil



Roots



From ANSES (2018)



**Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cubense**  
**An invasive species with potentially high impact on bananas**

**Race TR4 is very harmful**

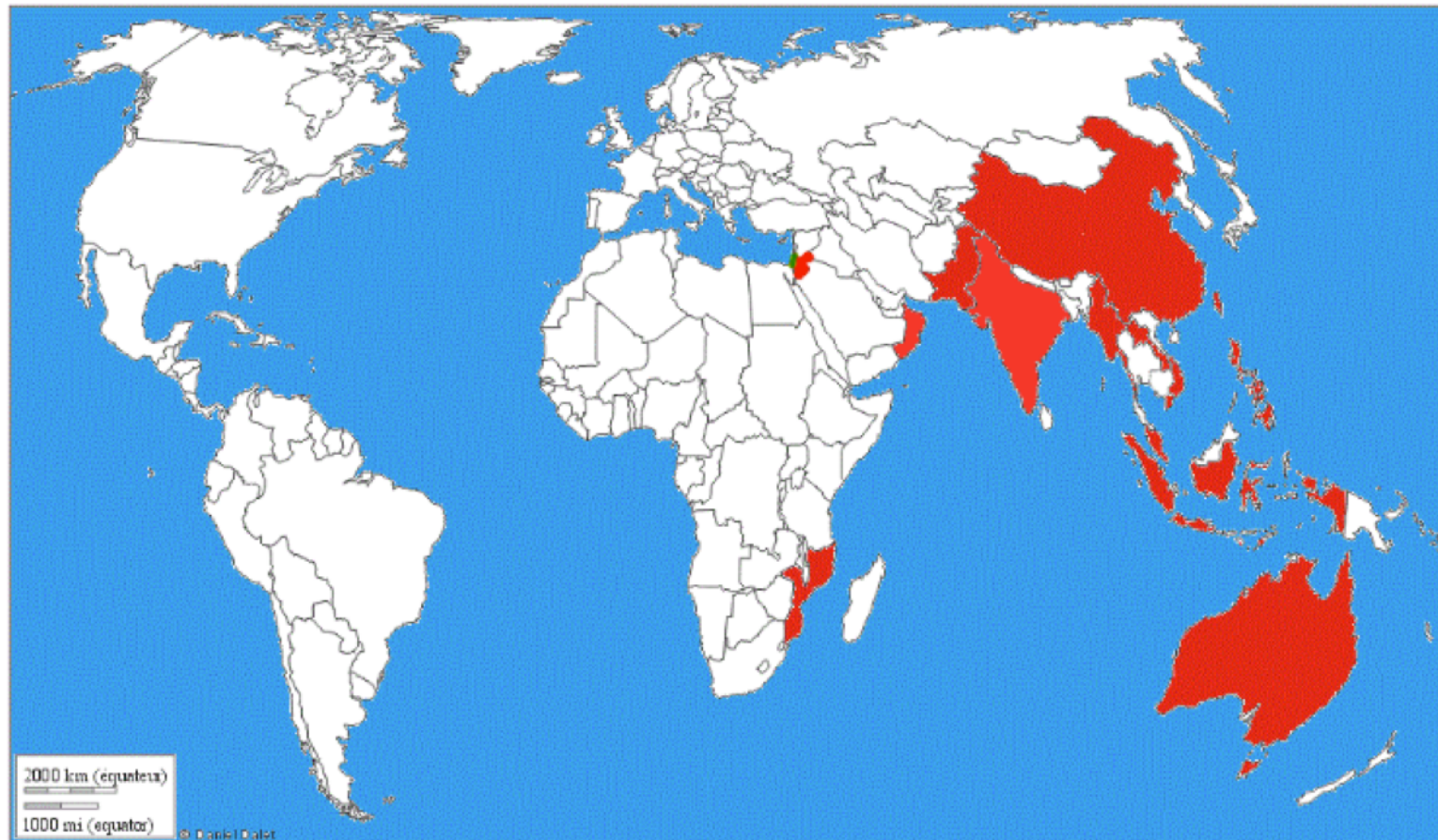
« TR4 is decimating Cavendish monocultures [the main banana cultivar] in southern Asia and would affect 85% of global production were it disseminated more widely. »

Ploetz and Chruchill (2011) 10.17660/ActaHortic.2011.897.73



# **Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. Cubense**

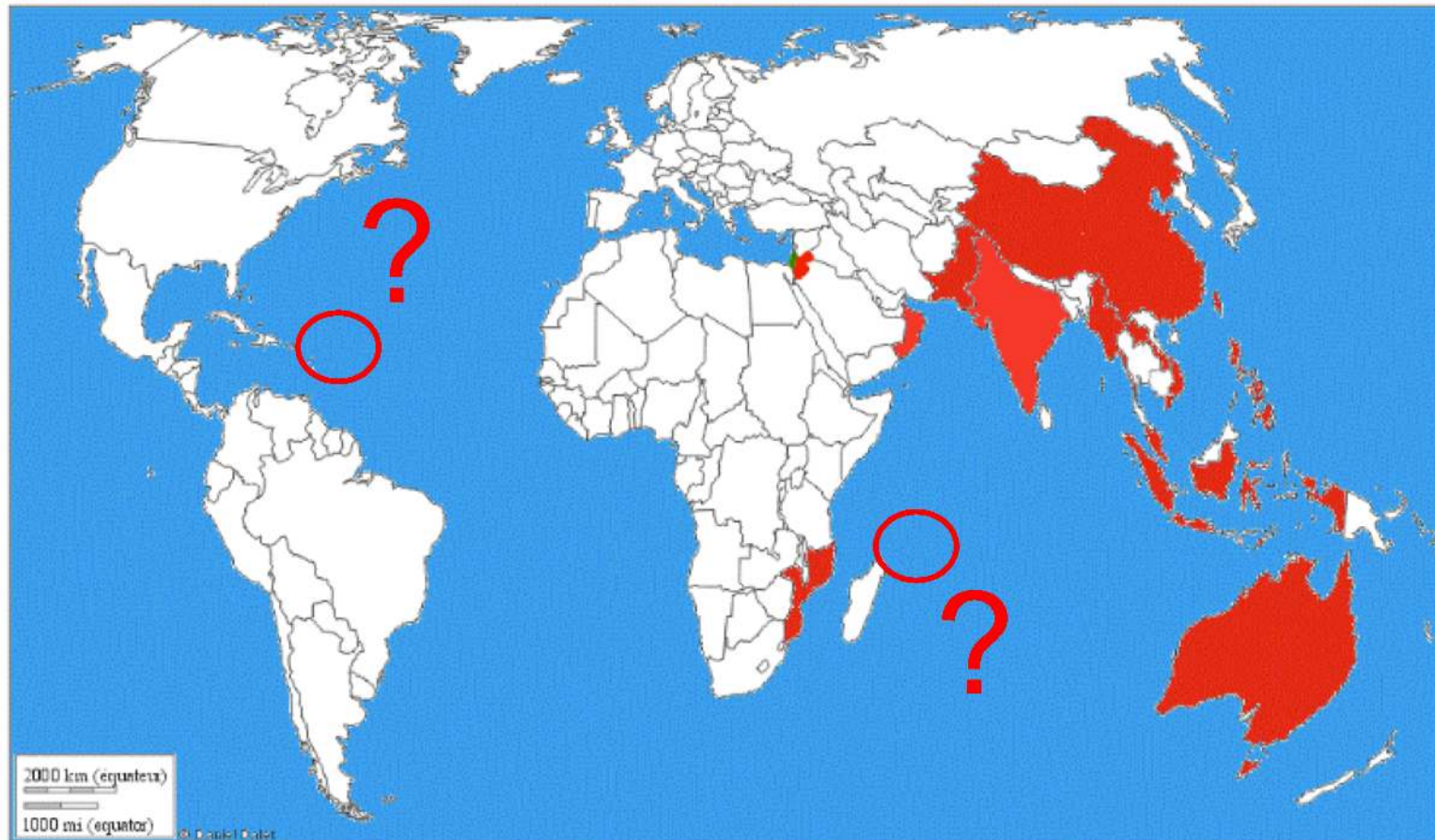
## **An invasive species with potentially high impact on bananas**



Presence of **race TR4** (from ANSES, 2018)



# What is the level of risk for the French overseas departments?





**anses**

agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire  
alimentation, environnement, travail



*Connaître, évaluer, protéger*

**Risque  
phytosanitaire  
portant sur  
*Fusarium oxysporum*  
*f. sp. cubense* pour  
les départements  
d'outre-mer**

Avis de l'Anses  
Rapport d'expertise collective

Août 2018

Édition scientifique







Entry

Establishment

Spread

Impact





Entry

Pathways from the origins (soil, vitroplants, tourisms etc.)  
Incidence of the pathogen where it is present  
Methods of control

Establishment

Spread

Impact





Entry

Establishment

Climatic conditions  
Vectors  
Detection techniques  
Speed of dissemination  
...

Spread

Impact





Entry

Establishment

Spread

Impact

Disease control efficacy  
Prices  
Sociological conditions  
Sensitivity of cultivars...





Entry

Establishment

Spread

Many sources of  
uncertainties !

Impact



# Different attitudes towards uncertainty

- Ignore it
- Qualitative uncertainty analysis
- Quantitative uncertainty analysis



# Different attitudes towards uncertainty

- **Ignore it**
- Qualitative uncertainty analysis
- Quantitative uncertainty analysis



# « Ignore it »

## An untenable position for scientists

Kuhn (1962) : « *the discovery begins with the awareness of an anomaly* »

Anne Fagot-Largeault : the researcher's ethics are based on « respect for the facts and lucidity on the degree of validity of the results ».

EFSA (2016) : « *assessors need to inform decision-makers about scientific uncertainty when providing their advice* »



# Ten Most Important Accomplishments in Risk Analysis, 1980–2010

**Michael Greenberg, Charles Haas, Anthony Cox, Jr., Karen Lowrie, Katherine McComas, and Warner North**

As part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Society for Risk Analysis and *Risk Analysis*, *An International Journal*, a group of your editors engaged in a process to select the 10 most important accomplishments in risk analysis. The article that follows is the product of this process.

Some preliminary decisions were that we would reach out to the full membership for nominations, focus on the period 1980 to 2010, and accept nominations for contributions to theory, methods, and applications. Also, we focused on accomplishments that address health, safety, and the environment, which has been our tradition.<sup>(1)</sup> All the accomplishments have contributed to answering at least one of the six following risk analysis questions:<sup>(2–5)</sup>

1. What can go wrong?
2. What are the chances that something with serious consequences will go wrong?
3. What are the consequences if something does go wrong?

## TEN MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN RISK ANALYSIS, 1980–2010

### Theory

1. Understanding how affect and trust influence risk perception and behavior
2. Recognizing that personal decisions reflect different processes for valuing and combining anticipated and actual losses, gains, delays, and surprises.
3. Developing an environmental justice ethic and frameworks

### Methods

4. Using formal uncertainty analysis in risk assessment



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**Prise en compte de l'incertitude en évaluation des risques :  
Revue de la littérature et recommandations pour l'Anses**

**Rapport d'étape**

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**Saisine n°2015-SA-0090**

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION**

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**Guidance on Uncertainty in EFSA Scientific Assessment**

**EFSA Scientific Committee<sup>1, 2</sup>**

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy



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**anses**

agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire  
alimentation, environnement, travail



*Connaître, évaluer, protéger*

**Risque  
phytosanitaire  
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Item	Risk level	Uncertainty
Entry	Very likely	Moderate
Establishment	Very likely	Low
Spread	High	Low
Impact	Very high	Low

from ANSES (2018)



Item	Risk level	Uncertainty
Entry	Very likely	Moderate
Establishment	Very likely	Low
Spread	High	Low
Impact	Very high	Low



	Risk level	Uncertainty
Natural spread by insects	Very low	Low
Natural spread by water	Moderate	Low
Natural spread by soil	Low	High
Human spread by soil (intentional)	Moderate	High
Human spread by plants	High	Low
Human spread by irrigation	High	Low

from ANSES (2018)



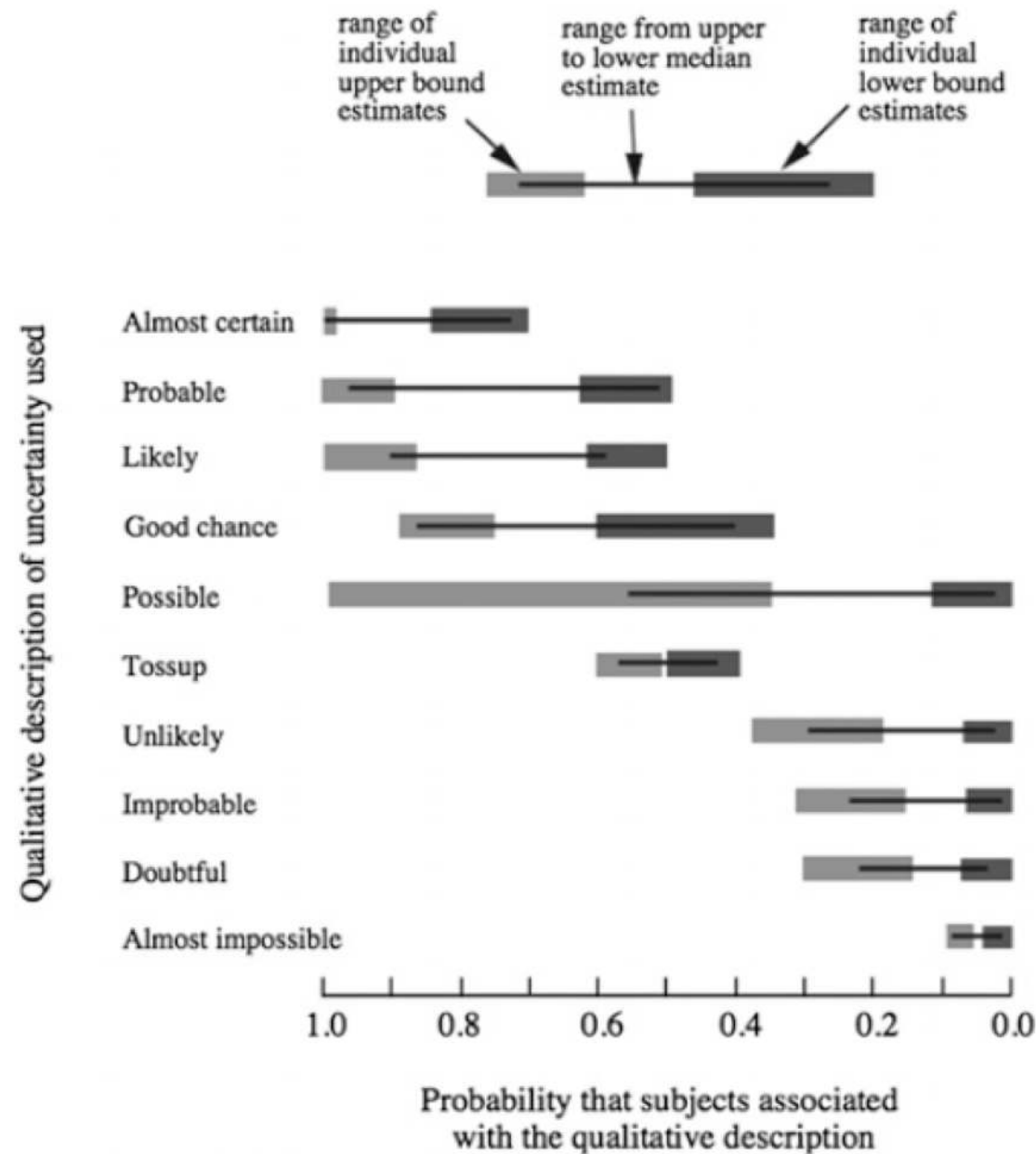


« Qualitative Uncertainty Words Are Not Sufficient »

Morgan (2014)



# Different experts have different interpretations of qualitative ratings



from Morgan (2014)





How to make expert-based uncertainty  
analysis more reliable?

