



# Supporting Agriculture in North America

*Guided by Science, Improved Technologies  
and Science-based Policies*



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada



# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE & FOCUS

Dr. José Isabel López-Arroyo

• Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícola y Pecuarias (INIFAP)

Dr. Rose Hammond

• United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)

Dr. Della Johnston

• Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)



## PLANT HEALTH

### PLANT HEALTH

- Promote joint research projects
- Capacity building and linking specialists and projects for proactive research on invasive pests and diseases
- Promote knowledge sharing on pests/diseases of tri-lateral interest through several means
- Carry out outreach activities with other countries and regions in LAC

# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE

- Plant Health Task Force (PHTF) was formed in 2011
  - Harmonize protocols and share knowledge for insect identification
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and workshop in Vineland, NJ., 2013
  - focused on Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and parasitoids
- 2014 Workshop in Washington, DC
  - DNA barcoding of insects; tour of USDA-ARS insect collections at the Smithsonian
- 2015 Workshop in Monticello, Mexico
  - Molecular Insect Taxonomy
- 2016 Workshop in Ottawa, ON, Canada
  - Pests & Diseases of Solanaceans in North America: Trilateral approaches for their management



# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE WORKSHOP 2017

Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.





# Initial Observations on the invasive Bagrada bug (*Bagrada hilaris*) in Mexico (Saltillo)

Reyna Ivonne Torres-Acosta\*, Moisés Felipe Victoriano,  
Veronica Hernandez-Hernandez\* , Richard A. Humber \*\*  
And Sergio Sánchez-Peña\*



\*Departamento de Parasitología,  
Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro  
Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico  
\*\*USDA-ARS, Ithaca NY

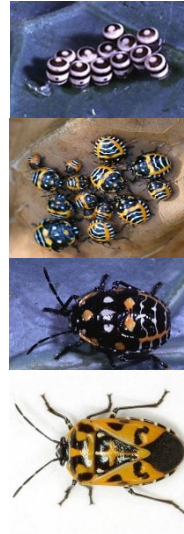
*Bagrada hilaris* (left) and *Murgantia histrionica*, (Harlequin bug)



Harlequin bug is usually a very minor pest

**Bagrada: PRIMARY PEST**

Bagrada bug: Early season  
Harlequin Bug: Late season



Harlequin: Usually low populations

In total, 213 naturally infected insects by five genera of entomopathogenic fungi

**Collected Insects : 600**

**Mycosed (infected) Insects :  
213**

**Overall % infection: 35.5 %**





Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada



PROCINORTE - Plant Health Task Force  
Beltsville, Maryland. October 11 – 13, 2017

# Parasitoid Exploitation of Native and Invasive Stink Bug Species in Canada: A Molecular Approach

Tara D. Gariepy  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
London Research and Development Centre  
Ontario, Canada



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

**inifap**

Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones  
Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias



# Egg Masses are Hard to Find!

# Molecular Tools?

FIELD COLLECTED EGG MASSES

EMPTY, ALREADY EMERGED	FULL, NO EMERGENCE	FULL, HOST EMERGENCE	FULL, PARASITOID EMERGENCE
✗ ✗	✗ ✗	✓ ✗	✗ ✓
HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID

MORPHOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION

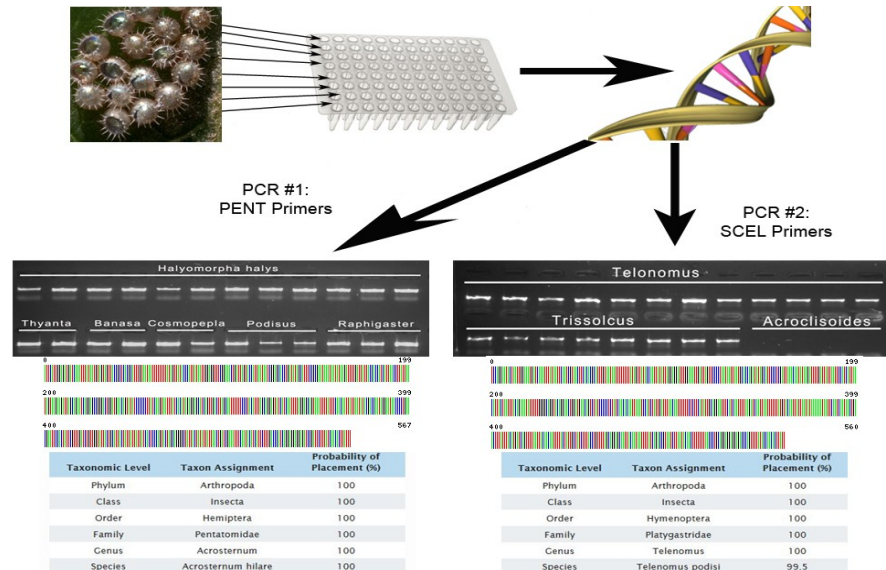
FIELD COLLECTED EGG MASSES

EMPTY, ALREADY EMERGED	FULL, NO EMERGENCE	FULL, HOST EMERGENCE	FULL, PARASITOID EMERGENCE
✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ?	✓ ✓
HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID	HOST PARASITOID

