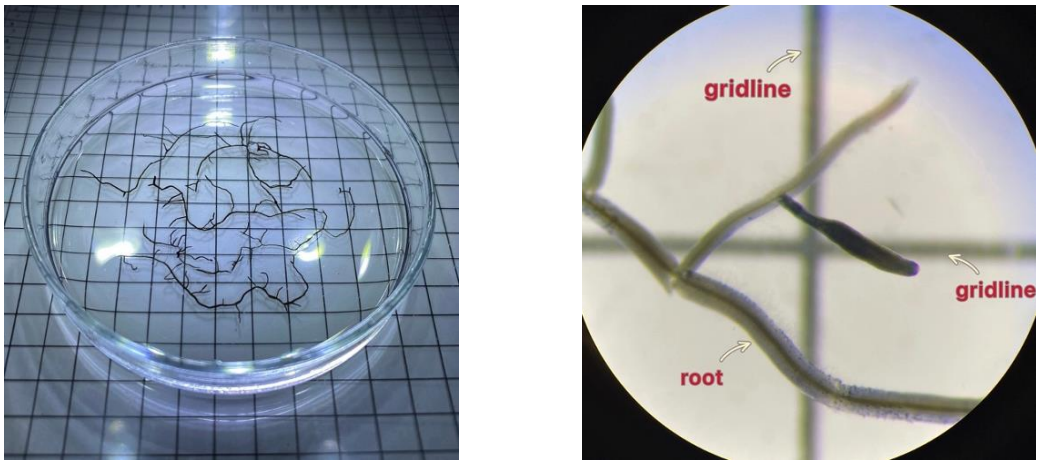
Supplementary Materials

Table S1 There were two types of substrates used for the study, substrate A was used for *Acer negundo*, and substrate B was used for the other four species. The composition and air filled porosity for each type are listed below.

Composition for substrate A	Composition for substrate B
0-6mm composted pine bark (40%)	0-10mm composted pine bark (60%)
5-12mm composted pine bark (40%)	6-13mm composted pine bark (35%)
Wood fiber (15%)	Propagation Sand (5%)
Humate (5%)	-
Air Filled Porosity: approximately 18%	Air Filled Porosity: approximately 21%

Table S2. The pot sizes, initial stem height and maximum stem diameter at 30 cm above substrate surface in the container for each species.

Species	Initial Mean Stem Height (in cm)	Initial Mean Maximum Stem Diameter at 30 cm above substrate surface (in mm)
Acer negundo	177.2 (control)	16.3 (control)
	174.8 (treated)	16.06 (treated)
Corymbia maculata	62 (control)	4.56 (control)
	52.4 (treated)	4 (treated)
Ficus platypoda	43.8 (control)	6.36 (control)
	39.8 (treated)	5.52 (treated)
Hymenosporum flavum	94.4 (control)	9.5 (control)
	92.4 (treated)	10.44 (treated)
Jacaranda mimosifolia	43 (control)	6.72 (control)
	43.6 (treated)	6.78 (treated)



(**a**) (**b**)

Figure S1. Stained roots were cut into 2-5 cm lengths and a random selection of roots was placed into a glass Petri dish containing 50% glycerol solution in water (v/v). A transparent plastic sheet printed with a 5mm grid was placed underneath the Petri dish: (a) under naked eyes; (b) under a dissecting microscope at 96x magnification. The presence or absence of mycorrhizal fungi at intersections between roots and gridlines, both horizontal and vertical, were recorded to calculate the colonization percentage (Equation 3).

