

# Package ‘ascotraceR’

May 7, 2026

**Title** Simulate the Spread of Ascochyta Blight in Chickpea

**Version** 0.0.1

**Description** A spatiotemporal model that simulates the spread of Ascochyta blight in chickpea fields based on location-specific weather conditions. This model is adapted from a model developed by Diggle et al. (2002) <[doi:10.1094/PHYTO.2002.92.10.1110](https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO.2002.92.10.1110)> for simulating the spread of anthracnose in a lupin field.

**URL** <https://github.com/IhsanKhaliq/ascotraceR>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/IhsanKhaliq/ascotraceR/issues>

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

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format_weather	<i>Format weather data into an an object suitable for use in ascotraceR spore dispersal models</i>
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## Description

Formats raw weather data into an object suitable for use in the `trace_asco()` function ensuring that the supplied weather data meet the requirements of the model to run.

## Usage

```
format_weather(  
  x,  
  YYYY = NULL,  
  MM = NULL,  
  DD = NULL,  
  hh = NULL,  
  mm = NULL,  
  POSIXct_time = NULL,  
  time_zone = NULL,  
  temp,  
  rain,  
  ws,  
  wd,  
  wd_sd,  
  station,  
  lon = NULL,  
  lat = NULL,  
  r = NULL,
```

```

    lonlat_file = NULL
)

```

### Arguments

x	A <a href="#">data.frame</a> object of weather station data for formatting. character.
YYYY	Column name or index in x that refers to the year when the weather was logged. character.
MM	Column name or index in x that refers to the month (numerical) when the weather was logged. character.
DD	Column name or index in x that refers to the day of month when the weather was logged. character.
hh	Column name or index in x that refers to the hour (24 hour) when the weather was logged. character.
mm	Column name or index in x that refers to the minute when the weather was logged. character.
POSIXct_time	Column name or index in x which contains a POSIXct formatted time. This can be used instead of arguments YYYY, MM, DD, hh, mm. character.
time_zone	Time zone (Olsen time zone format) where the weather station is located. May be in a column or supplied as a character string. Optional, see also r. character. See details.
temp	Column name or index in x that refers to temperature in degrees Celsius. character.
rain	Column name or index in x that refers to rainfall in mm. character.
ws	Column name or index in x that refers to wind speed in km / h. character.
wd	Column name or index in x that refers to wind direction in degrees. character.
wd_sd	Column name or index in x that refers to wind speed columns standard deviation .character. This is only applicable if weather data is already summarised to hourly increments. See details.
station	Column name or index in x that refers to the weather station name or identifier. character. See details.
lon	Column name or index in x that refers to weather station's longitude. character. See details.
lat	Column name or index in x that refers to weather station's latitude. character. See details.
r	Spatial raster which is intended to be used with this weather data for use in the blackspot model. Used to set time_zone if it is not supplied in data. character. Optional, see also time_zone.
lonlat_file	A file path to a CSV which included station name/id and longitude and latitude coordinates if they are not supplied in the data. character. Optional, see also lon and lat.

## Details

**time\_zone** All weather stations must fall within the same time zone. If the required stations are located in differing time zones, separate `ascotraceR.weather` objects must be created for each time zone. If a raster object, `r`, of previous crops is provided that spans time zones, an error will be emitted.

**wd\_sd** If weather data is provided in hourly increments, a column with the standard deviation of the wind direction over the hour is required to be provided. If the weather data are sub-hourly, the standard deviation will be calculated and returned automatically.

**lon, lat and lonlat\_file** If `x` provides longitude and latitude values for station locations, these may be specified in the `lon` and `lat` columns. If the coordinates are not relevant to the study location `NA` can be specified and the function will drop these column variables. If these data are not included, (`NULL`) a separate file may be provided that contains the longitude, latitude and matching station name to provide station locations in the final `ascotraceR.weather` object that is created by specifying the file path to a CSV file using `lonlat_file`.