MOLECULAR DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

## Molecular Tools: Modified Barcoding

- DNA barcoding = great for identifying unknown species – large public database of sequences. BUT: Universal barcode primers = amplify everything
  - PCR primers specific to Pentatomidae and Scelionidae, nested within DNA barcode region
  - Identification of unknown or unexpected species for both host and parasitoid





# *‘Candidatus Phytoplasma’:* **Tools for Detection and Identification**

## **PROCINORTE – Plant Health Task Force Workshop**

Working Beyond Boundaries to Secure Plant Health and Productivity

Beltsville, MD  
October 11-13, 2017

**Robert E. Davis**

**Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory,**

**USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, MD USA**



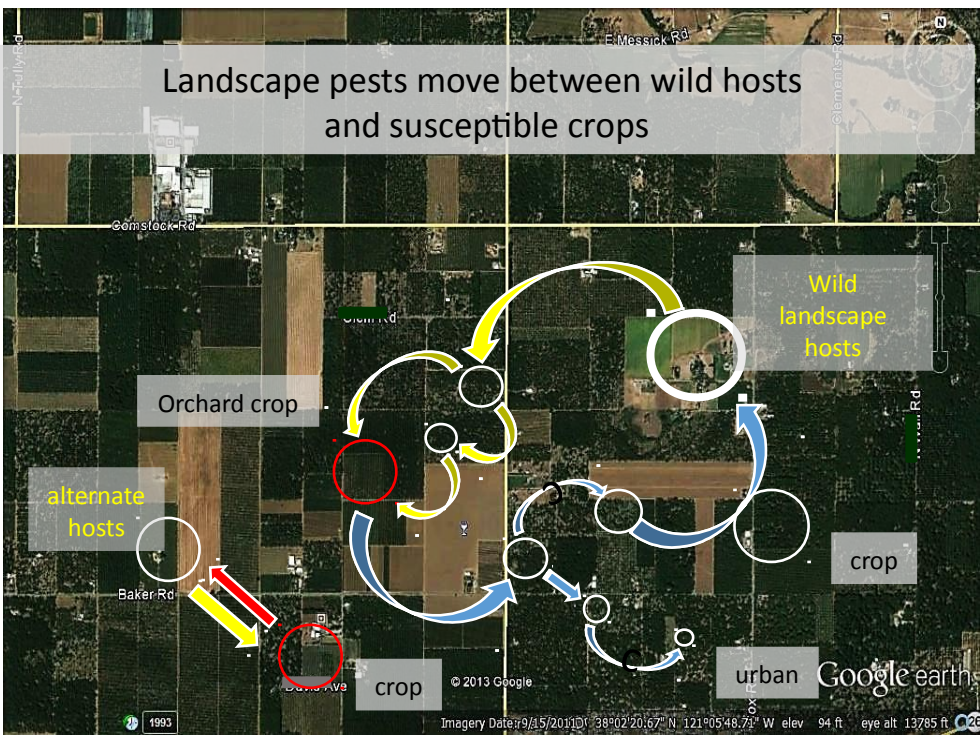


# Invasive Pests: ARS Biological Control Update

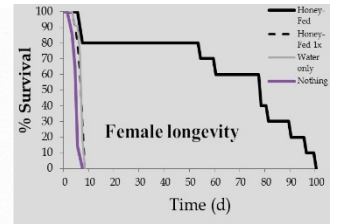
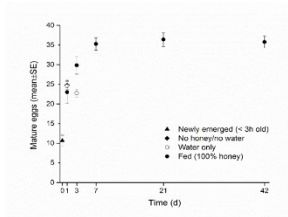
**Kim Hoelmer**

USDA Agricultural Research Service  
Beneficial Insects Introduction Research Unit  
Newark, DE, USA