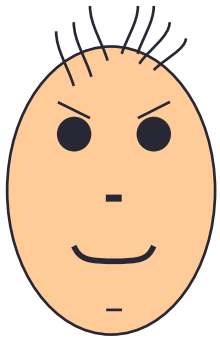


# Probabilistic expert elicitation

- Elicitation consists in carrying out a **synthesis of the knowledge of an expert (or a group of experts)** on a quantity of interest for which there is an uncertainty due to a lack of available data.
- The result of an elicitation is in the form of a **probability distribution** reflecting the **expert's knowledge** and level of **uncertainty**.



# What is the probability of entry?

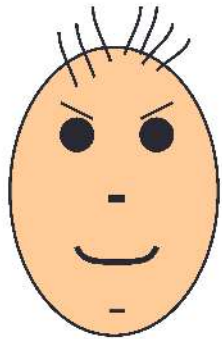


**Expert 1**

<https://licite.fr/licite/>



# What is the probability of entry?



**Expert 1**

## Identification & options

Name

Expert 1

Lower limit

0

☐ Date relative quantity

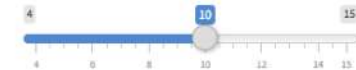
Quantity of interest

Probability of entry

Upper limit

1

Number of Bins

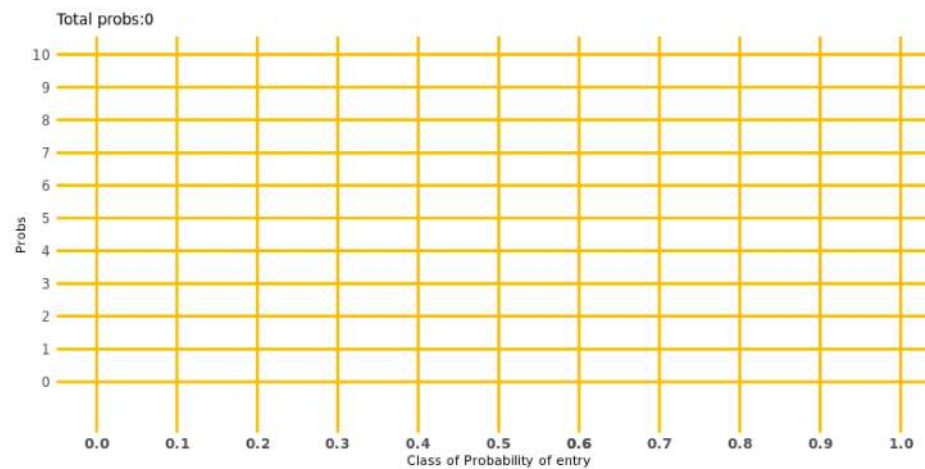


Grid height



Inputs OK

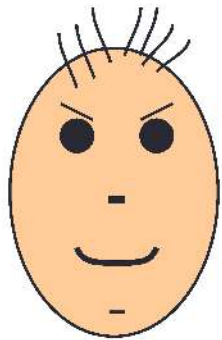
## Definition of the distribution



<https://licite.fr/licite/>



# What is the probability of entry?



**Expert 1**

## Identification & options

Name

Expert 1

Lower limit

0

☐ Date relative quantity

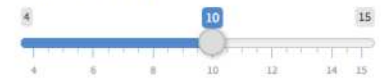
Quantity of interest

Probability of entry

Upper limit

1

Number of Bins

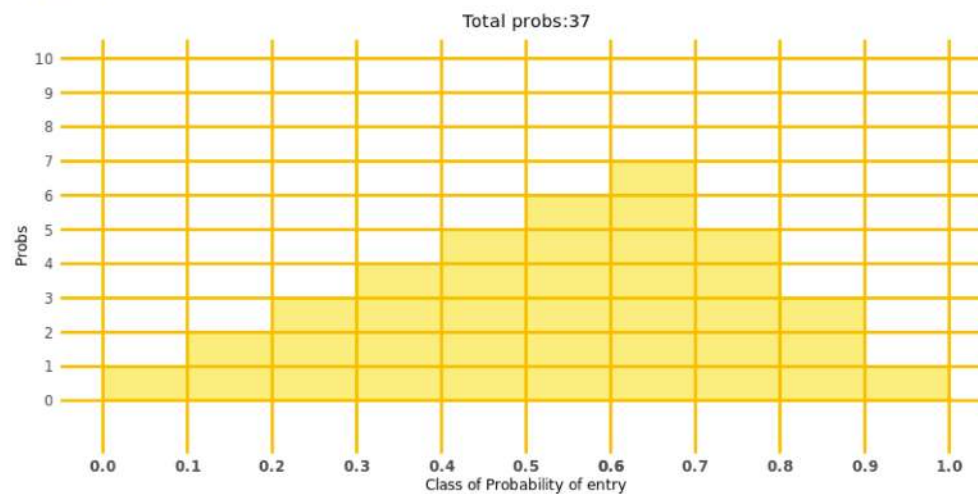


Grid height



Inputs OK

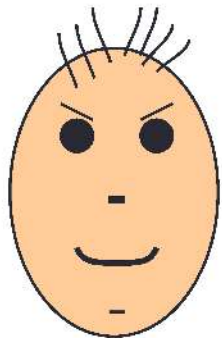
## Definition of the distribution



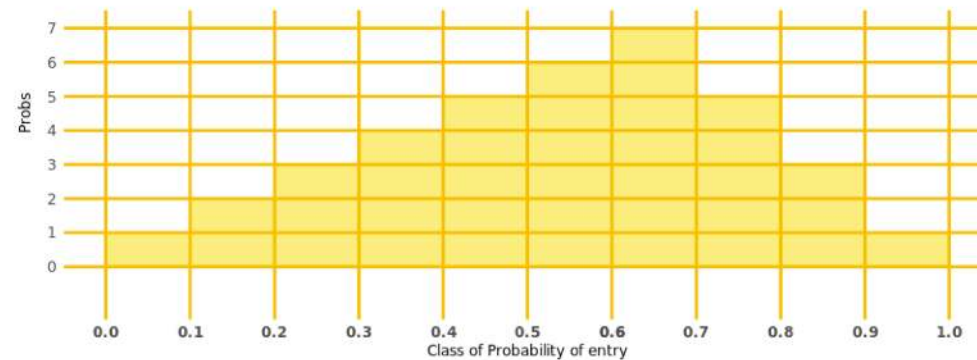
<https://licite.fr/licite/>



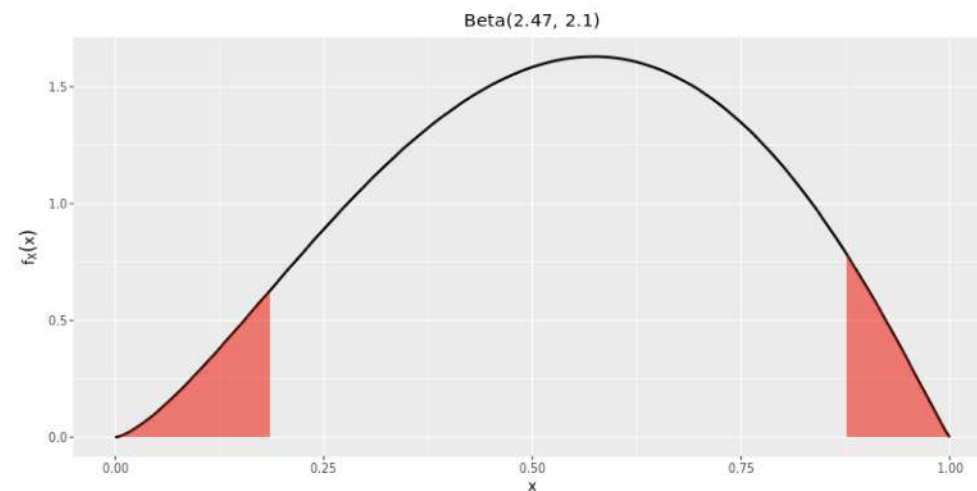
# What is the probability of entry?



Expert 1



Fitted



Quantile values for each distribution law

	Normal	Student-t	Gamma	Log normal	Log Student-t	Beta
0.05	0.17	0.11	0.24	0.26	0.23	0.18
0.95	0.92	0.99	0.99	1.04	1.20	0.88

## Fitting

- ☐ Normal
- ☐ Student t
- ☐ Gamma
- ☐ Log normal
- ☐ Log Student t
- ☐ Beta
- ☒ Best fitting
- ☐ Hist

☒ Show fit

☒ Spread end probs over empty bins

lower feedback quantile

0,05

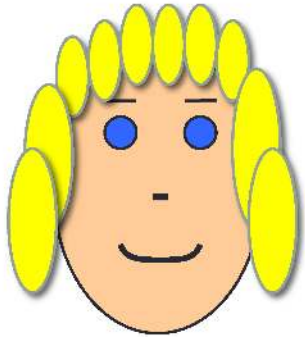
upper feedback quantile

0,95

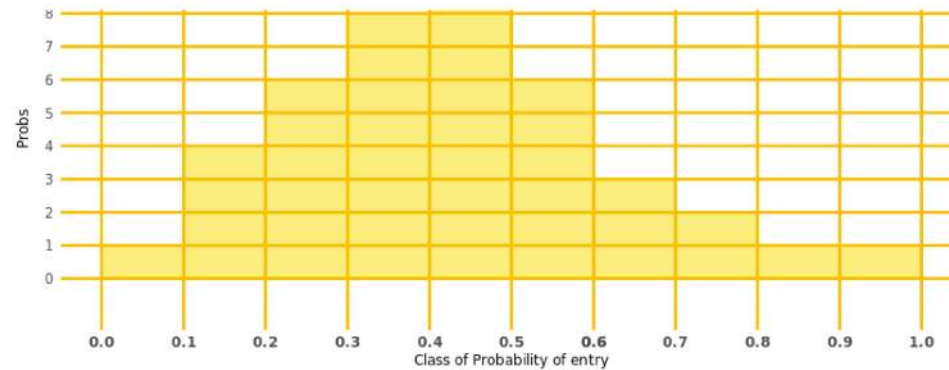
Save elicitation in a file



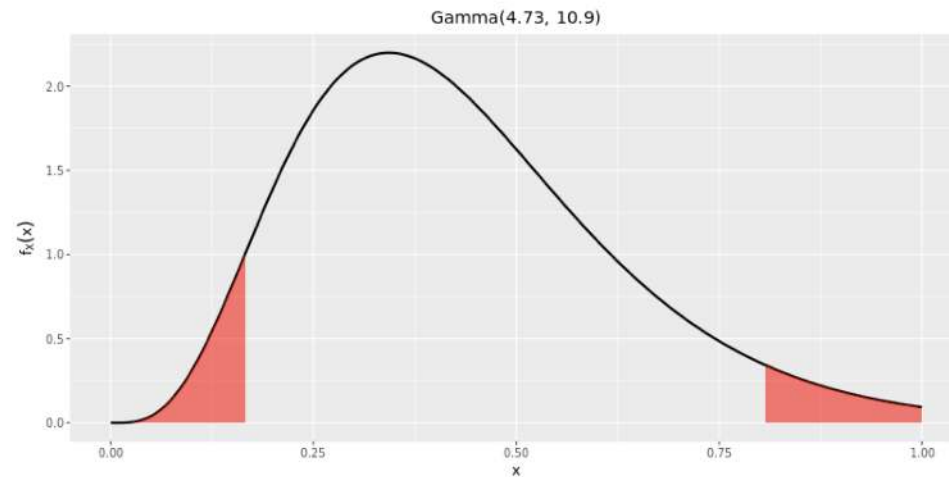
# What is the probability of entry?



**Expert 2**



Fitted



Quantile values for each distribution law

	Normal	Student-t	Gamma	Log normal	Log Student-t	Beta
0.05	0.10	0.05	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.14
0.95	0.73	0.79	0.81	0.85	0.96	0.74

## Fitting

- ☐ Normal
- ☐ Student t
- ☐ Gamma
- ☐ Log normal
- ☐ Log Student t
- ☐ Beta
- ☒ Best fitting
- ☐ Hist

