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| **Table S1.** Analysed variables in the first phase of *Beauveria bassiana* selection. | | | | |
|  | **Variablesa** | | | |
| **Strain** | **Growth rate**  **(mm day -1)** | **Conidial production**  **(con mm-2) (×108)** | **Germination**  **(%)** | **Germ tube length (mm)** |
| 21 | 1.98±0.15a | 11.7±1.23def | 97.56 ±0.38a | 55.28±11.25f |
| 22 | 3.09±0.24bcdef | 3.35±1.18ab | 96.11±3.27ab | 71.22±24.19gh |
| 25 | 3.65±0.69ef | 2.73±0.59ab | 93.11±3.01ab | 34.49±8.92bcd |
| 26 | 2.25±0.31ab | 7.07±1.06bcd | 96.78±1.35ab | 67.28±18.40fghi |
| 27 | 2.18±0.14ab | 3.00±1.29ab | 94.83±3.55ab | 66.65±23.96fghi |
| 30 | 2.14±0.68ab | 1.61±0.44ab | 87.11±3.42b | 30.71±8.35abcd |
| 37 | 3.73±0.13ef | 7.18±1.23bcd | 96.39±1.78ab | 76.96±19.56gh |
| 38 | 3.02±0.40abcdef | 5.56±0.78abc | 96.00±2.00ab | 57.82±19.15fg |
| 44 | 2.47±0.30abcd | 15.7±6.92ef | 88.56±3.67ab | 20.61±6.85a |
| 105 | 3.32±0.47cdef | 2.62±0.99ab | 94.11±0.96ab | 69.43±18.98fgh |
| 117 | 2.86±0.29abcdef | 12.1±1.68cde | 96.28±0.75ab | 33.08±9.47abcd |
| 171 | 3.36±0.03cdef | 16.9±2.75f | 92.94±4.03ab | 25.33±4.73ab |
| 173 | 2.70±0.29abcde | 0.21±0.06a | 95.44±2.22ab | 27.08±5.95abc |
| 174 | 3.44±0.21def | 13.0±1.63ef | 89.22±5.58ab | 28.35±8.15abcd |
| 431 | 3.77±0.18f | 3.71±1.00ab | 89.89±9.05ab | 42.14±12.35e |
| 483 | 2.72±0.20abcde | 2.58±0.75ab | 94.44±1.95ab | 39.68±8.47cd |
| 484 | 3.05±0.44bcdef | 3.38±2.6ab | 95.33±1.33ab | 40.87±10.66d |
| 485 | 3.11±0.24bcdef | 1.42±0.12ab | 96.56±0.51ab | 78.96±16.62h |
| 486 | 2.32±0.60abc | 2.70±0.02ab | 97.00±0.67ab | 64.64±12.75fgh |

aMeans ± SD within a column followed by the same upper letter were not statistically different (*p*<0.05).