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**Figure Title:** *Fig. 2: Experimental procedure illustrating the hierarchical split-plot design to investigate the fungal community compositions of fruit juices and water control, and the manipulation of the larval and pupal ectomicrobiome; the diagram also illustrates the balanced two-factor factorial bioassay to assess the effect of the larval ectomicrobiome on the virulence of Metarhizium anisopliae isolate MQ1 in non-sterile soil. Created in BioRender. Prince, M. (2026). <https://BioRender.com/3468znh>. Publication license available in the Supplementary Information S2*

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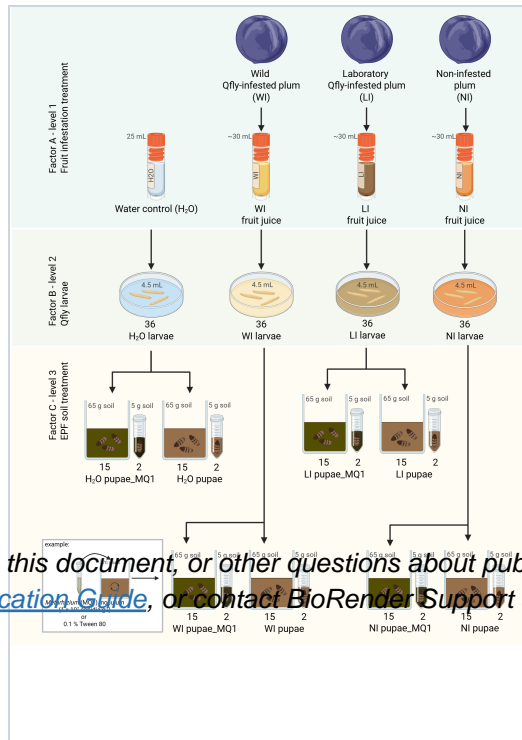
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