☒ Show fit

☒ Spread end probs over empty bins

lower feedback quantile

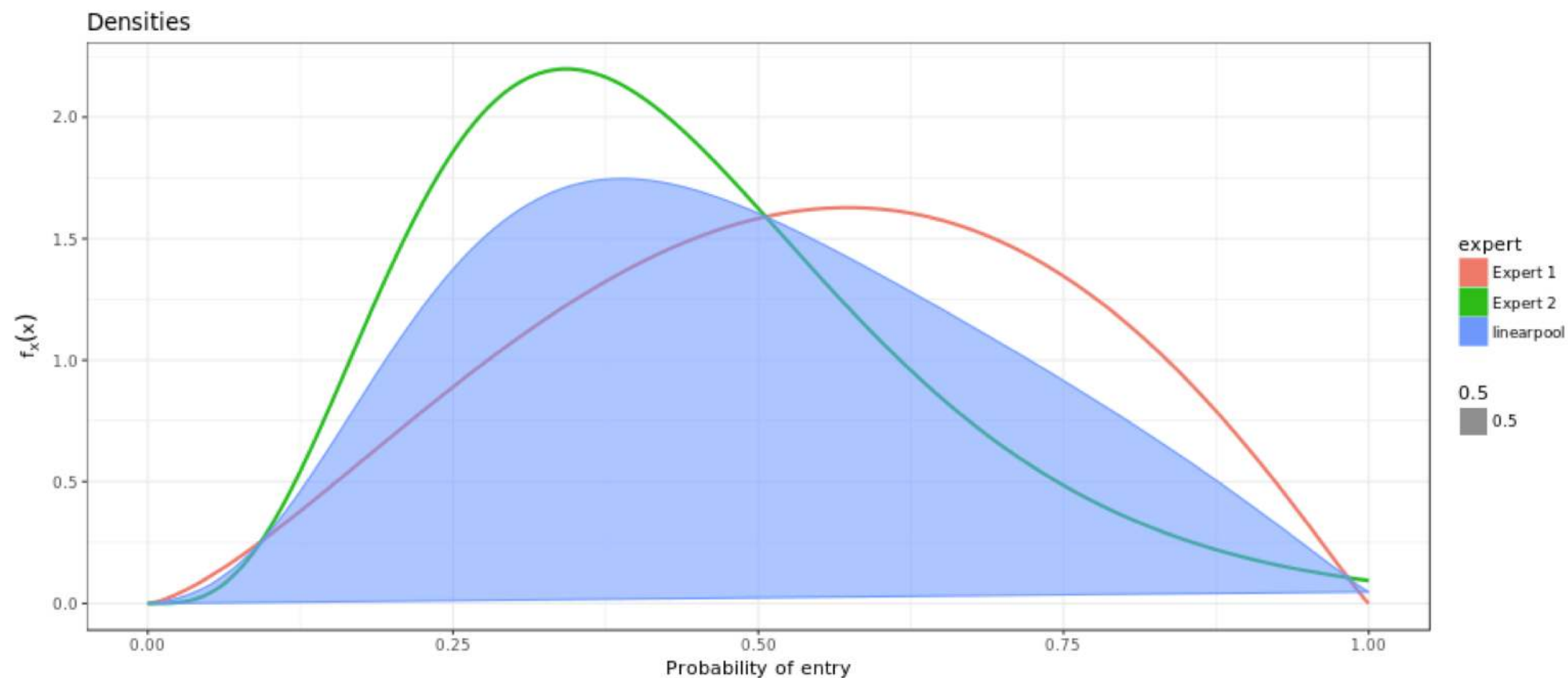
0,05

upper feedback quantile

0,95

Save elicitation in a file





Linearpool : mean = 0.48, variance = 0.04

Define  $x$

$P(X \leq x)$

Define  $q = P(X \leq x_q)$

quantile  $x_q$

0.5

0.55

0.5

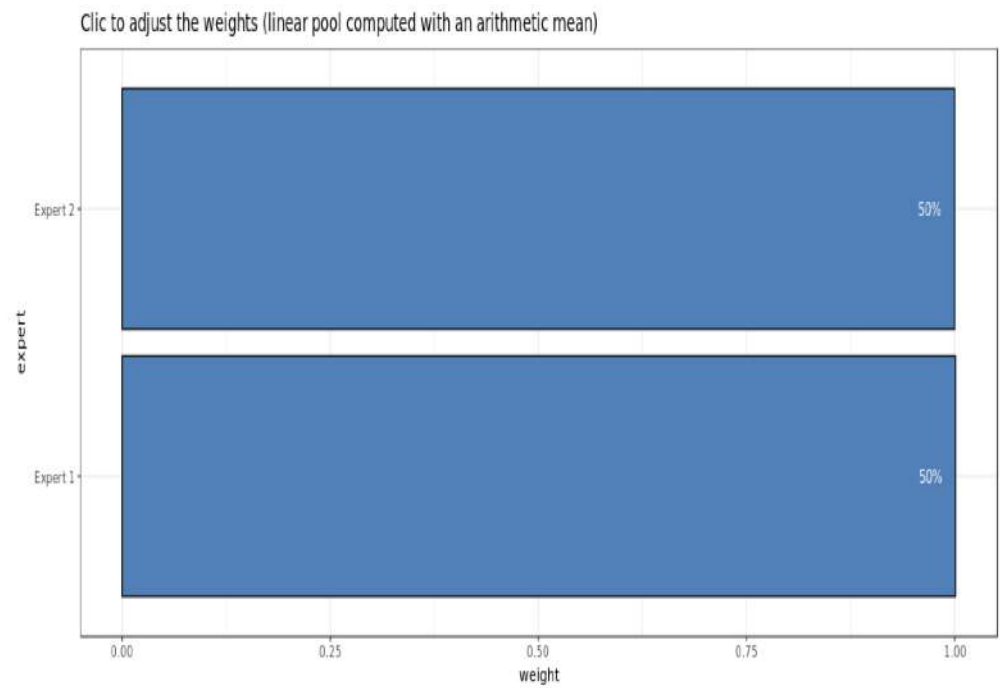
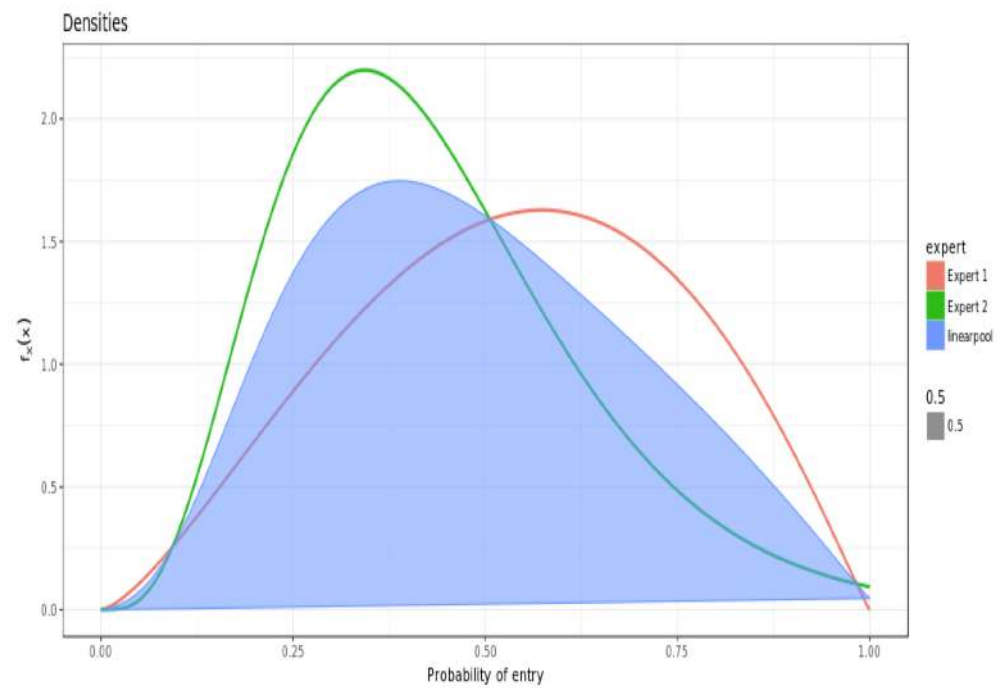
0.47

⬇ Densities

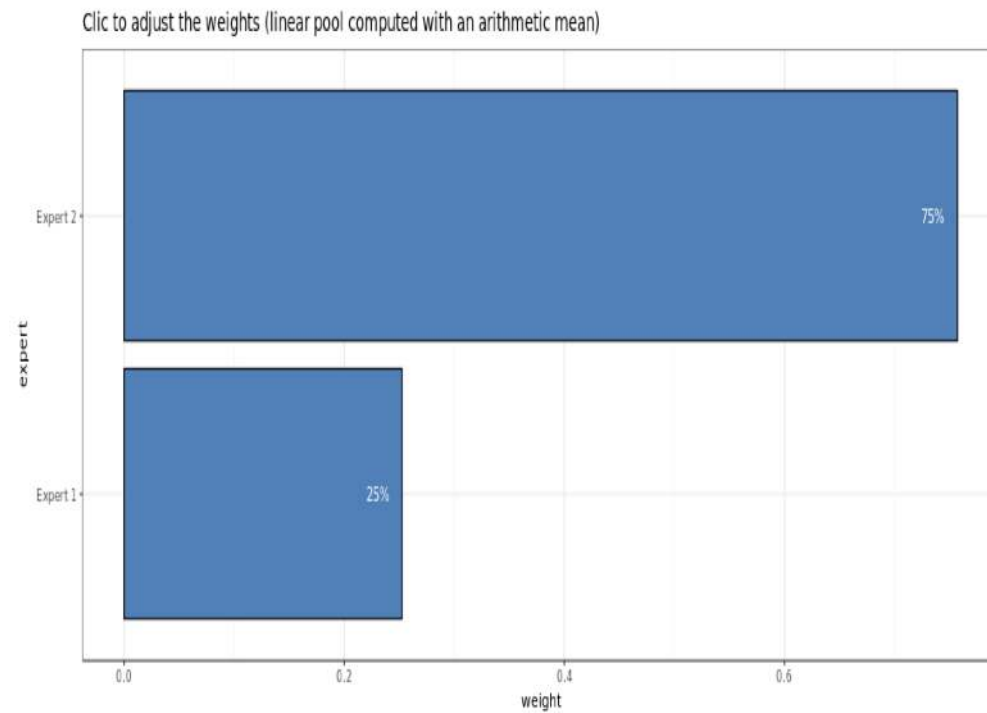
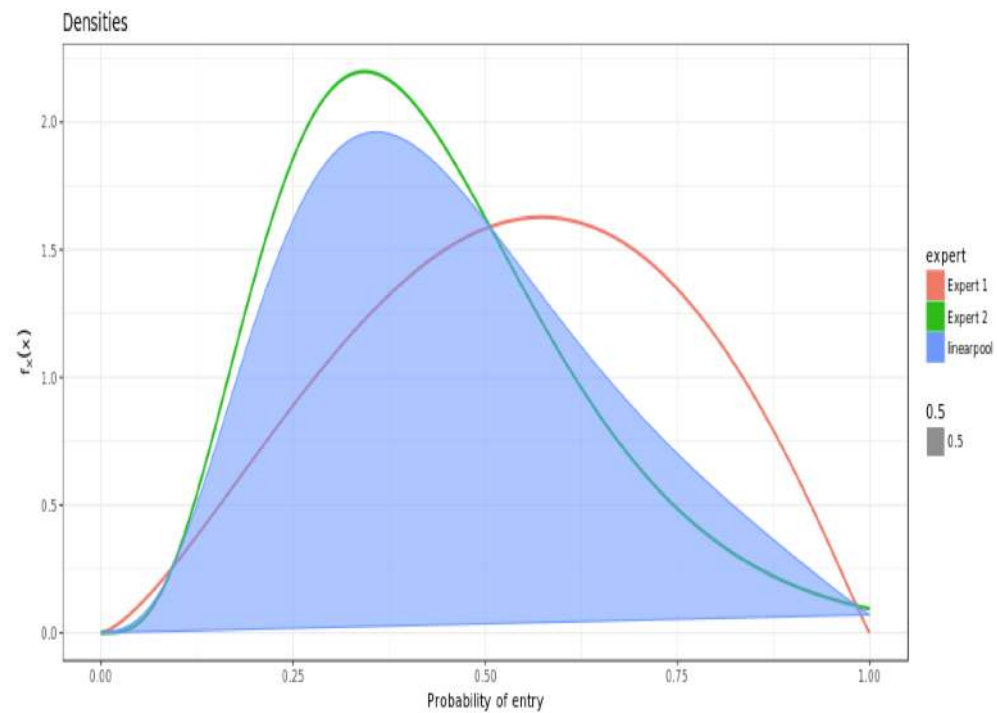
⬇ Linearpool sample (1e+05)

<https://licite.fr/licite/>











# Different attitudes towards uncertainty

- Ignore it
- Qualitative uncertainty analysis
- **Quantitative uncertainty analysis**



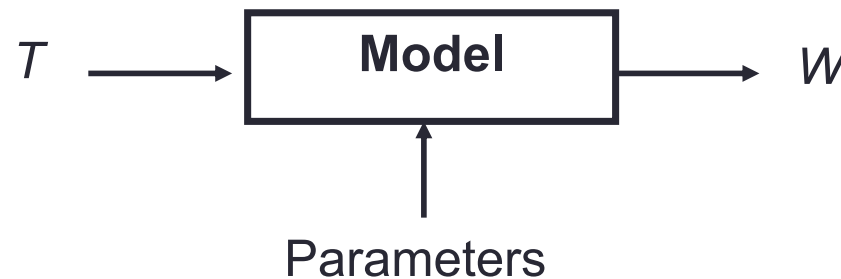
# Probabilistic uncertainty analysis

- i. Identification of uncertainty sources
- ii. Description of uncertainties using probability distributions
- iii. Propagation of uncertainties through **a quantitative model** to obtain the distribution of the output of interest
- iv. Communication of results



# Model computing the wetness duration requested for fungal infection

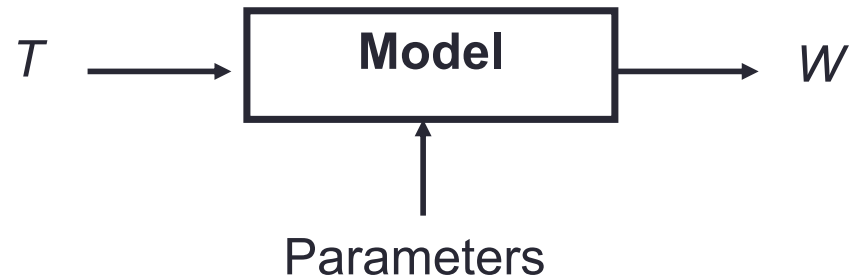
(Magarey *et al.*, 2005)



$W$  = requested wetness duration (h)

$T$  = man air temperature ( $^{\circ}$  C)





$$W = \frac{W_{\min}}{f(T)}, \text{ et } W \leq W_{\max}$$

$$f(T) = \left( \frac{T_{\max} - T}{T_{\max} - T_{\text{opt}}} \right) \left( \frac{T - T_{\min}}{T_{\text{opt}} - T_{\min}} \right)^{(T_{\text{opt}} - T_{\min}) / (T_{\max} - T_{\text{opt}})}$$

Five parameters :  $T_{\min}$ ,  $T_{\text{opt}}$ ,  $T_{\max}$ ,  $W_{\min}$ ,  $W_{\max}$