Landscape pests move between wild hosts and susceptible crops



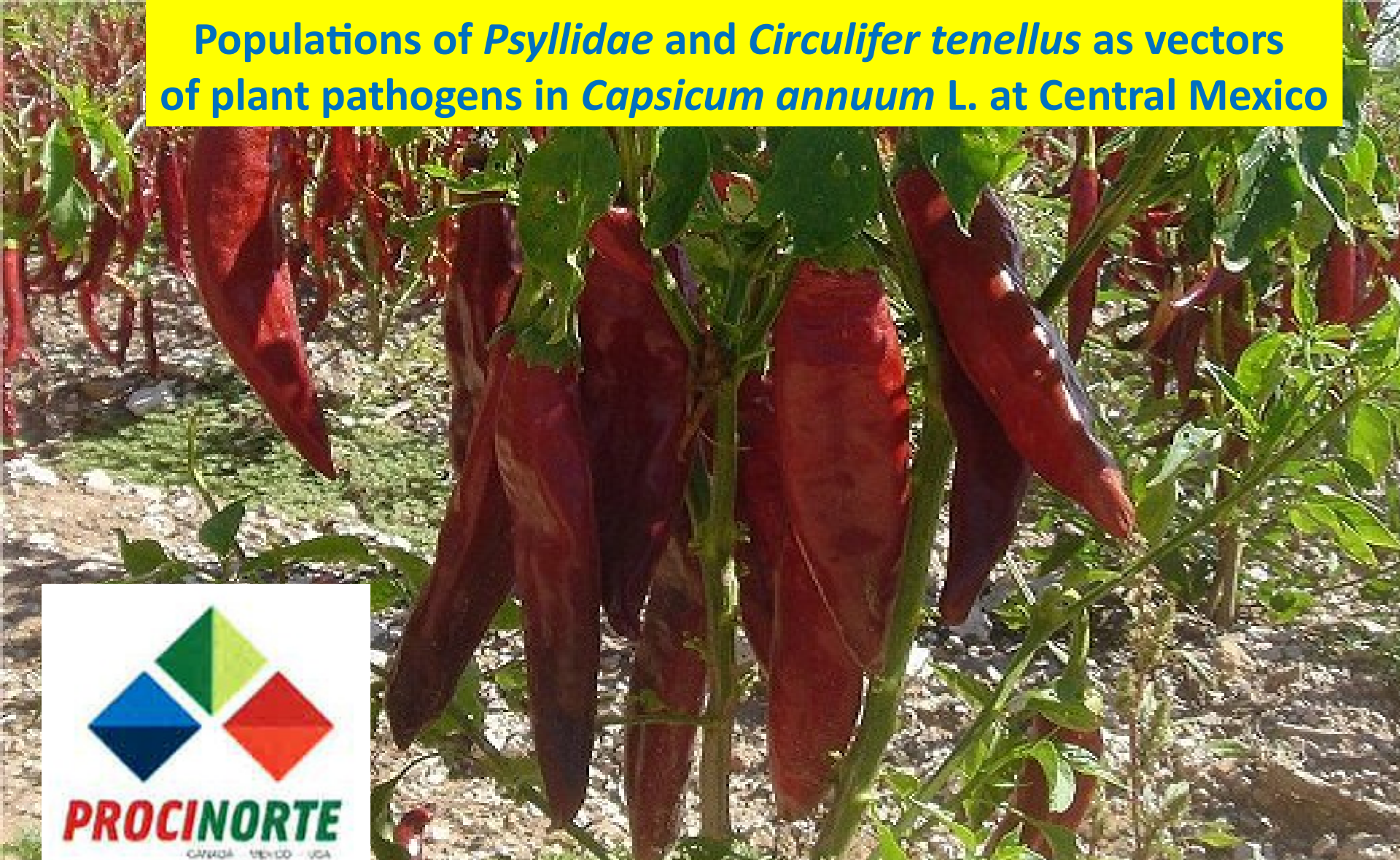
*Trissolcus japonicus*  
"samurai wasp"



- solitary egg parasitoid
- high % of eggs in mass attacked
- 2 - 3 weeks / generation
- Sib-mating with female-biased sex ratio
- Parent females aggressively guard egg masses
- 65 to 90% BMSB parasitism in Asia

C. Dieckhoff/ARS

# Populations of *Psyllidae* and *Circulifer tenellus* as vectors of plant pathogens in *Capsicum annum* L. at Central Mexico



Dr. Jaime MENA (INIFAP Zacatecas)  
Dr. Rodolfo VELÁSQUEZ (INIFAP Zacatecas)  
Dr. Joseph MUNYANEZA (USDA NPL, Washington, DC)  
Dr. Kylie SWISHER (USDA ARS, Wapato, WA)

**DEFOLIATION**

**STUNTED GROWTH,  
NO FRUITS**

**Many different Symptoms**

**STUNTED  
GROWTH**

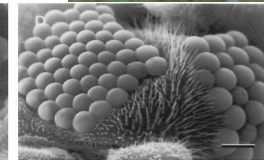
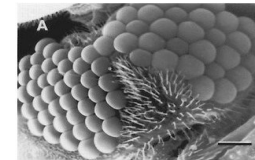
**FRUIT  
DROPPING**