## Value

A `ascotraceR.weather` object (an extension of **data.table**) containing the supplied weather aggregated to each hour in a suitable format for use with `trace_asco()` containing the following columns:

<b>times:</b>	Time in POSIXct format
<b>rain:</b>	Rainfall in mm
<b>ws:</b>	Wind speed in km / h
<b>wd:</b>	Wind direction in compass degrees
<b>wd_sd:</b>	Wind direction standard deviation in compass degrees
<b>lon:</b>	Station longitude in decimal degrees
<b>lat:</b>	Station latitude in decimal degrees
<b>station:</b>	Unique station identifying name
<b>YYYY:</b>	Year
<b>MM:</b>	Month
<b>DD:</b>	Day
<b>hh:</b>	Hour
<b>mm:</b>	Minute

## Examples

```
# Weather data files for Newmarracara for testing and examples have been
# included in ascotraceR. The weather data files both are of the same format,
# so they will be combined for formatting here.
```

```
Newmarracara <- read.csv(
  system.file("extdata",
              "1998_Newmarracara_weather_table.csv",
              package = "ascotraceR")
)

station_data <- system.file("extdata",
```

```

                                "stat_dat.csv",
                                package = "ascotraceR")

weather <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  ws = "ws",
  wd = "wd",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data
)

# Saving weather data and reimporting can lose the object class
# Reimported data can be quickly reformatted, adding the 'asco.weather' class
# with this same function
temp_file_path <- paste0(tempdir(),"weather_file.csv")
write.csv(weather, file = temp_file_path, row.names = FALSE)
weather_imported <- read.csv(temp_file_path)
weather <- format_weather(weather_imported,
                          time_zone = "Australia/Perth")
unlink(temp_file_path) # remove temporary weather file

```

---

summarise_trace	<i>Summarise a trace_asco output nested list as a single data.frame object</i>
-----------------	--

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### Description

Creates a paddock-level summary **data.table** from the output of `trace_asco()` on a daily time-step where each row represents one day for the entire paddock.

### Usage

```
summarise_trace(trace)
```

```
summarize_trace(trace)
```

### Arguments

trace                    a nested list output from `trace_asco()`

### Value

A **data.table** summarising the model's output for a paddock on a daily time-step with the area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) at the paddock level for the simulation's run with the following columns:

**i\_day**: Model iteration day (day)  
**new\_gp**: New growing points on i\_day (n)  
**susceptible\_gp**: Susceptible growing points on i\_day (n)  
**exposed\_gp**: Exposed growing points on i\_day (n)  
**i\_date**: Calendar date corresponding to model's i\_day  
**day**: Julian day or numeric day of year (day)  
**cdd**: Cumulative degree days (day)  
**cwh**: Cumulative wet hours (h)  
**cr**: Cumulative rainfall (mm)  
**gp\_standard**: standard growing points assuming growth is not impeded by infection on i\_day (n)  
**AUDPC**: Area under the disease progress curve (AUDPC) for the duration of the model's run.

### See Also

[trace\\_asco\(\)](#), [tidy\\_trace\(\)](#)

### Examples

```

Newmarracarra <-
  read.csv(system.file("extdata",
    "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")

weather_dat <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)

traced <- trace_asco(
  weather = weather_dat,
  paddock_length = 100,
  paddock_width = 100,
  initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
  sowing_date = "1998-06-09",
  harvest_date = "1998-06-30",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  primary_infection_foci = "centre")

summarised <- summarise_trace(traced)

```

```

Newmarracarra <-

```

```
read.csv(system.file("extdata",
                    "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")

weather_dat <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)

traced <- trace_asco(
  weather = weather_dat,
  paddock_length = 100,
  paddock_width = 100,
  initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
  sowing_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09"),
  harvest_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09") + lubridate::ddays(100),
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  primary_infection_foci = "centre")

summarised <- summarise_trace(traced)
```

---

tidy\_trace

*Tidy up a trace\_asco output nested list*

---

### Description

Creates a tidy **data.table** from the output of `trace_asco()`.