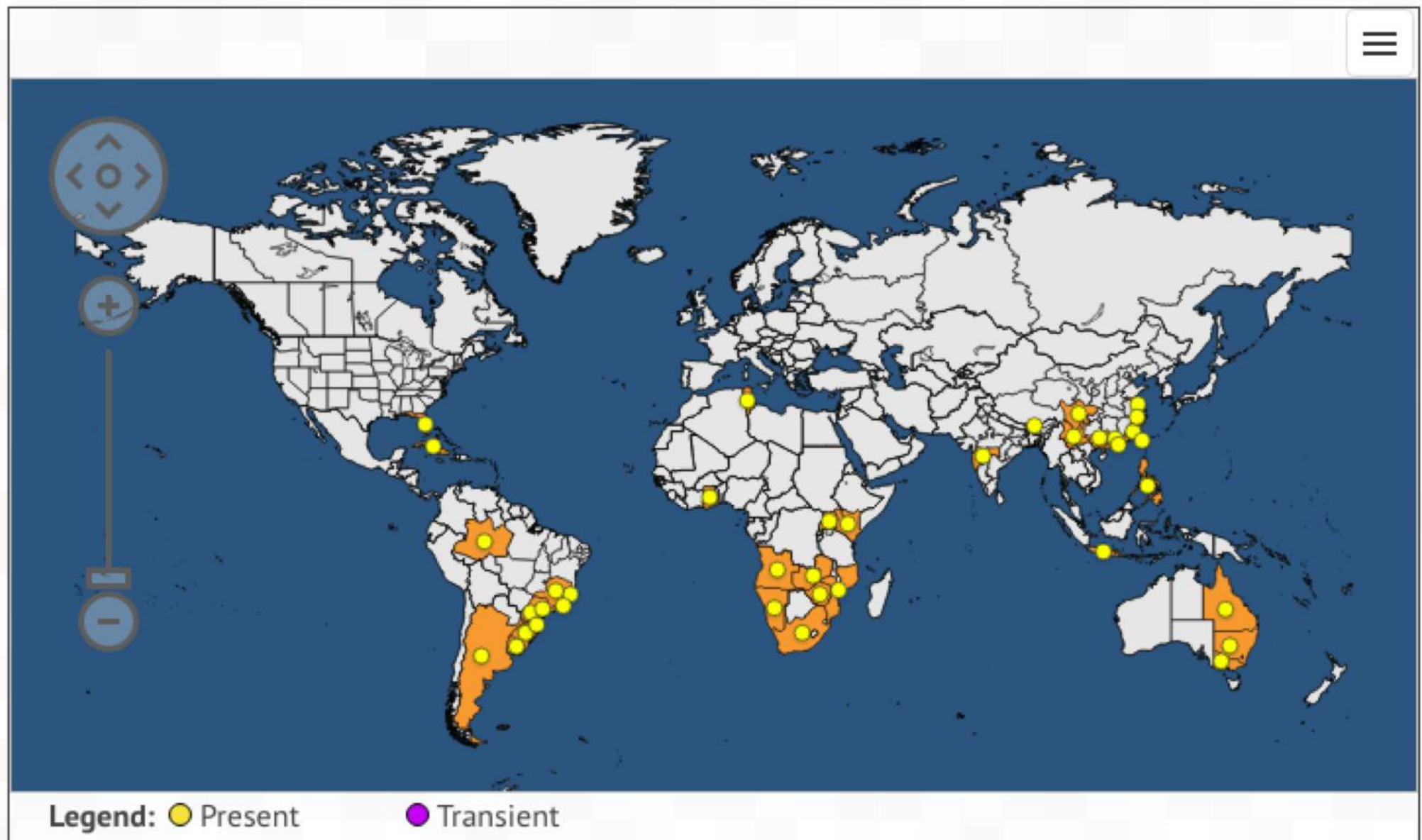


Citrus black spot  
*Phyllosticta citricarpa*



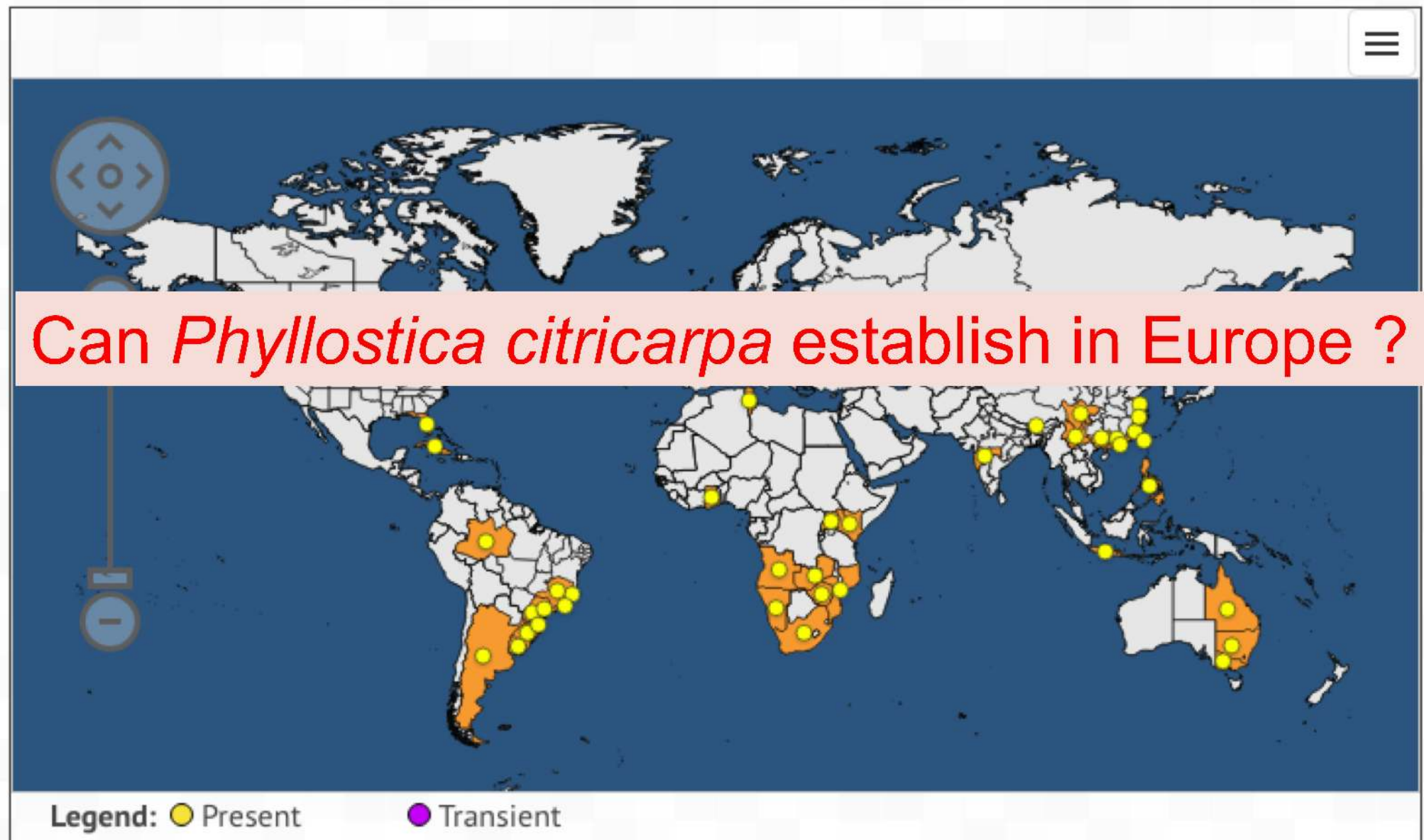
## Distribution

Last updated: 2020-01-24



<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GUIGCI/distribution>







## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

### **Scientific Opinion on the risk of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (*Guignardia citricarpa*) for the EU territory with identification and evaluation of risk reduction options<sup>1</sup>**

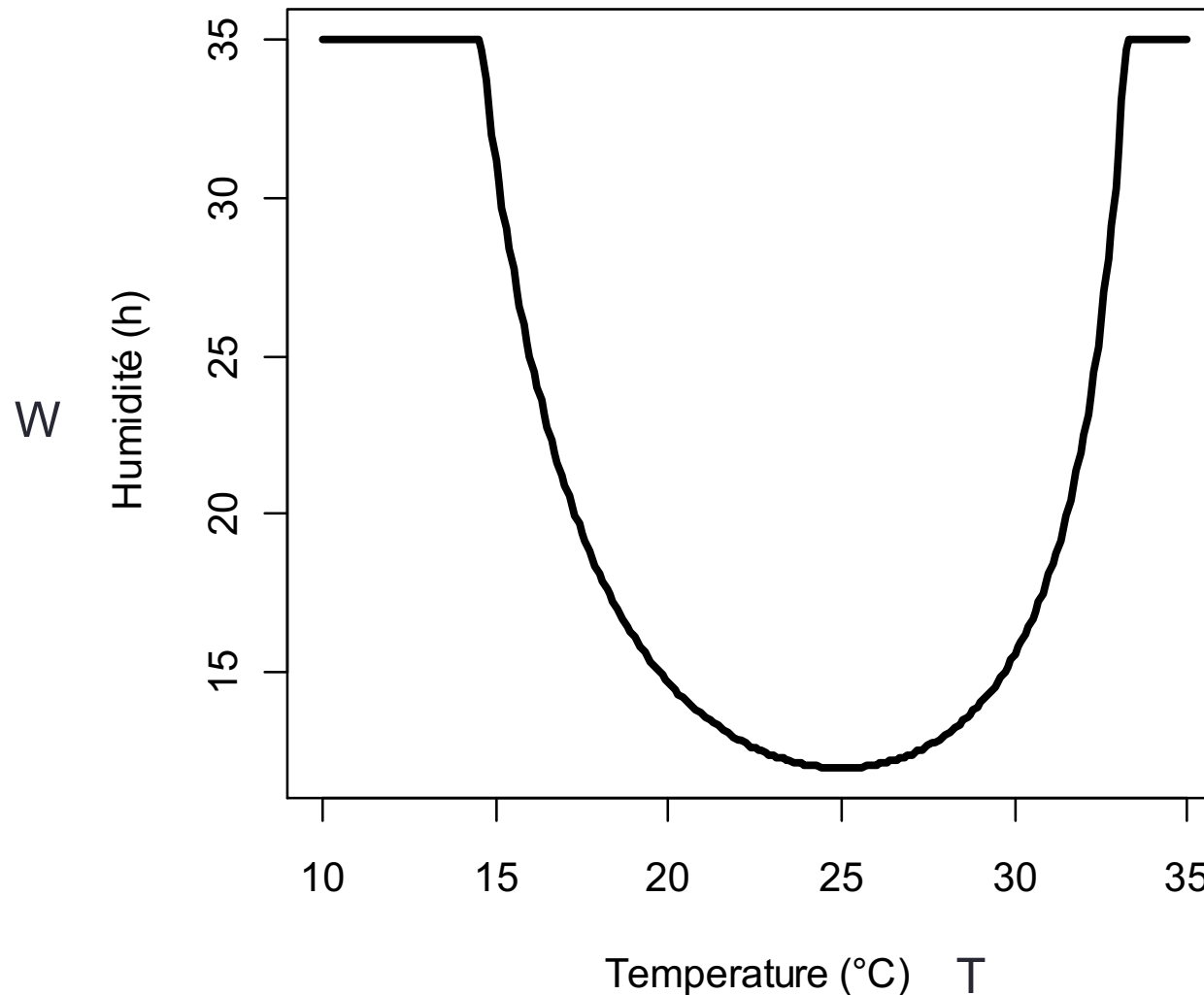
**EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH)<sup>2,3</sup>**

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy



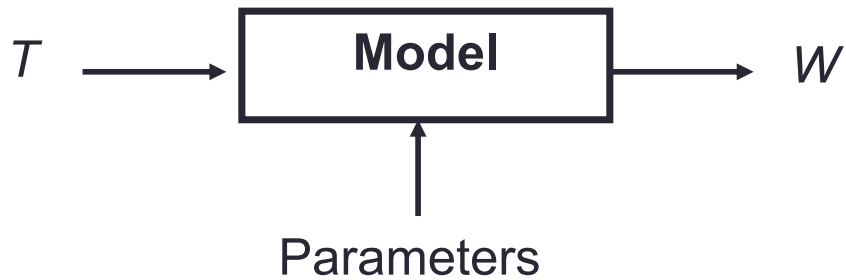
**Simulated values of W with estimated parameter values for  
pycnidiospores of *Phyllosticta citricarpa***

**$T_{min}= 10^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  $T_{opt}= 25^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  $T_{max}=35^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  $W_{min}=12 \text{ h}$ ,  $W_{max}= 35 \text{ h}$**

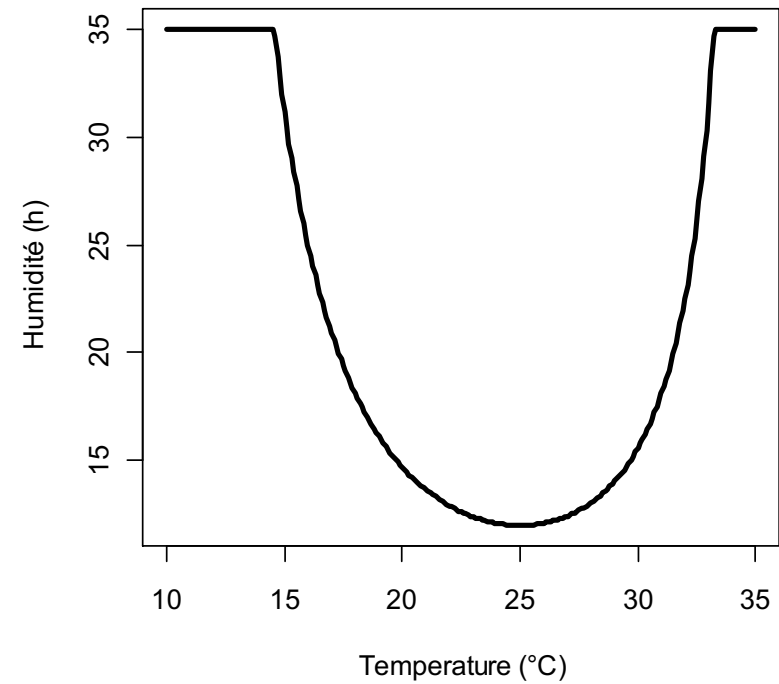




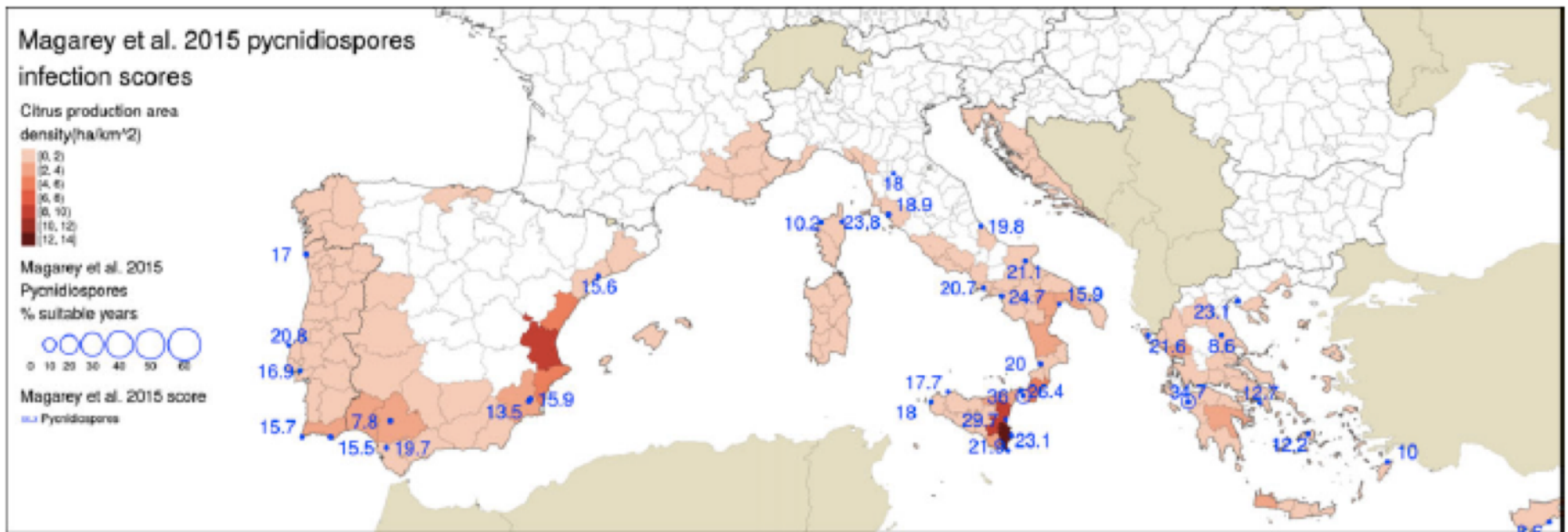
$$10^{\circ} \text{ C} < T < 35^{\circ} \text{ C}$$



$T_{\min} = 10^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  $T_{\text{opt}} = 25^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  
 $T_{\max} = 35^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ,  $W_{\min} = 12 \text{ h}$ ,  $W_{\max} = 35 \text{ h}$