**A FEW FRUITS**

**SOME BIG BUD SYMPTOMS ON PEPPERS IN NEW MEXICO**



**Mosquita Blanca /  
Begomovirus  
(*Bemisia* spp)**



**Yellow foliage  
Stunt growth  
Witch broom  
AND BCTV**

**Hyper leaf development, witch broom**

***Bemisia* vs *Trialeurodes*  
Vector vs No vector**

Randall, J. J., Bosland, P. W., and Hanson, S. F. 2011. Brote grande, a new phytoplasma associated disease of chile peppers in the Desert Southwest. Online. *Plant Health Progress* doi:10.1094/PHP-2011-0301-01-RS.



# Biology and natural enemies of the pepper weevil

**Labbé, R.**, Fernandez, C., Hilker, R., Gagnier, D., McCreary, C., Gibson, G.A.P., Fernandez-Triana, J. Mason, P.G. and Gariepy, T.D.

Harrow Research and Development Centre

# What parasitoids are present?

## Three distinct *Nealiolus* spp.

Braconidae, Heliconinae



Dr. J. Fernandez-Triana




**2017 IICA Research Internship Assistance Program**  
Catalina Fernandez, PhD Candidate  
Dr. Rodriguez-Leyva



*Jaliscoa hunteri* female ovipositing on alternate host larva





# Biology, Impacts, & Monitoring of the Tomato Leaf Mining Moth *Tuta absoluta* (Meyrick)

Julia Mlynarek, Ph.D.

([Julia.mlynarek@canada.ca](mailto:Julia.mlynarek@canada.ca))

Harrow Research & Development Centre



# Ecological equivalent in North America

- *Tuta Absoluta*



- *Keiferia lycopersicella* (tomato pinworm)



## Other Species

- *Sinoe capsana*
- Native *Tuta* sp.

## Parasitoids



- Trichogramma* spp. – Aphelinidae (Argentina)
- Encarsia poteri* – Aphelinidae (Europe & South America)
- Apanteles* spp. – Braconidae (South America)
- Bracon* spp. – Braconidae (endo) (Argentina)
- Copidosoma* spp. – Encyrtidae (Argentina)
- Campoplex haywardii* - Ichneumonidae (endo) (Argentina)
- Diadegma ledicola* – Braconidae (endo) (Europe)
- Habrocracon hebetor* – Braconidae (Mediterranean)
- Temelucha* spp. – Ichneumonidae (endo) (Argentina)
- Necremnus* spp. – Eulophidae (Europe)
- Neochrysocharis formosus* – Eulophidae (Argentina)
- Stenomesus* spp. – Eulophidae (Europe)
- Pseudapanteles* spp. – Braconidae (endo) (Argentina)
- Dineulophus phtorimaea* – Eulophidae (Europe & Argentina)
- Spilochalcis* spp. – Chalcididae (Argentina)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

[www.nifa.usda.gov](http://www.nifa.usda.gov)  
@USDA\_NIFA

The logo for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), featuring the letters "NIFA" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a stylized landscape with rolling hills in shades of orange and yellow, and a dark silhouette of a tree on the right side.

NIFA

# **The USDA National Plant Diagnostic Network: Protecting US Agriculture**

**Rubella S. Goswami**

National Program Leader  
Institute of Food Production and Sustainability

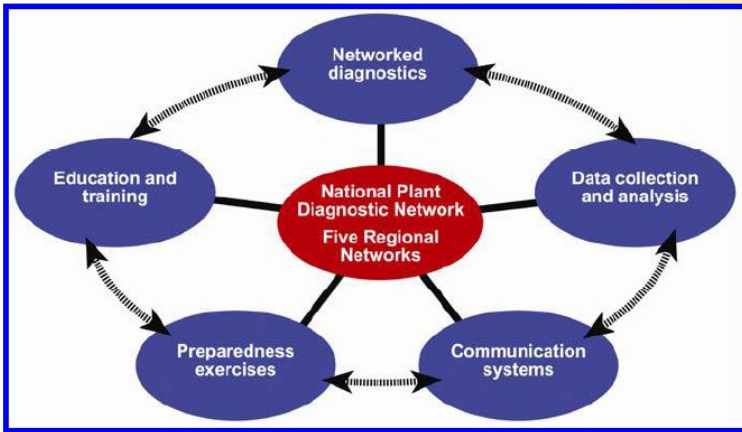


Fig. 1. The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) was established as one component of a national plant biosecurity system. NPDN goals include: (i) establish a national communications system linking all plant diagnostic laboratories, (ii) upgrade the diagnostic infrastructure in state diagnostic labs, (iii) provide advanced training to diagnosticians, (iv) provide training to “first detectors” to facilitate the early detection and reporting of outbreaks, and (v) develop data capture and analysis capabilities for the rapid identification of outbreaks.

