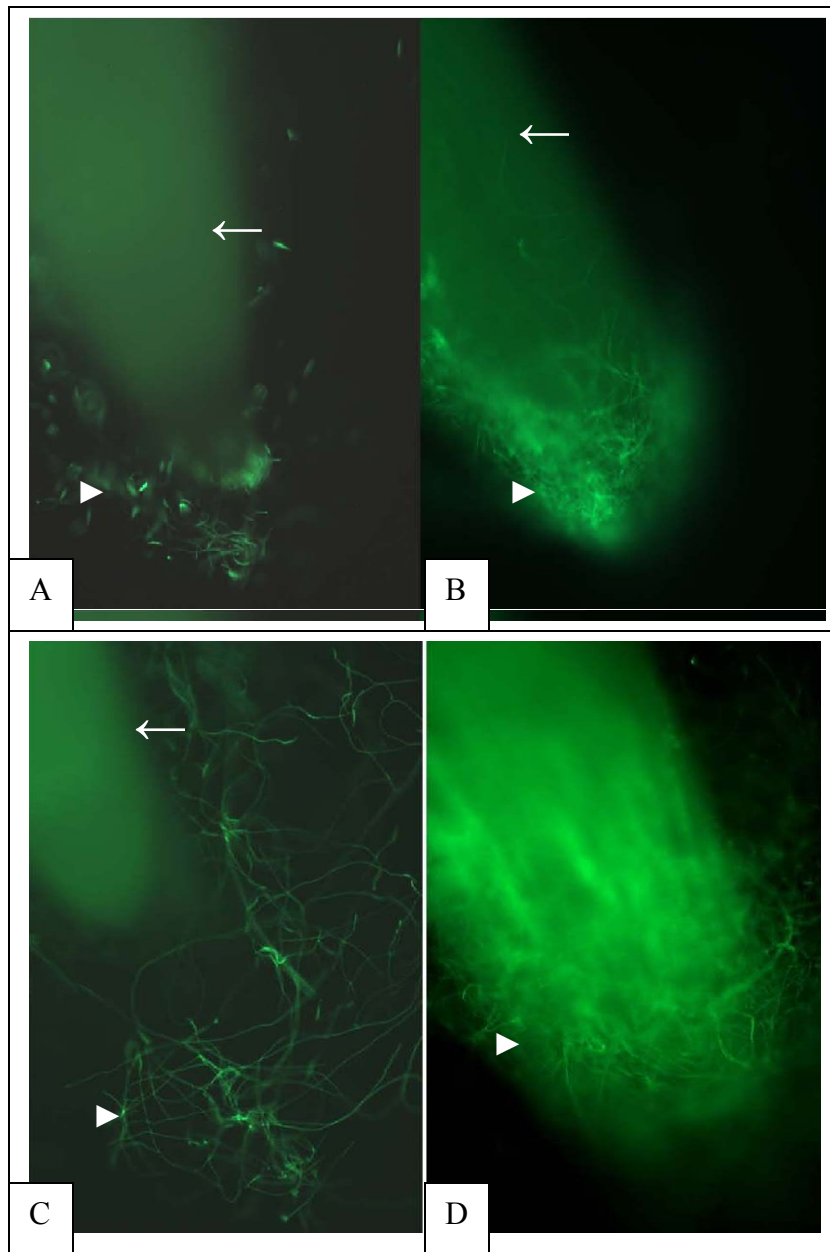


Supplementary Figure 1. Root cap slime and border cells. (A) Seeds are germinated for 2-3 days on moist filter paper to avoid contact of emerging radicles with abrasion or free water. Within seconds of immersion of the root tip into water, root cap 'slime' can be seen to form a mucilaginous capsule surrounding the root tip. Border cells (arrow) within the slime disperse away from the tip into suspension. (B) At higher magnification, border cell viability can be measured using the vital stain fluorescein diacetate (Brigham et al., 1995). Scale bar: 10 μ m.



Supplementary Figure 2. Altered appearance of early stages of pea root tip colonization by *N. haematococca* in response to DNase I treatment visualized using a reporter strain expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP). Bright green fluorescence reflects GFP expression in spores and hyphae (white triangles), while a pale green autofluorescence is naturally expressed in pea roots (white arrows). Pea roots are shown at 24 h (A) or 48 h (C) after inoculation with *N. haematococca* spores; or at 24 h (B) or 48 h (D) after co-inoculation with *N. haematococca* spores plus DNase I.