Densité d'agrumes en Europe et proportions d'années favorables aux infections

<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3557>



# Probabilistic uncertainty analysis

- i. Identification of uncertainty sources
- ii. Description of uncertainties using probability distributions
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# Probabilistic uncertainty analysis

## i. Identification of uncertainty sources

- Parameters
- Input variables
- Equations

ii. Description of uncertainties using probability distributions

iii. Propagation of uncertainties through a **quantitative model** to obtain the distribution of the output of interest

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## Uncertainties in parameter values

Ranges of parameter values defined by the experts of the « Panel on Plant Health EFSA » (2008)

		Min	Max
Tmin	(° C)	10	15
Topt	(° C)	25	30
Tmax	(° C)	32	35
Wmin	(h)	12	14
Wmax	(h)	35	48



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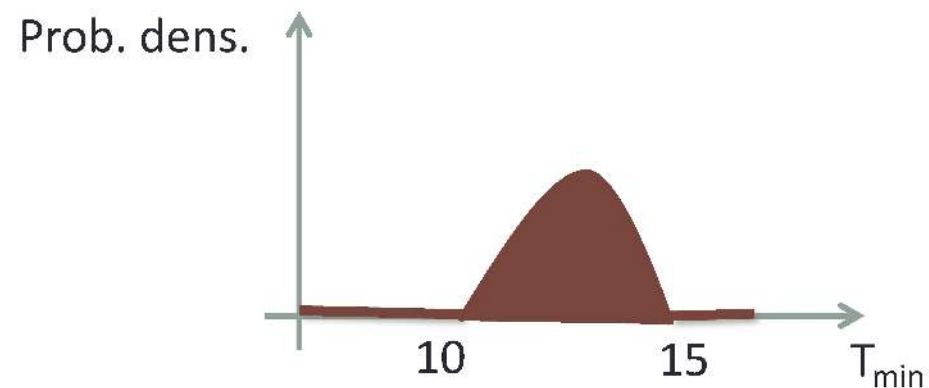
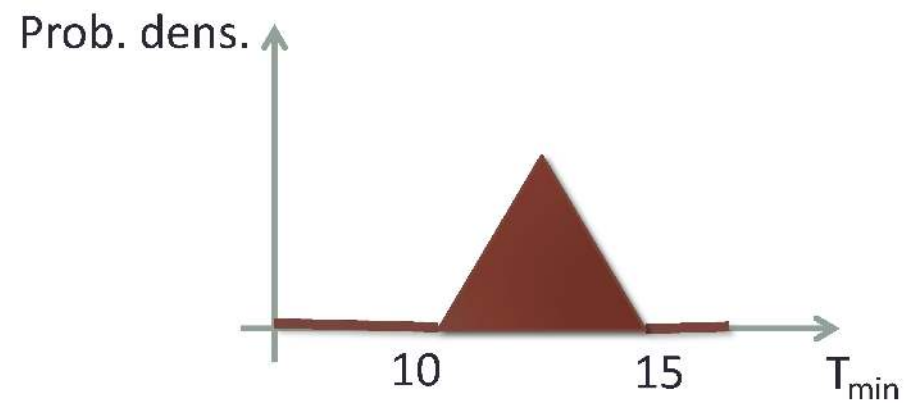
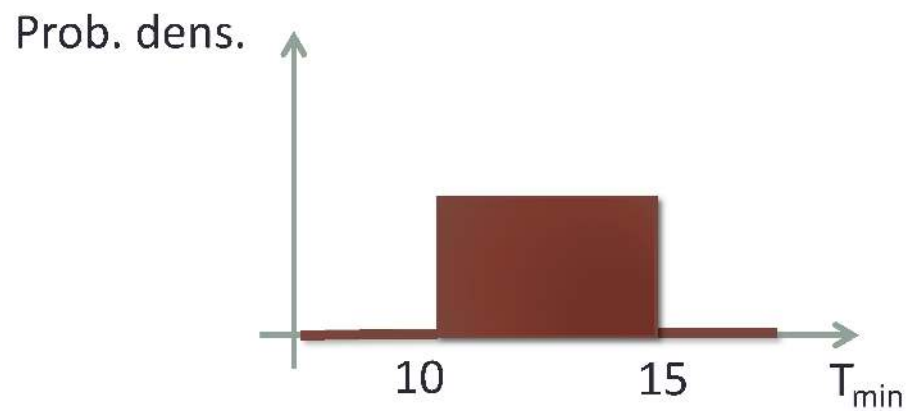


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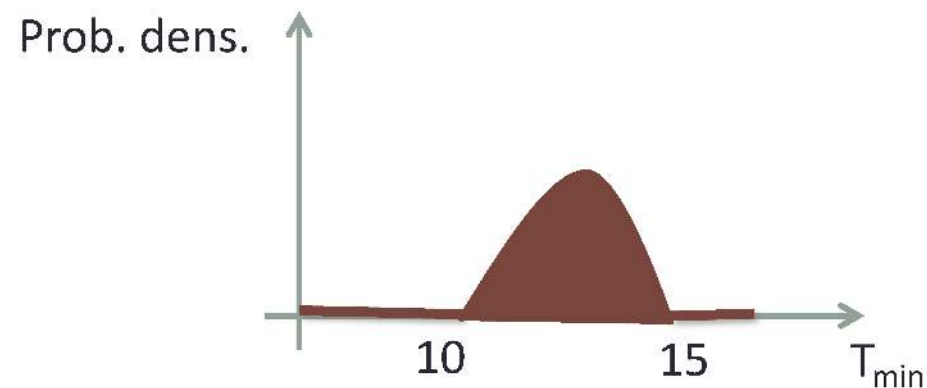
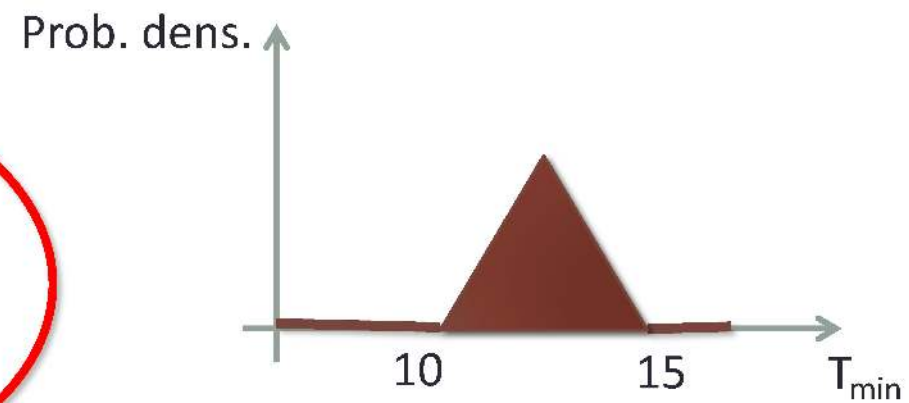
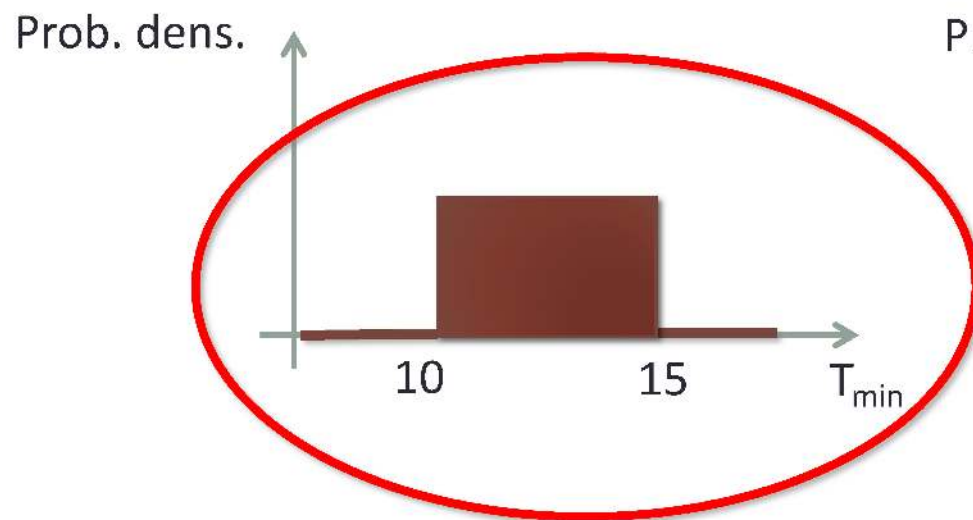


# Description of uncertainties using probability distributions





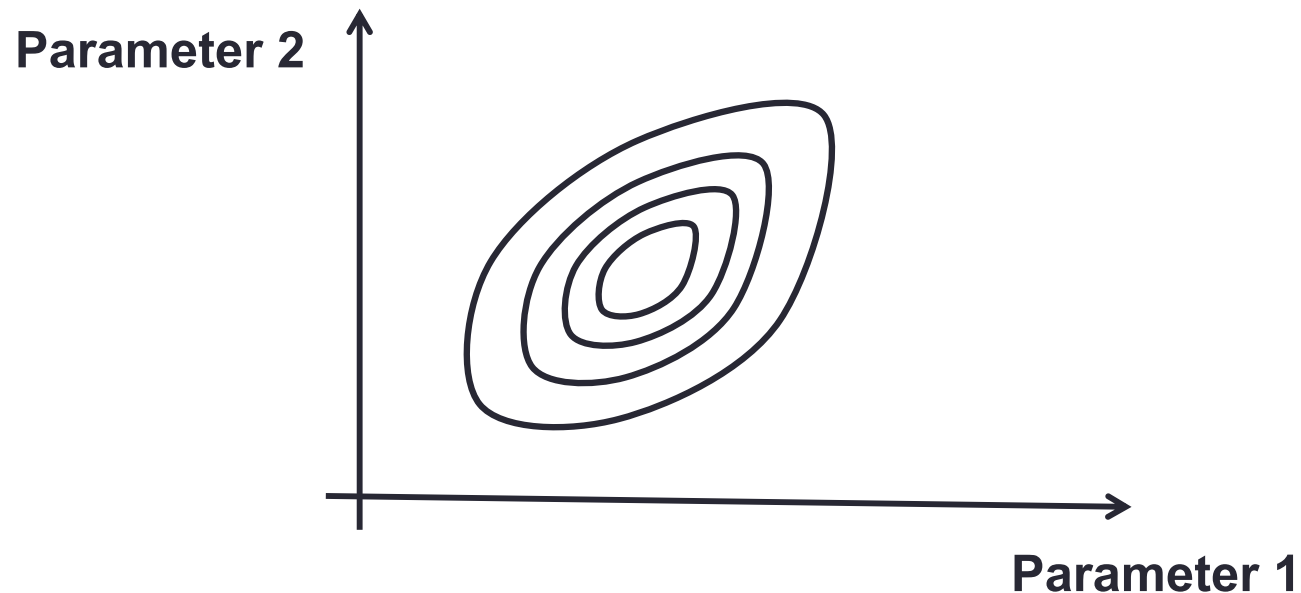
# Description of uncertainties using probability distributions





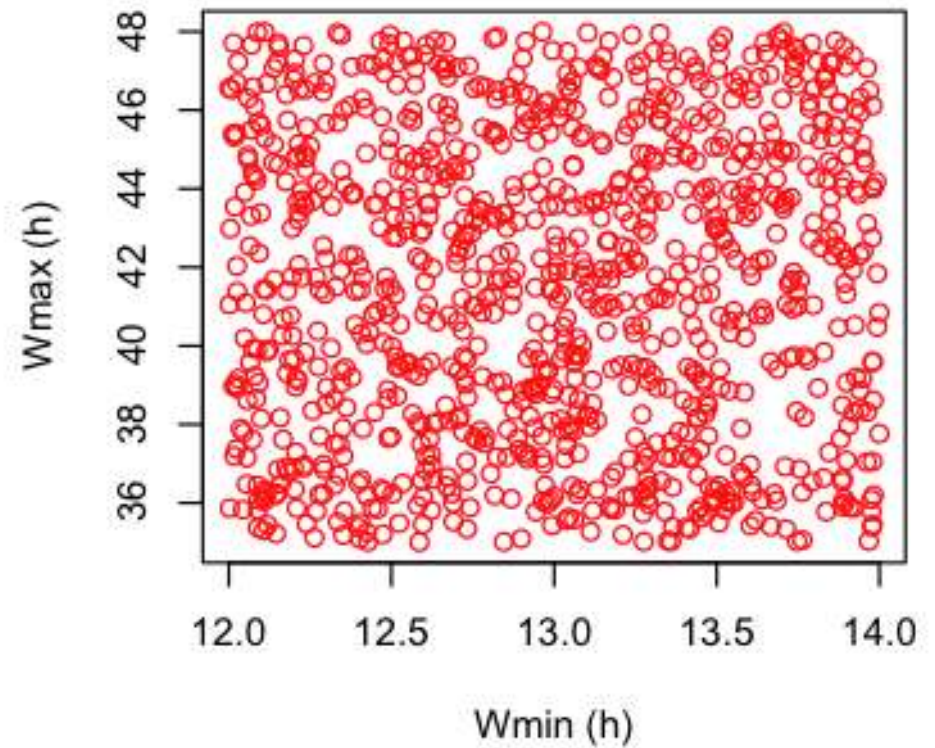
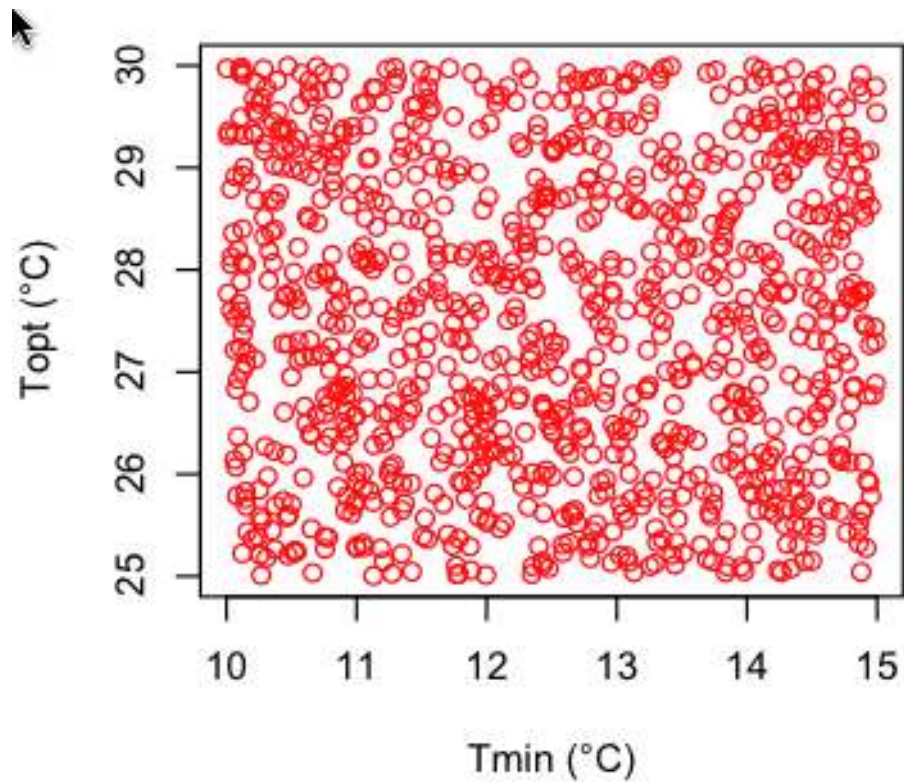
# Description of uncertainties using probability distributions

Independent or correlated parameters?