Stack et al., 2006

# NPDN News

Volume 12 Issue 9, September 2017

## PYTHIUM APHANIDERMATUM CROWN ROT OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Jennifer Schoener, Russ Wilhelm and Shouhua Wang, Nevada Department of Agriculture Plant Pathology Laboratory

Cultivation of industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) was first approved in 2014 for the purpose of research and development. The Federal Farm Bill Section 7606 authorizes state agencies to conduct pilot trials on the crop to assess crop viability for the creation of an industry in prospective states. In Nevada, the Department of Agriculture authorizes the production of hemp crops for research purposes. The acreage of hemp production in Nevada is relatively small in comparison to the acreage in other states. However, plant diseases associated with hemp crops have been occurring in Nevada in recent years. In 2016, the Nevada Department of Agriculture Plant Pathology Lab detected Fusarium root rot and sudden death disease from an industrial hemp crop, and Fusarium wilt from medical marijuana plants. Here we describe a newly detected hemp disease: *Pythium aphanidermatum* crown rot.

*Pythium aphanidermatum* crown rot occurred in a commercial hemp field, with approximately 5-10 percent of plants affected. Infected plants were noticed by leaf yellowing, curling, necrosis, and the eventual death of entire plants (Fig A). White-colored mold (*Pythium* mycelium) growth on the surface of the crown area was frequently observed when the plant was pulled from the ground (Fig D). Close examination

of the stalk revealed extensive water-soaked lesions and cankers around the crown and basal stalk regions (Fig C). With disease progression, the majority of stalks became completely necrotic or rotted (Fig F). Some affected plants had mild root rot. In the early stage of the disease, only mild internal discoloration of the basal stalk tissue was observed (Fig B). In later stages, cankers spread from the crown area to lower branched stems (Fig E). Affected tissue plated on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium amended with streptomycin did not yield growth of any pathogens. On selective PARP medium, a fast-growing *Pythium* was obtained from all pieces of stem tissue plated. This isolate grew into a full plate (100mm diameter) on PDA medium within 24 hours at 22 °C in the dark (Fig G), and produced oogonia, antheridia, and sporangia on corn meal agar (CMA) medium. Based on both morphology and the DNA sequence of the ITS region of rDNA, the isolate was identified as *P. aphanidermatum*. This disease can be detected using Agdia's Phytophthora immunoStrip as it cross reacts with *Pythium aphanidermatum*.

Hemp crown and root rot caused by *Pythium aphanidermatum* was recently reported in Indiana in June, 2017 (<https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-09-16-1249-PDN>). It was found in a small research plot where hemp seeds were planted. The disease described here

## CONTRIBUTE



**Share Tips and News with Your Colleagues**  
Recently write an article for a trade journal? Do you have a tip, announcement, regional news or network update you would like to share? Visit [www.npdn.org/newsletter](http://www.npdn.org/newsletter) to learn how you can contribute to this publication!

<https://www.npdn.org/newsletter>



# Changing genetics of the mycotoxin-producing pathogen *F. graminearum*: implications for mycotoxin surveillance

Mark Sumarah

October 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

***F. graminearum* – 4 or more chemotypes?  
(implications for monitoring)**

Deoxynivalenol (DON)

