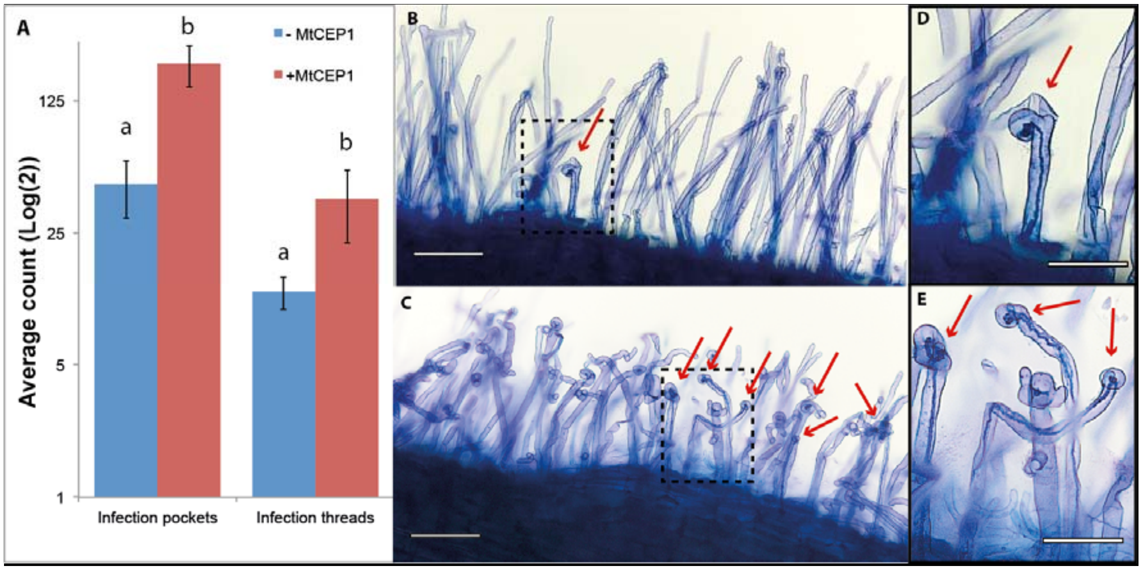
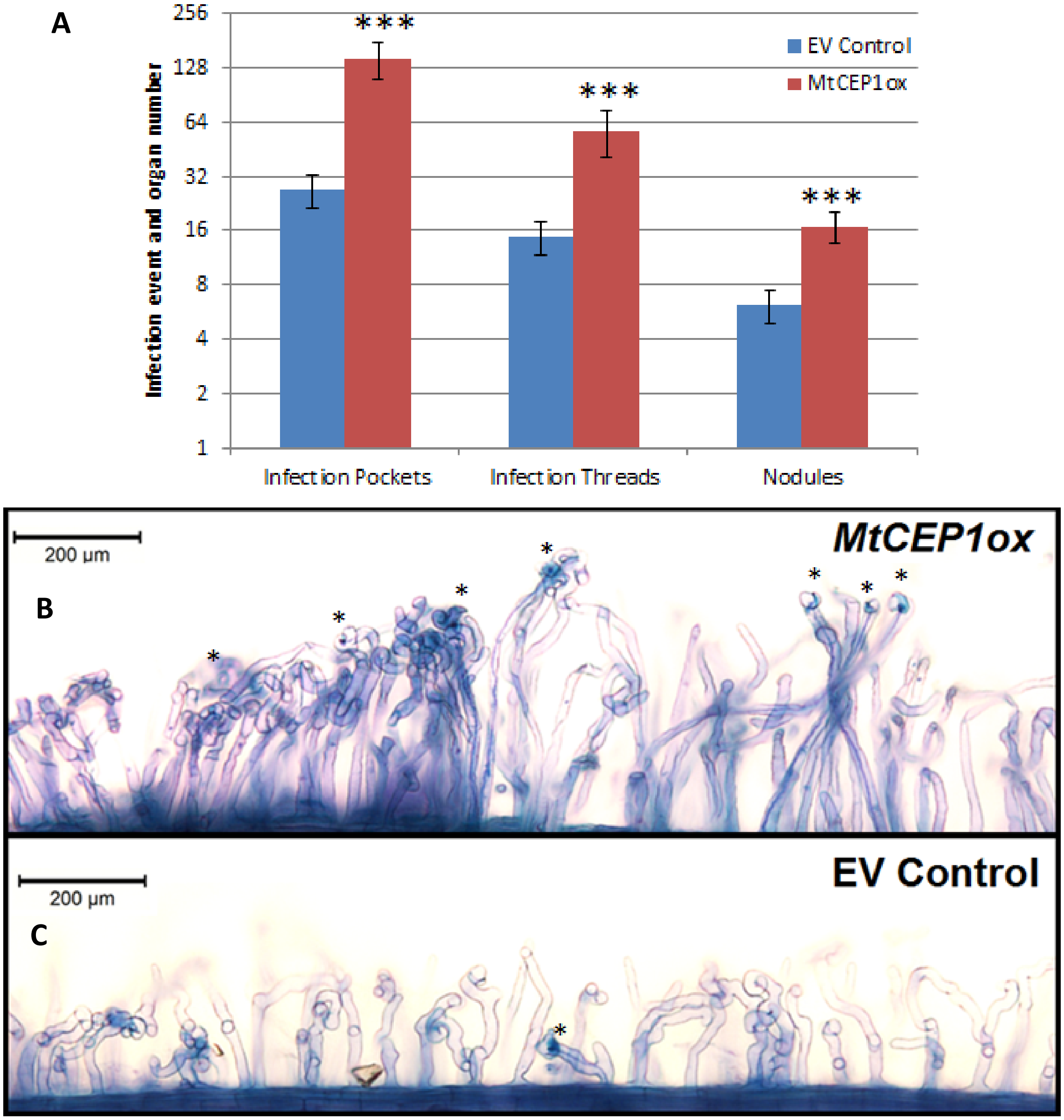
# Supplemental information



**Supplemental Figure S1. Assessment of the MtCEP1 peptide effect on infection thread and infection pocket formation.**

(A) Plants were grown on an N-free Fåhraeus medium with or without the MtCEP1 peptide and analysed 72 h post inoculation with the *S. meliloti* WSM1022 strain. A methylene blue staining was used to assess the number of infection pockets and infection threads (One-way ANOVA, P <0.001, N=12). (B-E) Representative images of infection threads (indicated by red arrows) formed on roots without (B) or with (C) MtCEP1. The corresponding boxed regions are magnified in D and E (Scale bars in B-C = 200 µm and in D-E = 100 µm).



**Supplemental Figure 2. *MtCEP1ox* effect on infection thread and infection pocket formation.**

(A) Transformed plants were transferred to an N-free Fåhraeus medium for four days before inoculation with the *S. meliloti* WSM1022 strain. A methylene blue staining was used to assess the number of infection pockets, infection threads and nodule number in *MtCEP1*oxerexpressing plants (*MtCEP1ox*) relatively to an empty vector (EV) control (Student's t-test, p<0.001, n=9 for infection pockets and threads; and Student's t-test, p<0.001, n=7 for nodule number). (B,

C) Representative images of infection threads formed in *MtCEP1ox* transformed roots (B) or EV control roots (C).