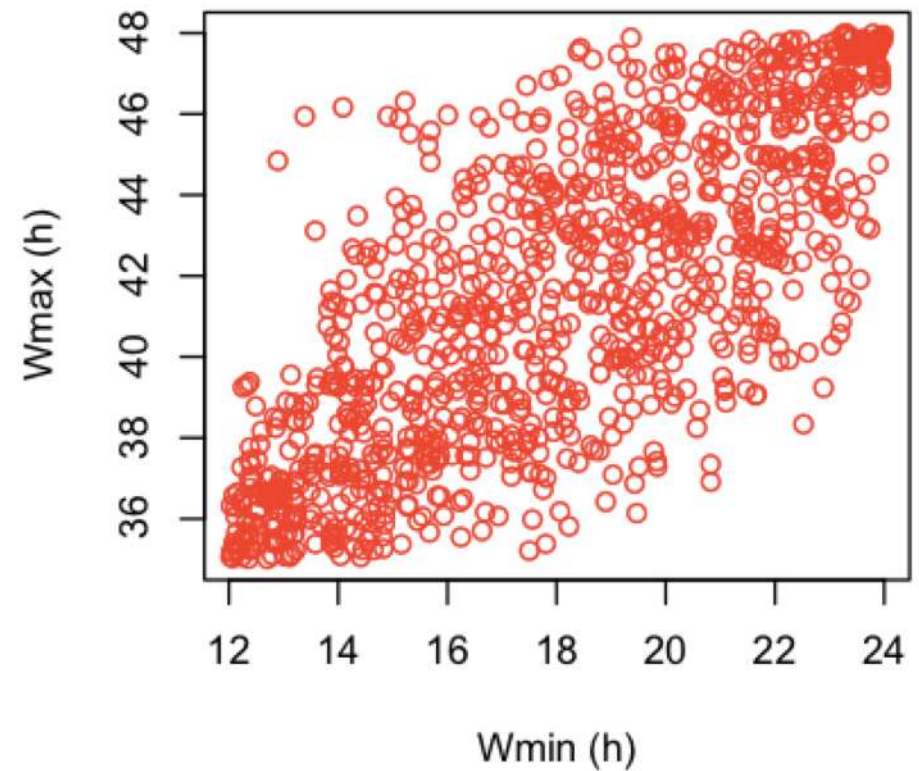
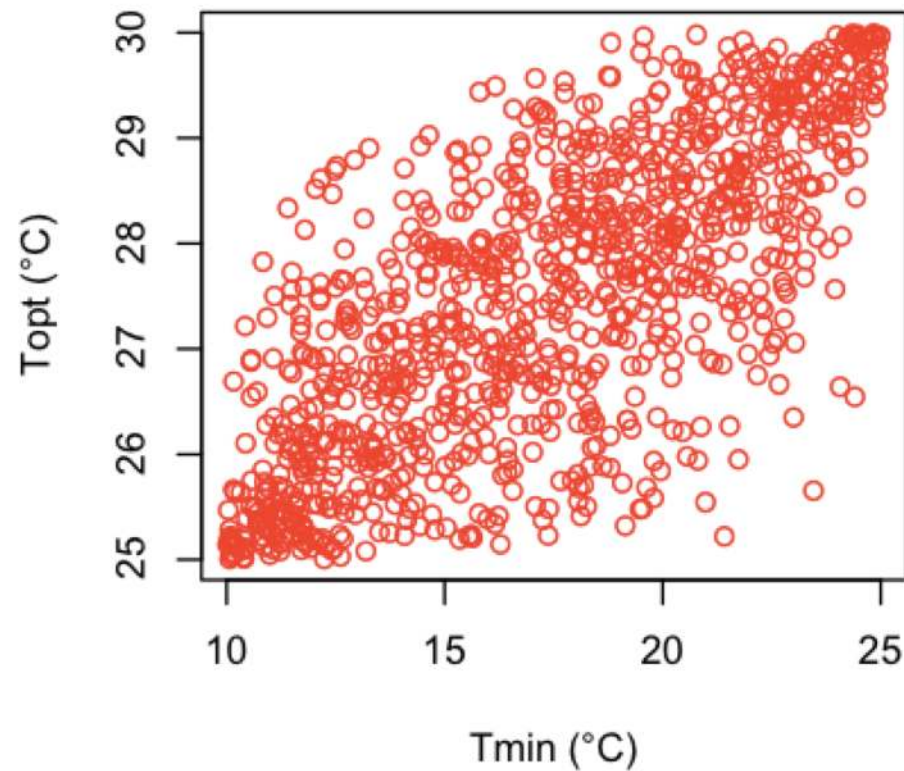


$N=1000$  (uniform & independent)





$N=1000$  (uniform & correlated, +0.75)





# Copula; a powerful tool to deal with non-independent variables

Let  $F$  be a  $p$ -dimensional distribution function with margins  $F_1, \dots, F_p$ .

Sklar (1959) first showed that there exists a  $p$ -dimensional copula  $C$  such that for all  $x$  in the domain of  $F$ ,

$$F(x_1, \dots, x_p) = C\{F_1(x_1), \dots, F_p(x_p)\}.$$



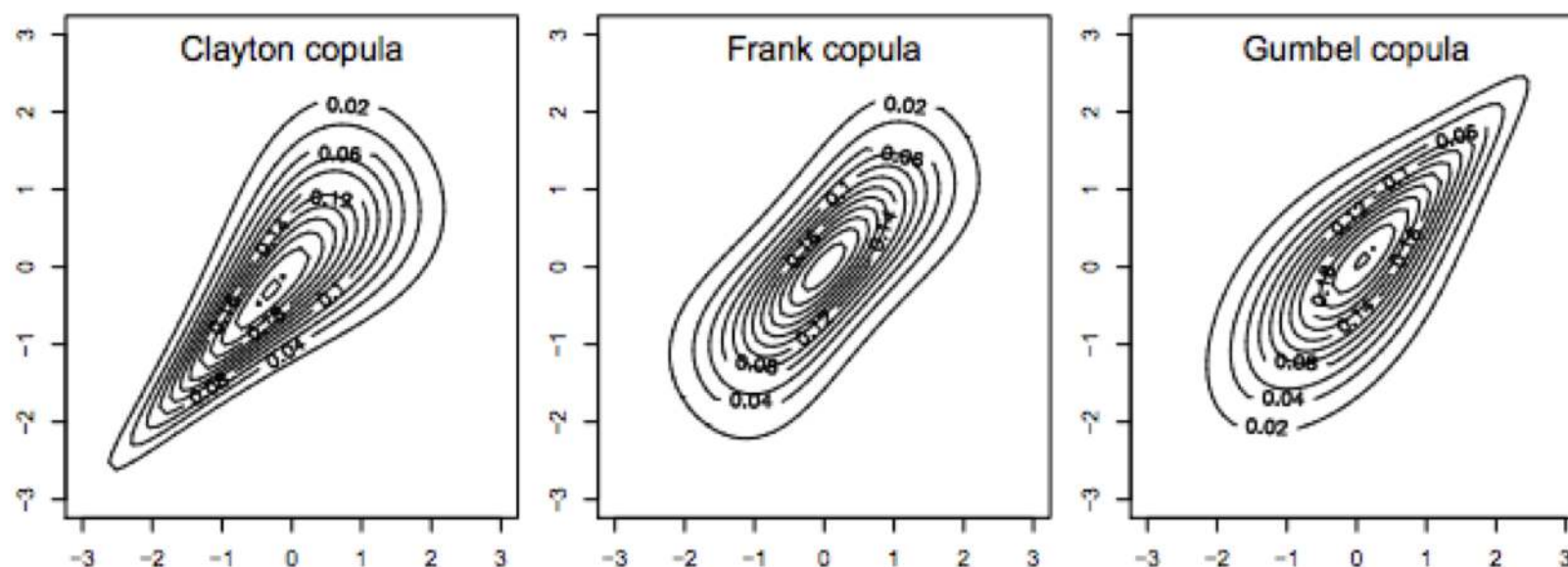
# Recipe for Disaster: The Formula That Killed Wall Street

$$\Pr[T_A < 1, T_B < 1] = \Phi_2(\Phi^{-1}(F_A(1)), \Phi^{-1}(F_B(1)), \gamma)$$

David X. Li's Gaussian copula function as first published in 2000.



# Copula; a powerful tool to deal with non-independent variables

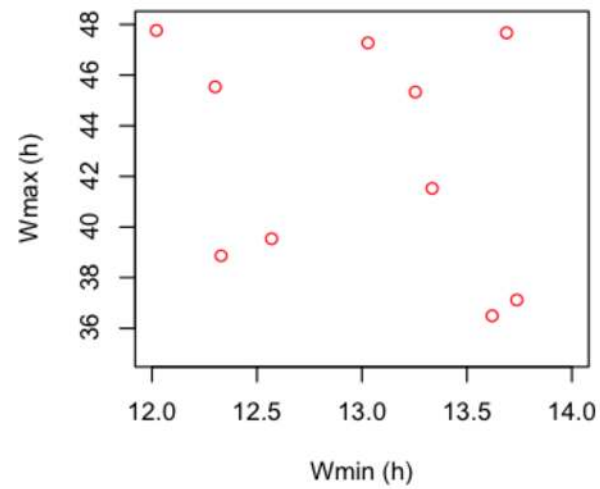
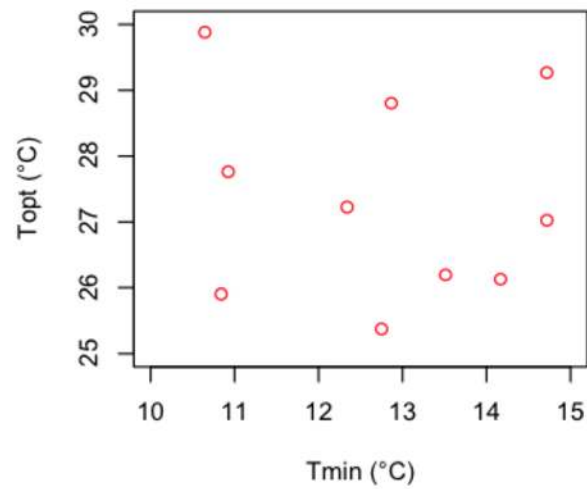




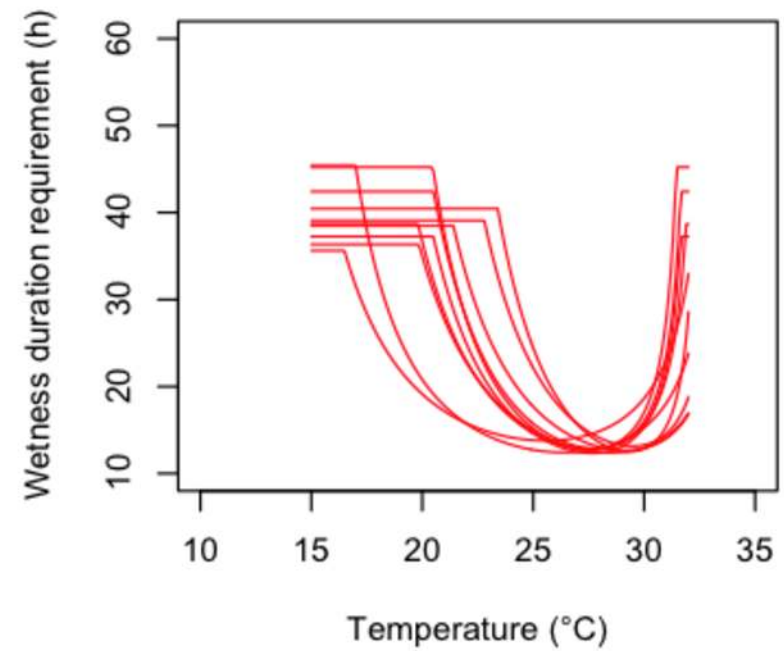
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- iv. Communication of results

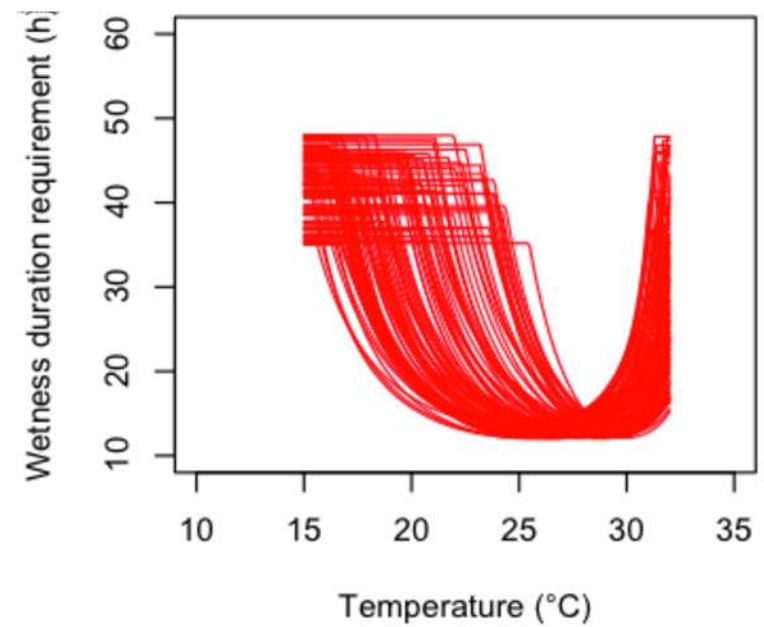
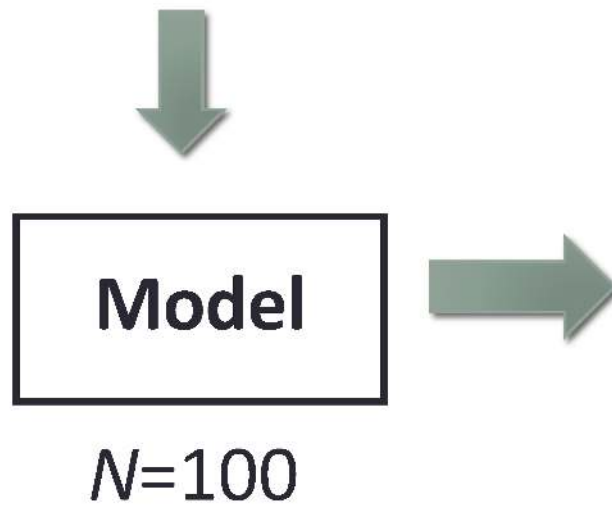
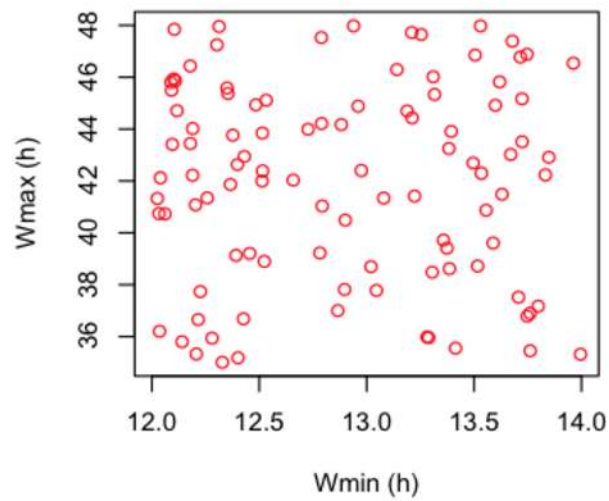
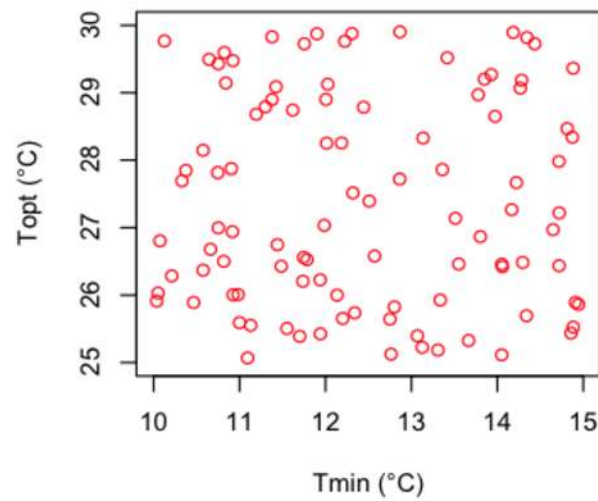