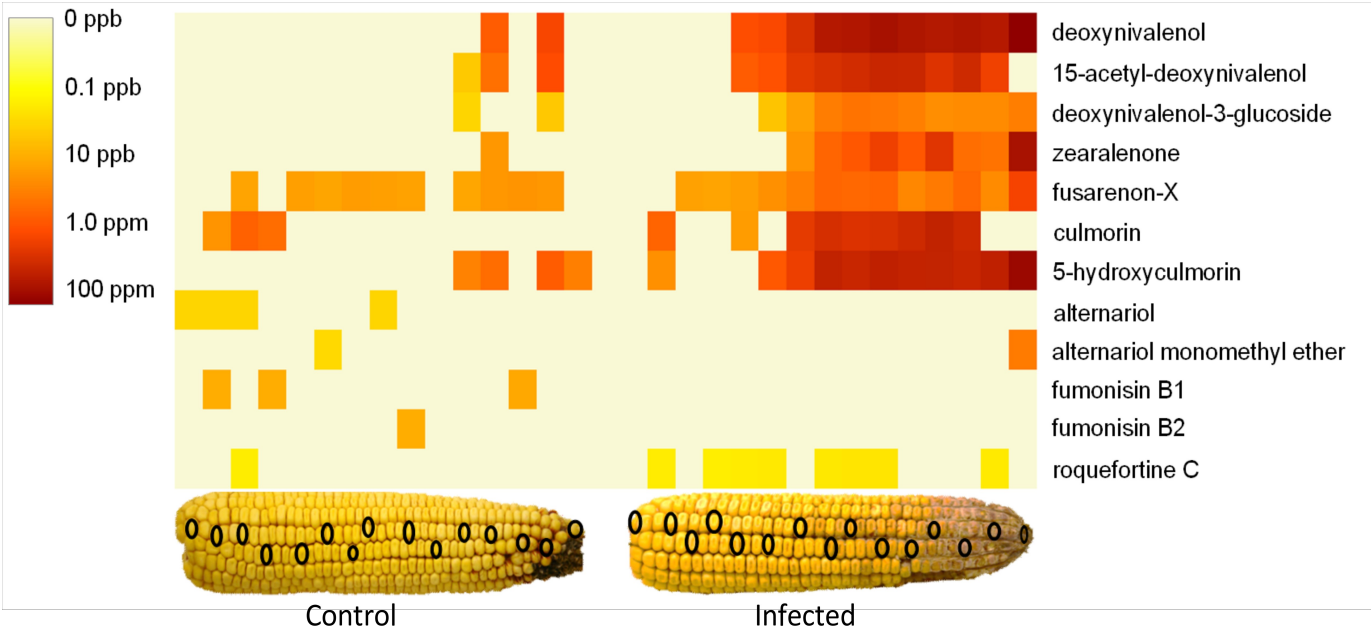
3-acetylDON

Nivalenol (NIV)

15-acetylDON

NX

**Detection of mycotoxins from maize (spectral library)**





United States Department of Agriculture

# Fungal identification in a regulatory environment

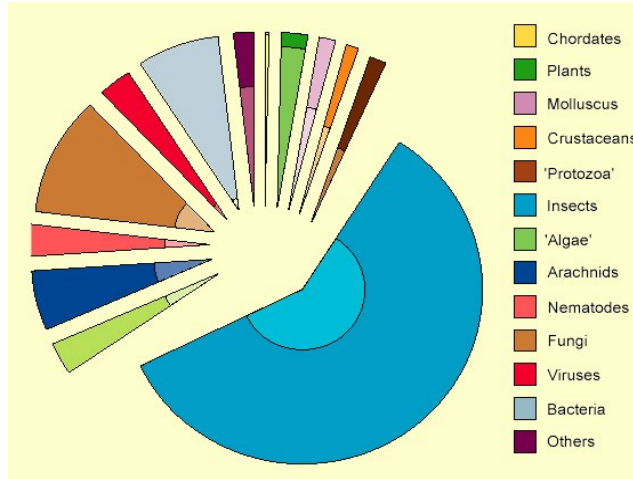
Megan Romberg

National Taxonomic Specialist in Mycology

USDA, APHIS, PPQ National Identification Services

Beltsville MD

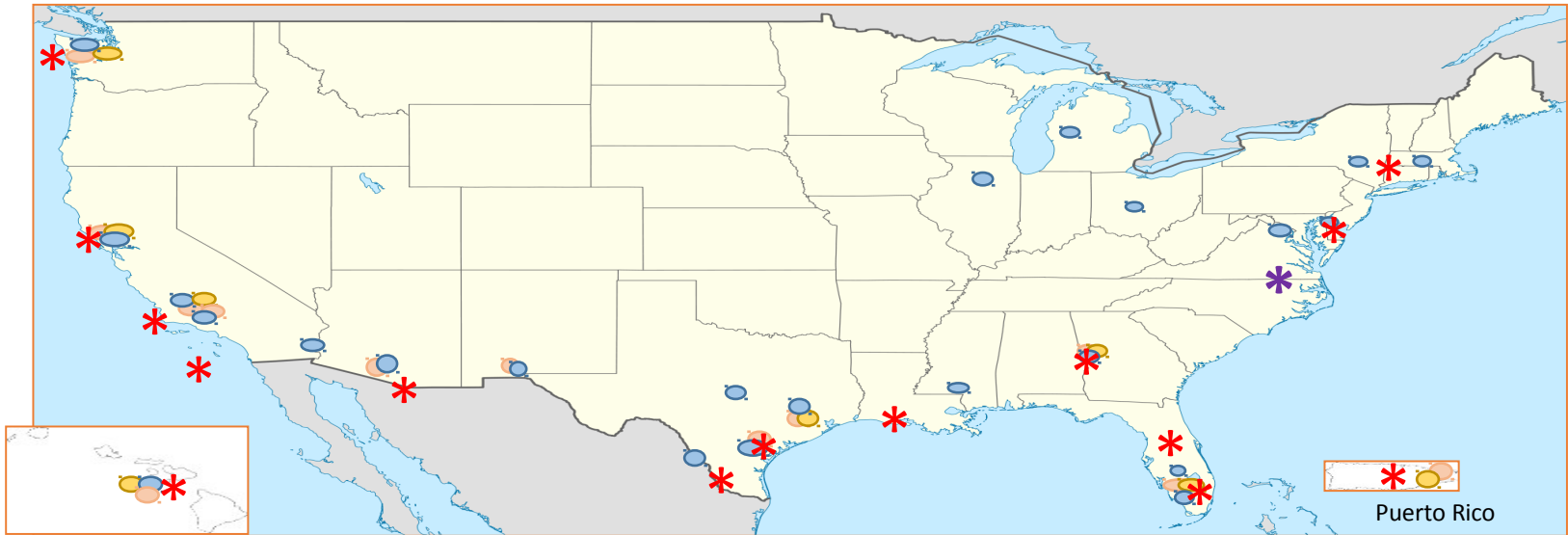
### Estimated number of species vs. described number of species



