

Bacterial halo blight Disease symptoms, aetiology and dissemination *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *garcae* (Psgc), the causal agent of bacterial halo blight (BHB) of coffee, was first described in 1955 by Amaral et al. (1956) in the municipality of Garça in the Brazilian state of São Paulo. High increases in disease incidence have occurred after frost, for example after the 1973–1975 period in the state of Paraná (Kimura et al., 1973; Mohan, 1976), which could be facilitated by the ice-nucleation activity exhibited by Psgc (Gonçalves & Massambani, 2011; Araújo et al., 2018). Bacterial halo blight has been reported in Kenya (Ramos & Shavdia, 1976), Ethiopia (Korobko & Wondinagegne, 1997), Uganda (Chen, 2002) and China (Chen, 2002; Bai et al., 2013). Although the disease was initially considered of minor importance, recurrent outbreaks have occurred in coffee plantations in several Brazilian states, mainly at higher altitudes (Kimura et al., 1973; Mohan, 1976; Cafepoint, 2011; Zoccoli et al., 2011; Rodrigues et al., 2013). Under severe infection, the disease can cause blackening of twigs and blighting of branch tips, resulting in dieback, defoliation, and apical meristem death, which in turn induces over-branching (Fig. 1a).