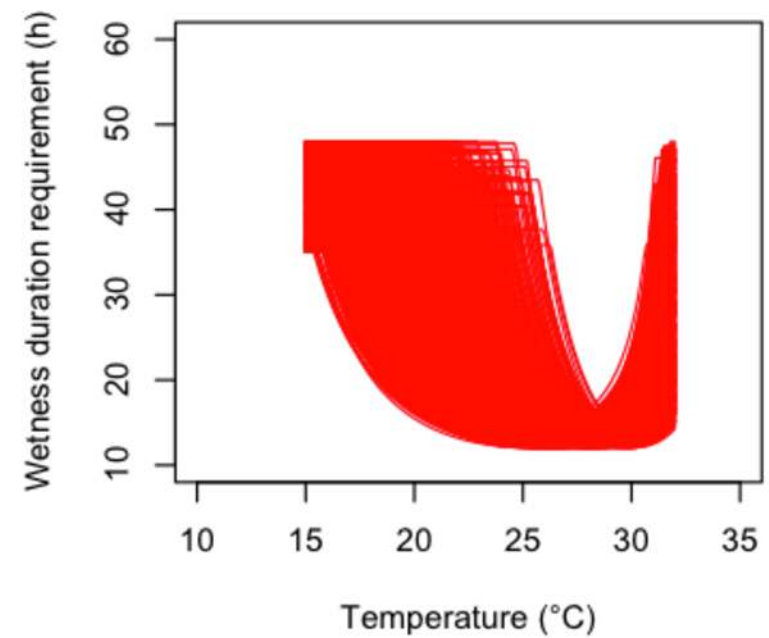
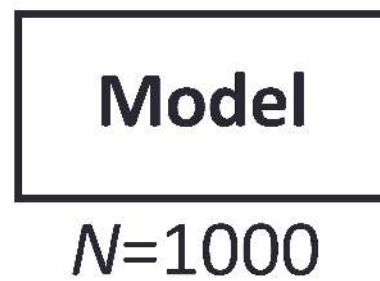
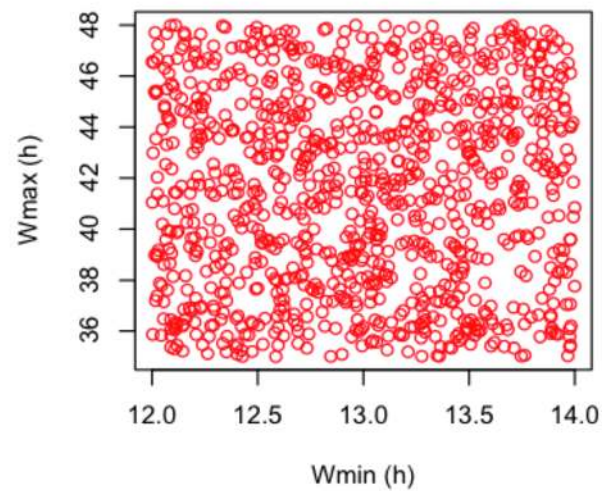
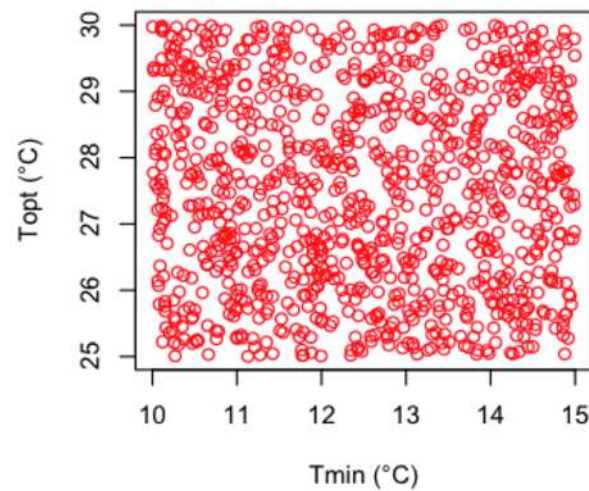
**Model**  
 $N=10$





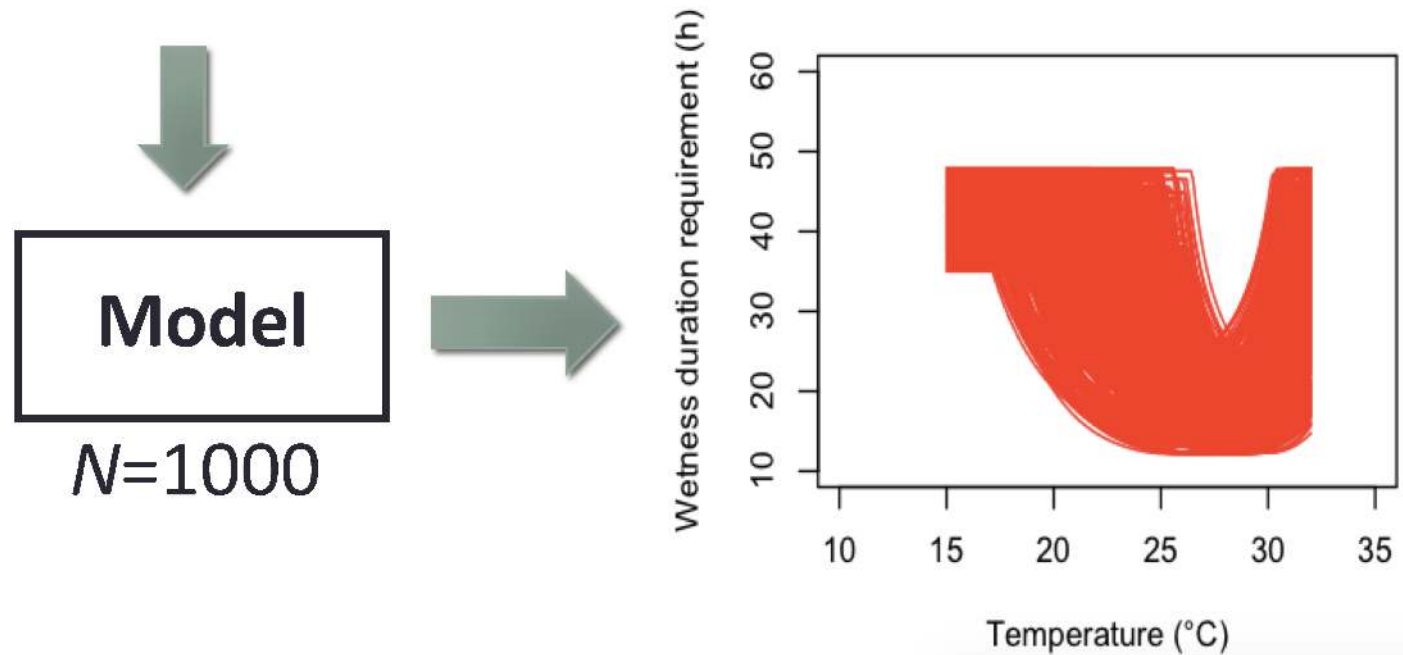
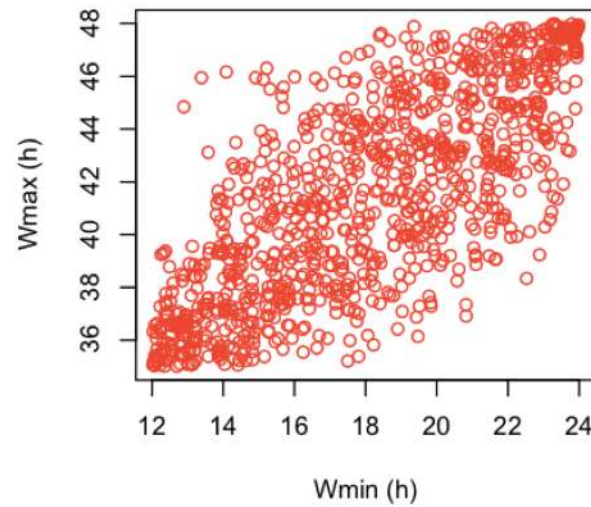
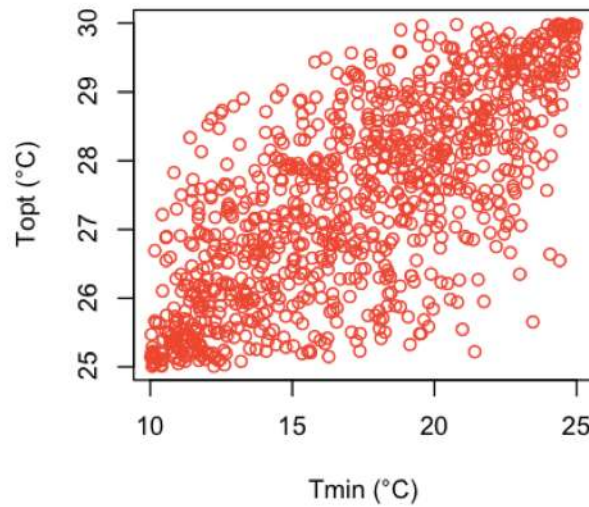








## Non-independent distributions (+0.75)

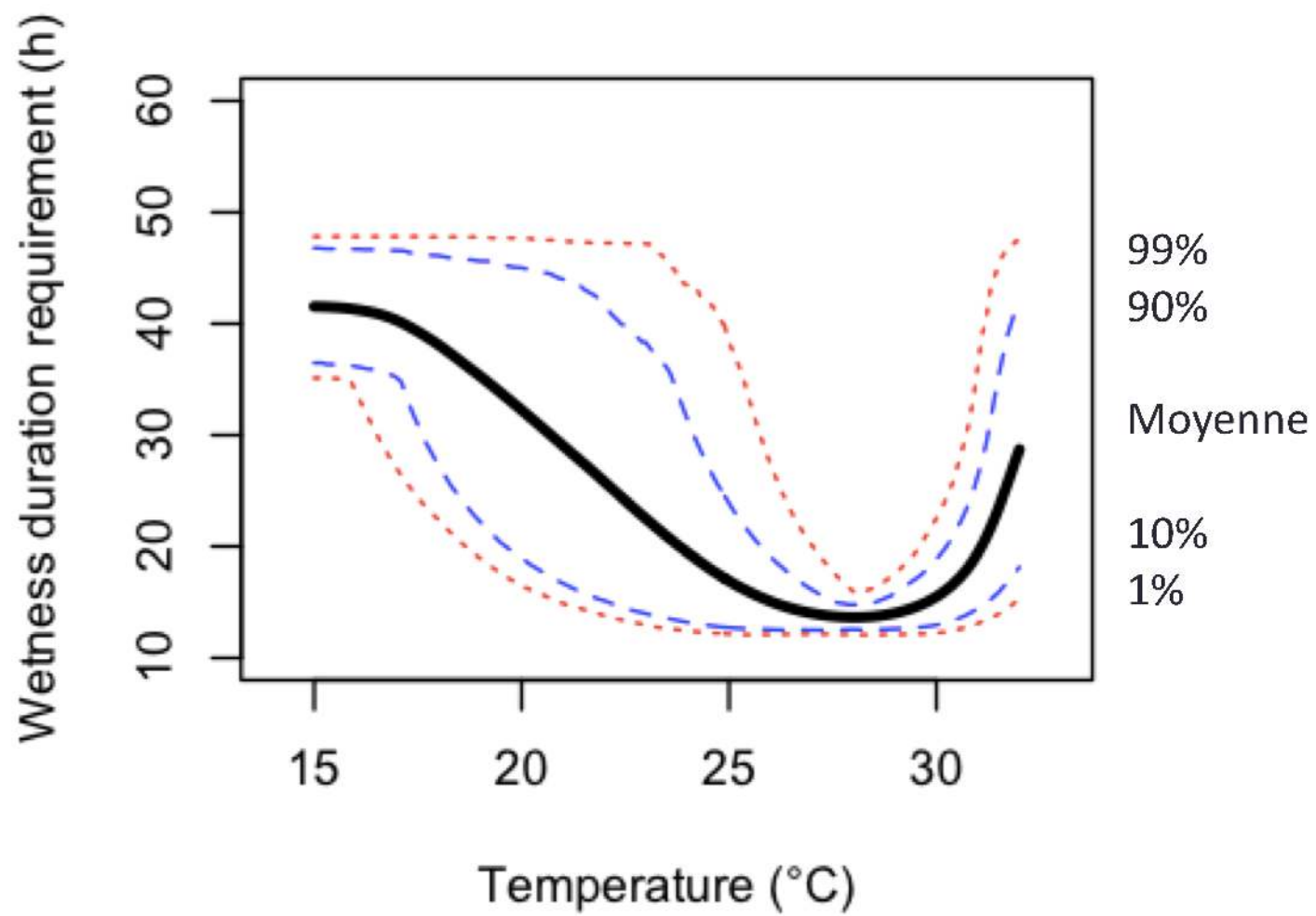




# Probabilistic uncertainty analysis

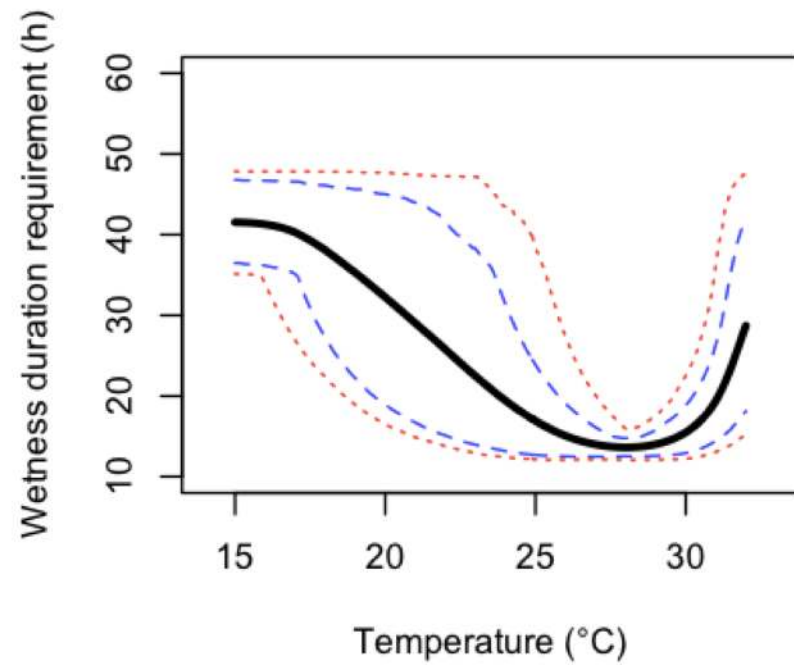
- i. Identification of uncertainty sources
- ii. Description of uncertainties using probability distributions
- iii. Propagation of uncertainties through **a quantitative model** to obtain the distribution of the output of interest
- iv. **Communication of results**