Hawksworth, D. L. & Kalin-Arroyo, M. T. in Global Biodiversity Assessment (ed. Heywood, V. H.) 107– 191 (Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 1995).

### Port of Entry identifier locations

B Botany identifiers    
 E Entomology identifiers    
 P Pathology identifiers



Hawaii

\* Plant Inspection Stations

Puerto Rico



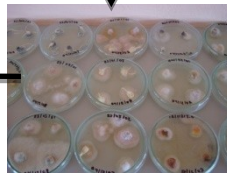


# Isolation, identification and monosporic culture selection.

Samples PV2006



Single spore colonies



Isolation on PDA-A



Morphological identification



Conservation

## Mycotoxins determination



221 samples analyzed



- Absorbance lecture
- RIDASOFT software



ELISA Kit  
RIDASCREEN FAST (R-Biopharm)



immunoaffinity columns on coffee

# E-probe Diagnostic Nucleic acid Analysis (EDNA) for plant pathogen detection

Jacque Fletcher

Ulrich Melcher

Francisco Ochoa Corona

Carla Garzon

Tony Stobbe

Jon Daniels

Andres Espindola

Ruchi Verma

Trenna Blagden

Sharon Andreason

Astri Wayadande

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK

William L.  
Schneider

Diana Sherman

Andrew Stone

Aaron Sechler

USDA-ARS  
FDWSRU

Fort Detrick, MD



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

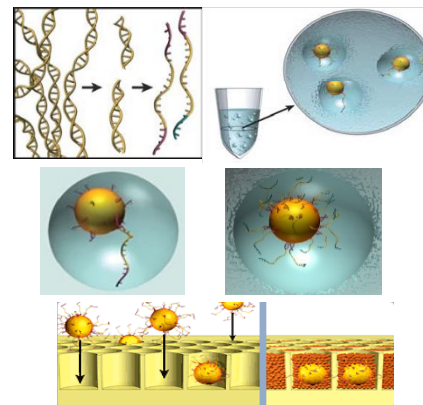
National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

## Nextgen Sequencing

Thousands and thousands of short sequences generated for a given DNA sample (e.g. Roche 454, AB SOLiD, Solexa)

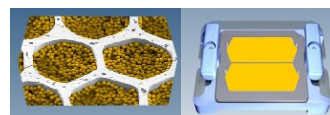
Comprehensive picture of the entire microbial profile

Can sequence 400 megabases of DNA per 4.5-hour run.  
Enough to fully sequence 2 bacterial genomes



## EDNA: E-probe Diagnostic Nucleic acid Analysis

Bioinformatics tool designed to ignore irrelevant sequences and limit processing



**Control the size of the reference database:** Dump raw non-assembled sequence data into its own database (create a mini-genbank).

**Control the size of the query set:** Query the raw sequence data base with a series of signature diagnostic sequences (“e-probes”).

