## List of Figures

Figure 1.1. Schematic showing strategies and extent of the plant immune system12
<b>Figure 1.2.</b> Schematic representation showing structure of primary plant cell wall16
Figure 1.3. Phylogenetic relationship between different accessory plant CWDEs20
<b>Figure 1.4.</b> Schematic representation of plant cell wall containing feruloylated heteroxylans crosslinking hemicellulose chains by ester-linked monomeric ferulic acid and 5, 5'-diferulic acid, forming network with cellulose microfibrils
Figure 1.5. Infection (asexual) cycle of Magnaporthe oryzae
Figure 1.6. Schematic representation of biotrophic host invasion by <i>M. oryzae</i> 31
Figure 1.7. Schematic representation of <i>M. oryzae</i> Abm-mediated disabling of JA-defense signalling in rice
<b>Figure 2.1.</b> Schematic representation of the capillary DNA-transfer-setup for Southern blot hybridisation
<b>Figure 2.2.</b> A schematic representation of the Yeast Secretion Trap strategy used to study presence of a signal peptide in Fae
Figure 3.1.1. Multiple sequence alignment of putative Fae sequences from <i>M. oryzae</i> , <i>A. oryzae</i> and <i>N. crassa</i>
<b>Figure 3.1.2.</b> A similarity heatmap depicting % identity among the Fae protein sequences in <i>M. oryzae</i>
<b>Figure 3.1.3.</b> Phylogenetic analysis of Fae sequences from 18 fungal species representing four classes
<b>Figure 3.1.4.</b> Phylogenetic tree depicting combined analysis of Fae sequences in host-specific <i>M. oryzae</i> isolates
<b>Figure 3.1.5.</b> Phylogenetic trees depicting analysis of individual Fae sequences from host-specific blast fungal isolates
Figure 3.1.6. Prediction of signal peptide by SignalP tool
<b>Figure 3.1.7.</b> <i>M. oryzae</i> feruloyl esterases are secretory in nature
Figure 3.1.8. <i>M. oryzae</i> feruloyl esterases are induced by host leaf extract
Figure 3.1.9. Analysis of total RNA, cDNA and primers' specificity for qRT-PCR88

Figure 3.1.10. Differential expression of feruloyl esterase genes under different culture conditions
Figure 3.1.11. Analysis of RNA and cDNA samples for qRT-PCR
Figure 3.1.12. Differential expression of feruloyl esterase genes during pathogenesis in <i>M. oryzae</i>
Figure 3.2.1. Schematic representation of double-joint PCR approach
<b>Figure 3.2.2.</b> Generation of <i>FAE1</i> -deletion cassette by double-joint PCR approach and its confirmation
<b>Figure 3.2.3.</b> Molecular characterization of the <i>FAE1</i> -deletion ( <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ ) strain101
<b>Figure 3.2.4.</b> Vegetative growth of the <i>fael</i> $\Delta$ mutant
<b>Figure 3.2.5.</b> As exual development (conidiation) of <i>fael</i> $\Delta$ mutant103
Figure 3.2.6. Pathogenic (appressorial) development in the absence of Fae1 function in M.    oryzae
Figure 3.2.7. Plant infection assay depicting blast disease outcome105
<b>Figure 3.2.8.</b> The <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ strain shows defects in host invasion and colonisation107
Figure 3.2.9. Host penetration assay by aniline blue staining108
<b>Figure 3.2.10.</b> Generation of construct for genetic complementation and molecular analysis of <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ <i>/FAE1</i> strain
<b>Figure 3.2.11.</b> Infectivity of the WT, <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ or <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ / <i>FAE1</i> 112
<b>Figure 3.2.12.</b> Host invasion ability of the WT, <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ or <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ / <i>FAE1</i> strains113
Figure 3.2.13. Exogenously added glucose or ferulic acid support host invasion in the <i>fael</i> $\Delta$ in a dose-dependent manner.117
<b>Figure 3.2.14.</b> Assessment of <i>in vitro</i> host invasion and infection ability of the WT or <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ in the presence or absence of different concentrations of glucose and/or ferulic acid119
<b>Figure 3.2.15.</b> Infection and host invasion assay of WT, <i>fae1</i> $\Delta$ in the presence or absence of FA or GSH and vegetative growth of the WT <i>M. oryzae</i> on basal medium (BM) with 2% glucose or 0.01% ferulic acid
Figure 3.2.16. A proposed model of Fae1 function during pathogenesis in <i>M. oryzae</i> 122