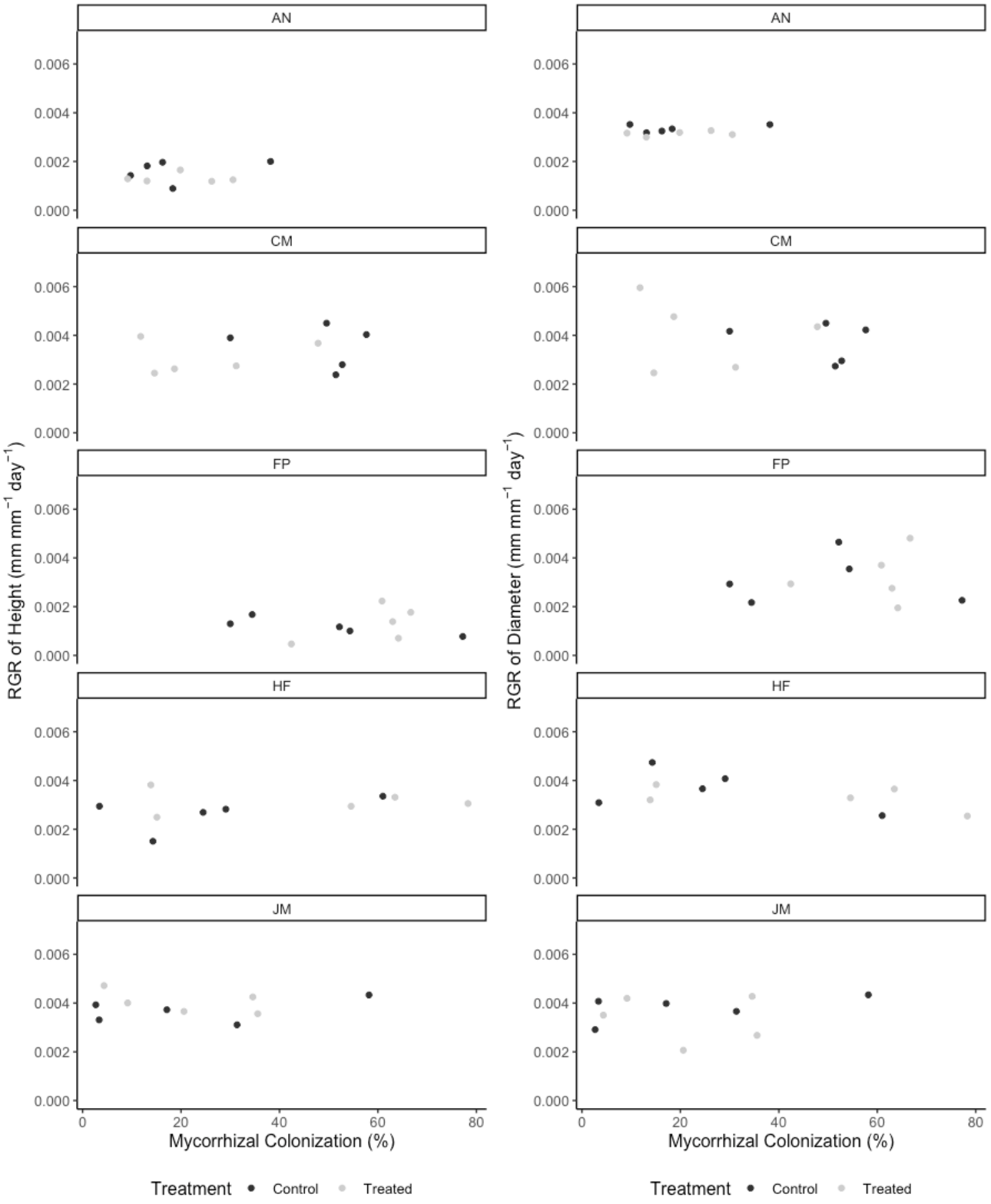


Figure S2. Scatterplots of mycorrhizal colonization percentage (four months after treatment) and relative growth rate (RGR) of stem height and relative growth rate (RGR) of stem diameter at 30 cm above substrate surface in the container (six months after treatment) of five tree species with compost tea or no treatment (control). Tree species are *Acer negundo* (AN), *Corymbia maculata* (CM), *Ficus platypoda* (FP), *Hymenosporum flavum* (HF) and *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (JM). No significant relationship was detected for any species between mycorrhizal colonization and RGR of stem height or stem diameter.