Stobbe et al., *Journal of Microbiological Methods*  
doi: 10.1016/j.mimet.2013.07.002

## EDNA results

- Detects RNA and DNA viruses
- Detects bacteria
- Detects oomycetes and fungi
- Detects vectors
- Useful in pathogen discovery



United States  
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Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



# **Invasive Stink Bugs: Applied Semiochemistry (and a little bit about Biological Control)**

Don Weber

USDA Agricultural Research Service  
Insect Biocontrol & Behavior Lab  
Beltsville, Maryland

PROCINORTE Plant Health Task Force  
Workshop in Beltsville, 12 October 2017



# Pentatomidae: 22 genera (±) for which pheromones are known (at least partially)

**Asopinae:** *Oplomus*  
*Perillus*  
*Podisus*  
*Stiretrus*  
*Tynacantha*

**Edessinae:** *Edessa*

**Pentatominae:**  
 Antestiini: *Plautia*  
*Thyanta*  
 Cappaeini: *Halyomorpha*



**Pentatominae (cont'd):**

**Carpocorini:** *Agroecus*  
*Euschistus*  
*Oebalus*  
*Tibraca*

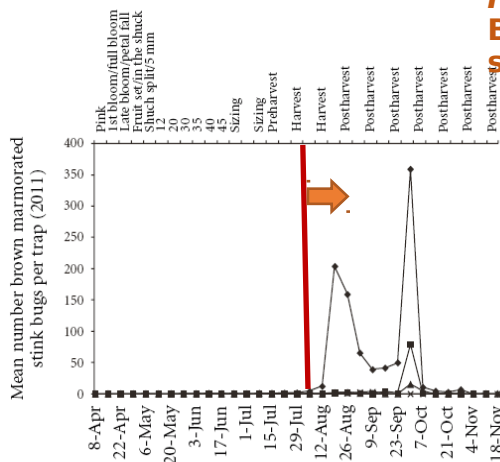
**Eysarcorini:** *Eysarcoris*  
**Nezarini:** *Chinavia*  
*Chlorochroa*  
*Nezara*

**Pentatomini:** *Pallantia*  
*Pellaea*

**Piezodorini:** *Piezodorus*  
**Rhynchocorini:** *Biprorulus*  
**Strachiini:** *Murgantia*

Captures using black pyramid traps baited with MDT (50mg) in VA & MD apple orchards, 2011

## *Halyomorpha halys* Brown marmorated stink bug



Asian native  
 responsive to MDT

but usually only after harvest of apple crop, in late season



Rice stink bug (Brazil)  
 Pentatominae: Carpocorini



Harlequin bug  
 Pentatominae: Strachiini



Brown marmorated stink bug  
 Pentatominae: Cappaeini

# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE

- **Relevance**

- Insect pests, plant pathogens and associated toxins with potential to become invasive are a primary concern for each of the 3 countries

- **Effectiveness**

- Researchers in each of the 3 countries provide expertise in identification of native and invasive pests, plant pathogens and associated toxins

- **Impact**

- Researchers collaborate and share information on native biological control agents (predators, parasitoids and entomopathogens) for control of invasive pests to other member countries

# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET REQUEST 2018

- INIFAP National Project Lead for Plant Health will host a 2 ½ day workshop in Mexico (location TBD) in fall 2018
- Workshop will focus on:
  - Hemipteran insect pests and diseases that are vectored by them.
  - Targeted pests include: Bagrada bug, Kudzu bug, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Pepper Weevil and Ambrosia Beetle. Tree fruits and small fruits will be the target host of the vectored viruses. In the case of Ambrosia beetle, *Fusarium* will be the vectored disease organism.



# PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET REQUEST 2018

- **Outcomes**

- Knowledge transfer leading to harmonization of taxonomic methods in Canada, Mexico and U.S.A.
- Tri-lateral collaboration and coordination of research in the area of insect pests and insect vectored diseases
- Developing and enhancing networks of entomologists, pathologists and chemists in the three countries

- **Budget requested - \$19,500**

- To support travel of 10-15 scientists to workshop
- Deliver Workshop
- Sponsor participation at NAPPO 2018 (Tucson, Arizona, USA)
- Sponsor participation at Entomology 2018 (Vancouver, BC, Canada)

# Thanks!

- **PROCINORTE and IICA**
  - Audia Barnett & Gloria Ramirez
- **INIFAP**
  - Dr. José Isabel López-Arroyo; Dr. Sergio Sánchez-Peña, UAAAN; Dr. Jaime Mena-Covarrubias, INIFAP; Dr. Eduardo R. Garrido-Ramírez, INIFAP
- **USDA/ARS**
  - Dr. Rose Hammond; Dr. Joe Munyaneza; Dr. Donald Weber, USDA/ARS; Dr. Kim Hoelmer, USDA/ARS; Dr. Rubella Goswami, USDA/NIFA; Dr. Robert E. Davis USDA/ARS; Dr. Ronald Ochoa, USDA/ARS; Dr. Gary Bauchan
- **AAFC**
  - Dr. Della Johnston; Dr. Roselyne Labbé; Dr. Tara Gariepy; Dr. Mark Sumarah; Dr. Wen Chen; Dr. Julia Mlynarek



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*Guided by Science, Improved Technologies  
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# THANK YOU!!