### Usage

```
tidy_trace(trace)
```

### Arguments

trace            a nested list output from `trace_asco()`

### Value

A tidy **data.table** of `trace_asco()` output.

**See Also**

[summarise\\_trace\(\)](#), [trace\\_asco\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
Newmarracarra <-
  read.csv(system.file("extdata",
    "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")

weather_dat <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)

traced <- trace_asco(
  weather = weather_dat,
  paddock_length = 20,
  paddock_width = 20,
  initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
  sowing_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09"),
  harvest_date = as.POSIXct("1998-06-09") + lubridate::ddays(100),
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  primary_infection_foci = "centre")

tidied <- tidy_trace(traced)

# take a look at the infectious growing points on day 102
library(ggplot2)
ggplot(data = subset(tidied, i_day == 102),
  aes(x = x, y = y, fill = infectious_gp)) +
  geom_tile()
```

---

trace\_asco

*Simulates the spread of Ascochyta blight in a chickpea field*

---

**Description**

Simulate the spatiotemporal development of Ascochyta blight in a chickpea paddock over a growing season. Both host and pathogen activities are simulated in one square metre cells.

**Usage**

```

trace_asco(
  weather,
  paddock_length,
  paddock_width,
  sowing_date,
  harvest_date,
  initial_infection,
  seeding_rate = 40,
  gp_rr = 0.0065,
  max_gp_lim = 5000,
  max_new_gp = 350,
  latent_period_cdd = 150,
  time_zone = "UTC",
  primary_infection_foci = "random",
  primary_inoculum_intensity = 1,
  n_foci = 1,
  spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour = 0.22,
  splash_cauchy_parameter = 0.5,
  wind_cauchy_multiplier = 0.015,
  daily_rain_threshold = 2,
  hourly_rain_threshold = 0.1,
  susceptible_days = 2,
  rainfall_multiplier = FALSE
)

```

**Arguments**

weather	weather data for a representative chickpea paddock for a complete chickpea growing season for the model's operation.
paddock_length	length of a paddock in metres (y).
paddock_width	width of a paddock in metres (x).
sowing_date	a character string of a date value indicating sowing date of chickpea seed and the start of the 'ascotraceR' model. Preferably in ISO8601 format (YYYY-MM-DD), <i>e.g.</i> "2020-04-26". Assumes there is sufficient soil moisture to induce germination and start the crop growing season.
harvest_date	a character string of a date value indicating harvest date of chickpea crop, which is also the last day to run the 'ascotraceR' model. Preferably in ISO8601 format (YYYY-MM-DD), <i>e.g.</i> , "2020-04-26".
initial_infection	a character string of a date value referring to the initial or primary infection on seedlings, resulting in the production of infectious growing points.
seeding_rate	indicate the rate at which chickpea seed is sown per square metre. Defaults to 40.
gp_rr	refers to rate of increase in chickpea growing points per degree Celsius per day. Defaults to 0.0065.

max_gp_lim	maximum number of chickpea growing points (meristems) allowed per square metre. Defaults to 5000.
max_new_gp	Maximum number of new chickpea growing points (meristems), which develop per day, per square metre. Defaults to 350.
latent_period_cdd	latent period in cumulative degree days (sum of daily temperature means) is the period between infection and production of lesions on susceptible growing points. Defaults to 150.
time_zone	refers to time in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).
primary_infection_foci	refers to the inoculated coordinates where the infection starts. Accepted inputs are: centre/center or random (Default) or a data.frame with column names 'x', 'y' and 'load'. The data.frame inputs inform the model of specific grid cell/s coordinates where the epidemic should begin. The 'load' column is optional and can specify the primary_inoculum_intensity for each coordinate.