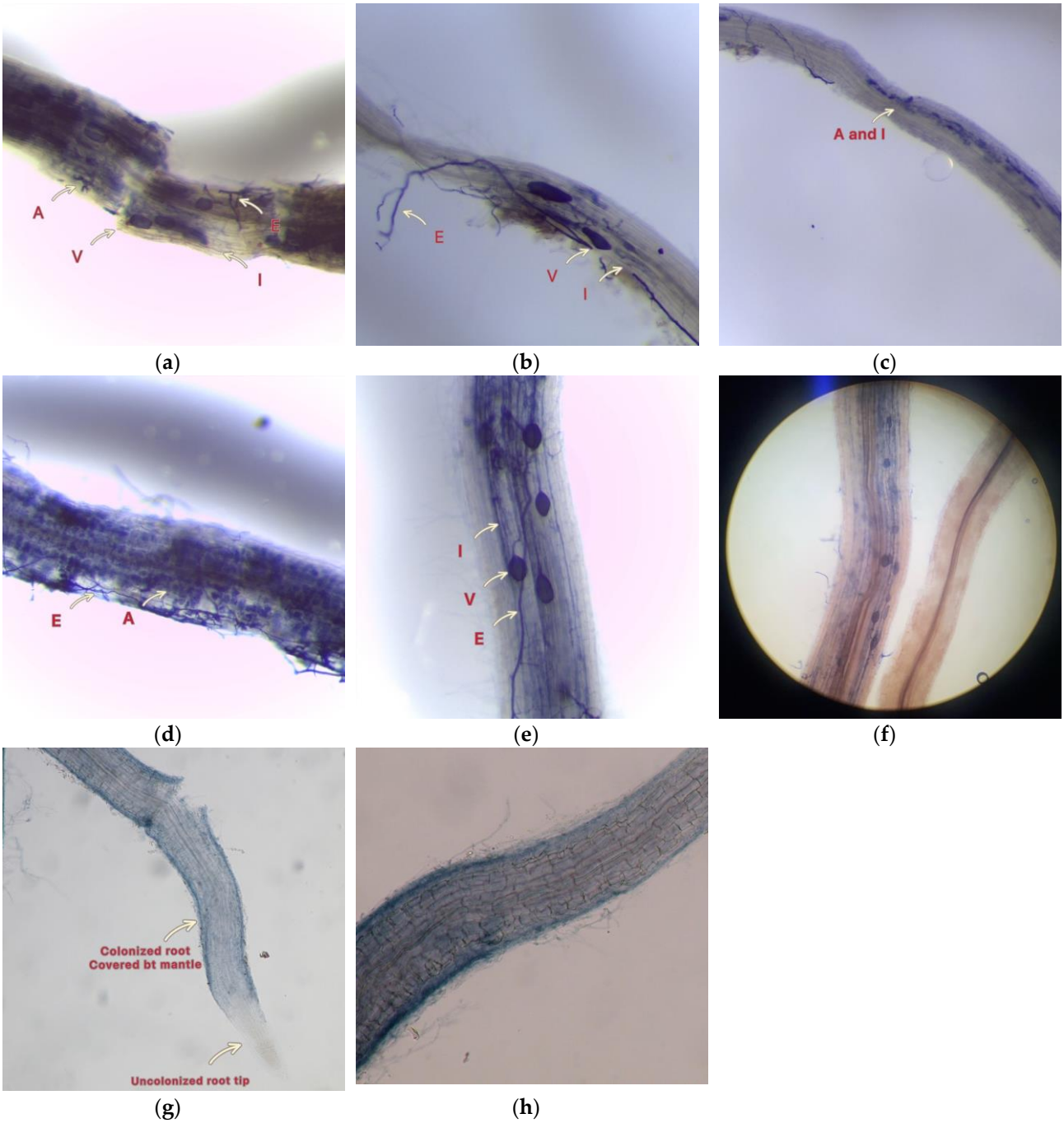


Figure S3. After the ink and vinegar treatment, all fungal structures were stained dark blue while the root cells were not and remained colourless or an off-white colour. Diagnostic features of mycorrhizal colonization observed stained with ink in different tree species: (a) VAM colonized *A. negundo* root, with visible fungal structures including arbuscules, vesicles and hyphae; (b) VAM colonized *F. platypoda* root with big vesicles and external hyphae; (c) VAM colonized *F. platypoda* root with arbuscules and internal hyphae; (d) Highly VAM colonized *H. flavum* root with arbuscules and external hyphae; (e) VAM colonized *J. mimosifolia* root, with big vesicles and hyphae; (f) VAM colonized *J. mimosifolia* root on the left and non-colonized *J. mimosifolia* root on the right; (g-h) diagnostic features of ECM colonization observed stained with ink in *Corymbia maculata* roots with mantle covering roots. (A=Arbuscule, V=Vesicle, E=External hyphae, I=Internal hyphae)