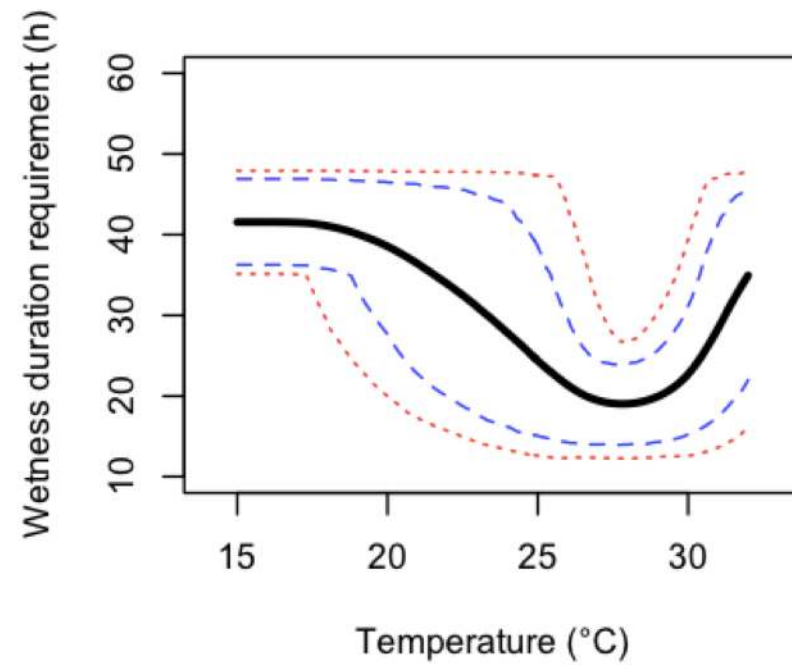




Independent distributions

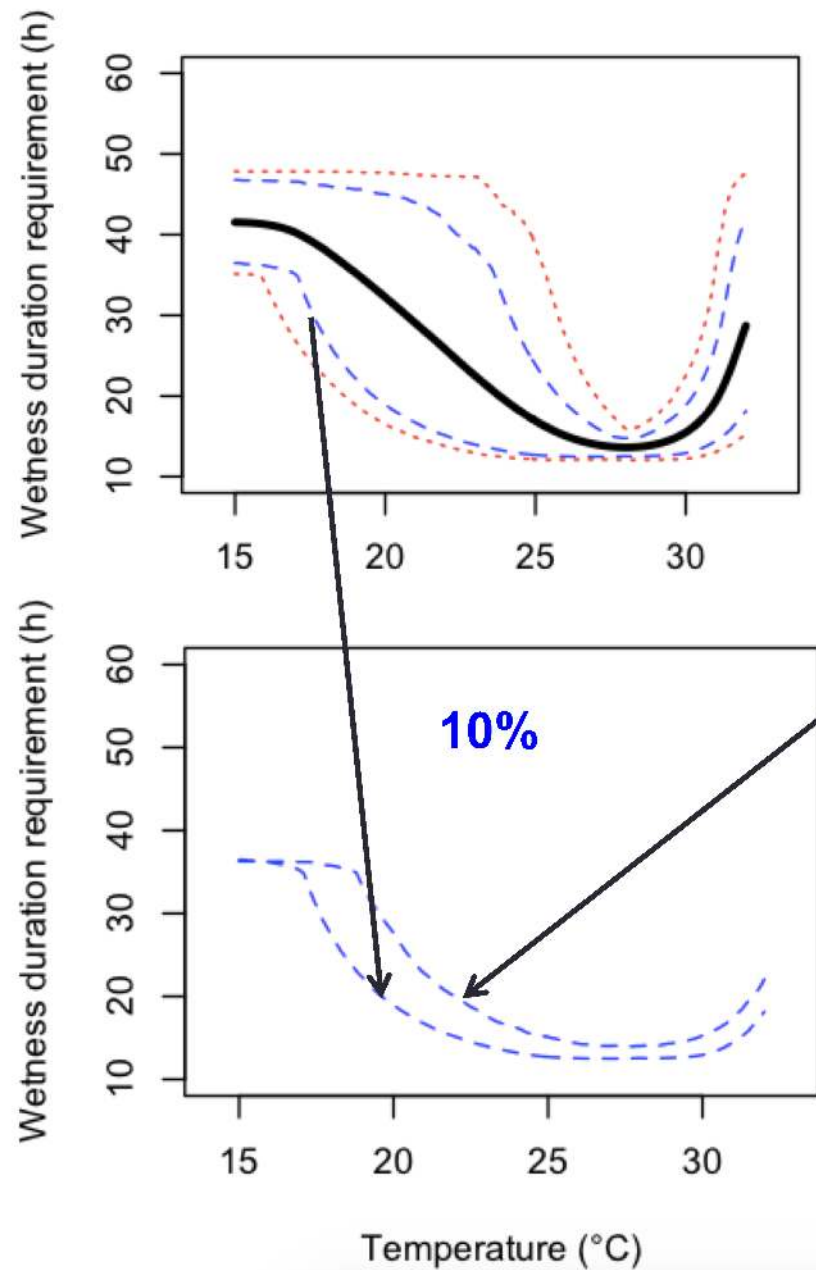


Non-independent distributions (+0.75)

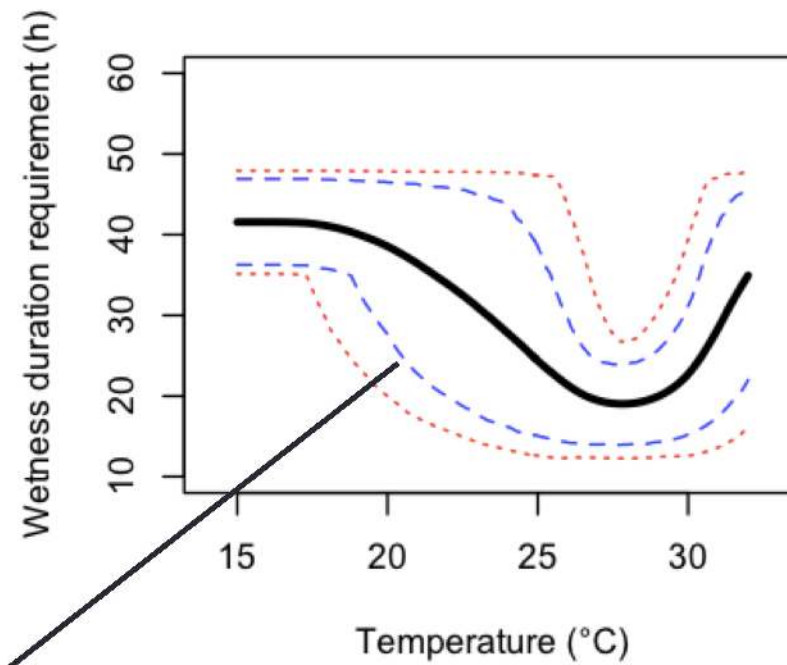




Independent distributions

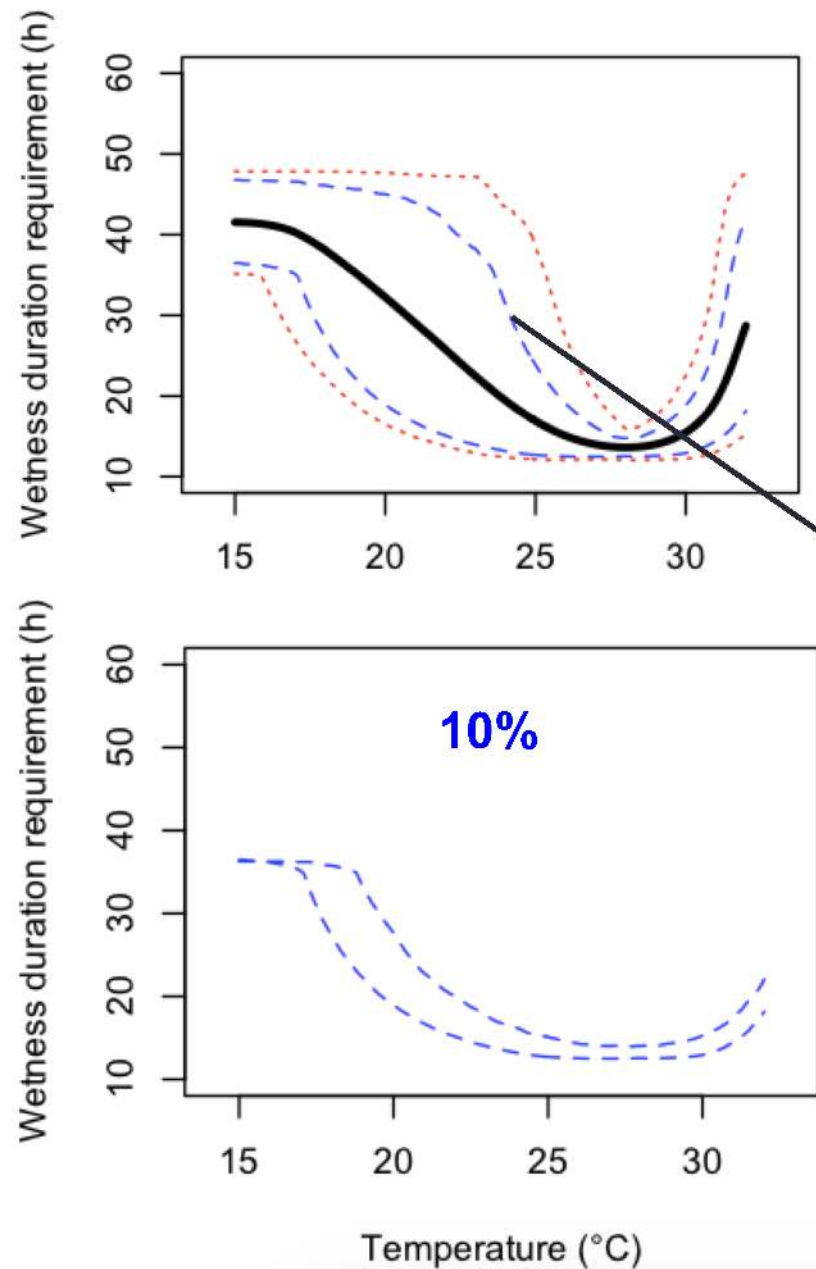


Non-independent distributions (+0.75)

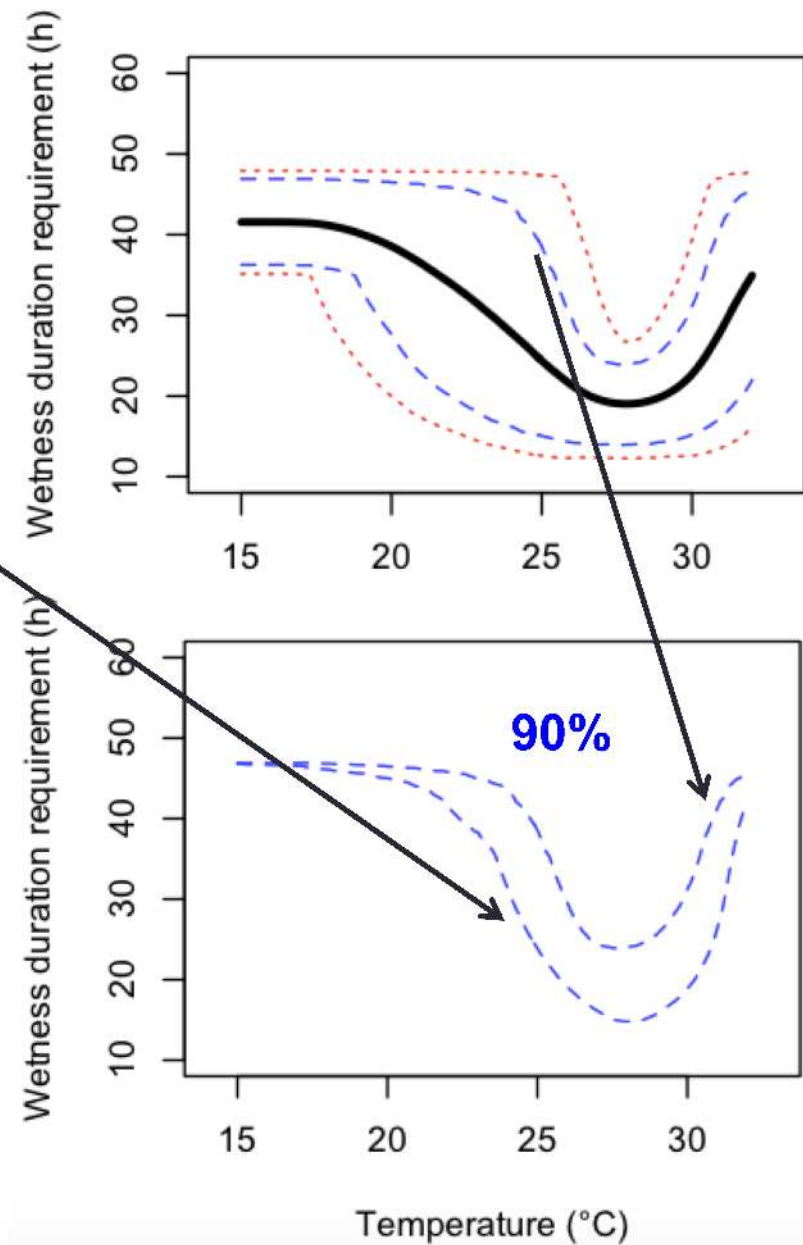




Independent distributions



Non-independent distributions (+0.75)





# Different attitudes towards uncertainty

- Ignore it
- Qualitative uncertainty analysis
- Quantitative uncertainty analysis



# Advantages of probabilistic uncertainty analysis

- Transparent
- Quantitative
- Combine several sources of uncertainties
- Allow sensitivity analysis



# Critical issues

- Carefully define probability distributions
  - Eliciting expert knowledge
  - Classical statistical methods
  - Bayesian statistical methods
  - Copulas
- Deal with computation times
  - Efficient coding/parallelization
  - Meta-modelling (use of emulators)



*L'incertitude des événements, toujours plus difficile à soutenir que l'événement même*

*The uncertainty of events, always more difficult to sustain than the event itself*

*Jean-Baptiste Massillon ; Maximes et pensées (1742)*