primary_inoculum_intensity	Refers to the amount of primary infection as lesions on chickpea plants at the time of initial_infection. On the date of initial infection in the experiment. The sources of primary inoculum can be infected seed, volunteer chickpea plants or infested stubble from the previous seasons. Defaults to 1.
n_foci	Quantifies the number of primary infection foci. The value is 1 when primary_infection_foci = "centre" and can be greater than 1 if primary_infection_foci = "random".
spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour	number of spores produced per infectious growing point during each wet hour. Also known as the spore_rate. Value is dependent on the susceptibility of the host genotype.
splash_cauchy_parameter	a parameter used in the Cauchy distribution and describes the median distance spores travel due to rain splashes. Default to 0.5.
wind_cauchy_multiplier	a scaling parameter to estimate a Cauchy distribution which resembles the possible distances a conidium travels due to wind driven rain. Defaults to 0.015.
daily_rain_threshold	minimum cumulative rainfall required in a day to allow hourly spore spread events. See also hourly_rain_threshold. Defaults to 2.
hourly_rain_threshold	minimum rainfall in an hour to trigger a spore spread event in the same hour (assuming daily_rain_threshold is already met). Defaults to 0.1.
susceptible_days	the number of days for which conidia remain viable on chickpea after dispersal. Defaults to 2. Conidia remain viable on the plant for at least 48 hours after a spread event
rainfall_multiplier	logical values will turn on or off rainfall multiplier default method. The default method increases the number of spores spread per growing point if the rainfall in the spore spread event hour is greater than one. Numeric values will scale the

number of spores spread per growing point against the volume of rainfall in the hour. Defaults to FALSE.

## Value

a nested list object where each sub-list contains daily data for the day `i_day` (the model's iteration day) generated by the model including: \* **paddock**, an 'x' 'y' **data.table** containing: \* **x**, location of quadrat on x-axis in paddock, \* **y**, location of quadrat on y-axis in paddock, \* **new\_gp**, new growing points produced in the last 24 hours, \* **susceptible\_gp**, susceptible growing points in the last 24 hours, \* **exposed\_gp**, exposed growing points in the last 24 hours, \* **infectious\_gp**, infectious growing points in the last 24 hours,

- **i\_day**, model iteration day, \* **cumulative daily weather data**, a **data.table** containing: \* **cdd**, cumulative degree days, \* **cwh**, cumulative wet hours, \* **cr**, cumulative rainfall in mm, \* **gp\_standard**, standard growing points assuming growth is not impeded by infection, \* **infected\_coords**, a **data.table** of only infectious growing point coordinates, \* **new\_infections**, a **data.table** of newly infected growing points, \* **exposed\_gps**, a **data.table** of exposed growing points in the latent period phase of infection.

## See Also

[tidy\\_trace\(\)](#), [summarise\\_trace\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
# First weather data needs to be imported and formatted with `format_weather`
Newmarracarra <-
  read.csv(system.file("extdata",
    "1998_Newmarracarra_weather_table.csv", package = "ascotraceR"))
station_data <-
  system.file("extdata", "stat_dat.csv", package = "ascotraceR")

weather_dat <- format_weather(
  x = Newmarracarra,
  POSIXct_time = "Local.Time",
  temp = "mean_daily_temp",
  ws = "ws",
  wd_sd = "wd_sd",
  rain = "rain_mm",
  wd = "wd",
  station = "Location",
  time_zone = "Australia/Perth",
  lonlat_file = station_data)

# Now the `trace_asco` function can be run to simulate disease spread
traced <- trace_asco(
  weather = weather_dat,
  paddock_length = 100,
  paddock_width = 100,
  initial_infection = "1998-06-10",
  sowing_date = "1998-06-09",
  harvest_date = "1998-06-30",
```

```
time_zone = "Australia/Perth",  
gp_rr = 0.0065,  
primary_inoculum_intensity = 40,  
spores_per_gp_per_wet_hour = 0.22,  
primary_infection_foci = "centre")  
  
traced[[23]] # extracts the model output for day 23
```

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