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# Biology and Worldwide Situation of *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, 1908 (Hemiptera: Liviidae)

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**M. Setamou**

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

[Mamoudou.setamou@tamuk.edu](mailto:Mamoudou.setamou@tamuk.edu)



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# Outline

- ❑ Nomenclature
  - ❑ Geographic origin and current distribution
  - ❑ Origin of *D. citri* present in the Americas
  - ❑ Description, Life cycle and Biology
  - ❑ Host plants
  - ❑ Factors affecting *D. citri* biology (preference and development) and population growth
  - ❑ Behavior and spatio-temporal distribution
  - ❑ CLas acquisition and transmission by *D. citri*
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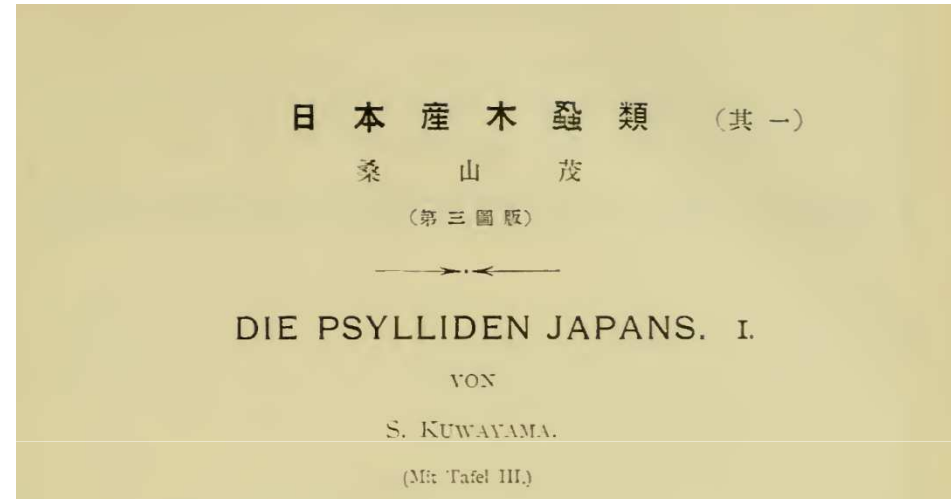
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# *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, 1908



**Kuwayama Sh.** 1908 - Die Psylliden Japans. I. *Transactions of the Sapporo Natural History Society* 2: 149-189 [160].

**Common Name:** [Asian citrus psyllid \(ACP\)](#)

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# *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, 1908

## □ Liviidae Löw, 1879

### □ Euphyllurinae Crawford, 1914

#### ■ *Diaphorina* Löw, 1880

[Löw F. 1880 - Mittheilungen über Psylloden. Verhandlungen der Zoologischbotanischen Gesellschaft in Wien 29: 549-598 \[567\]](#)

#### Synonyms

- ❖ *Diaphora* Löw, 1879
- ❖ *Gonanoplicus* Enderlein, 1910
- ❖ *Pennavena* Capener, 1968
- ❖ *Eudiaphorina* Loginova, 1975
- ❖ *Brachypsylla* Froggatt, 1901

Mittheilungen über Psylloden.

Von

Dr. Franz Löw in Wien.

(Mit Tafel XV.)

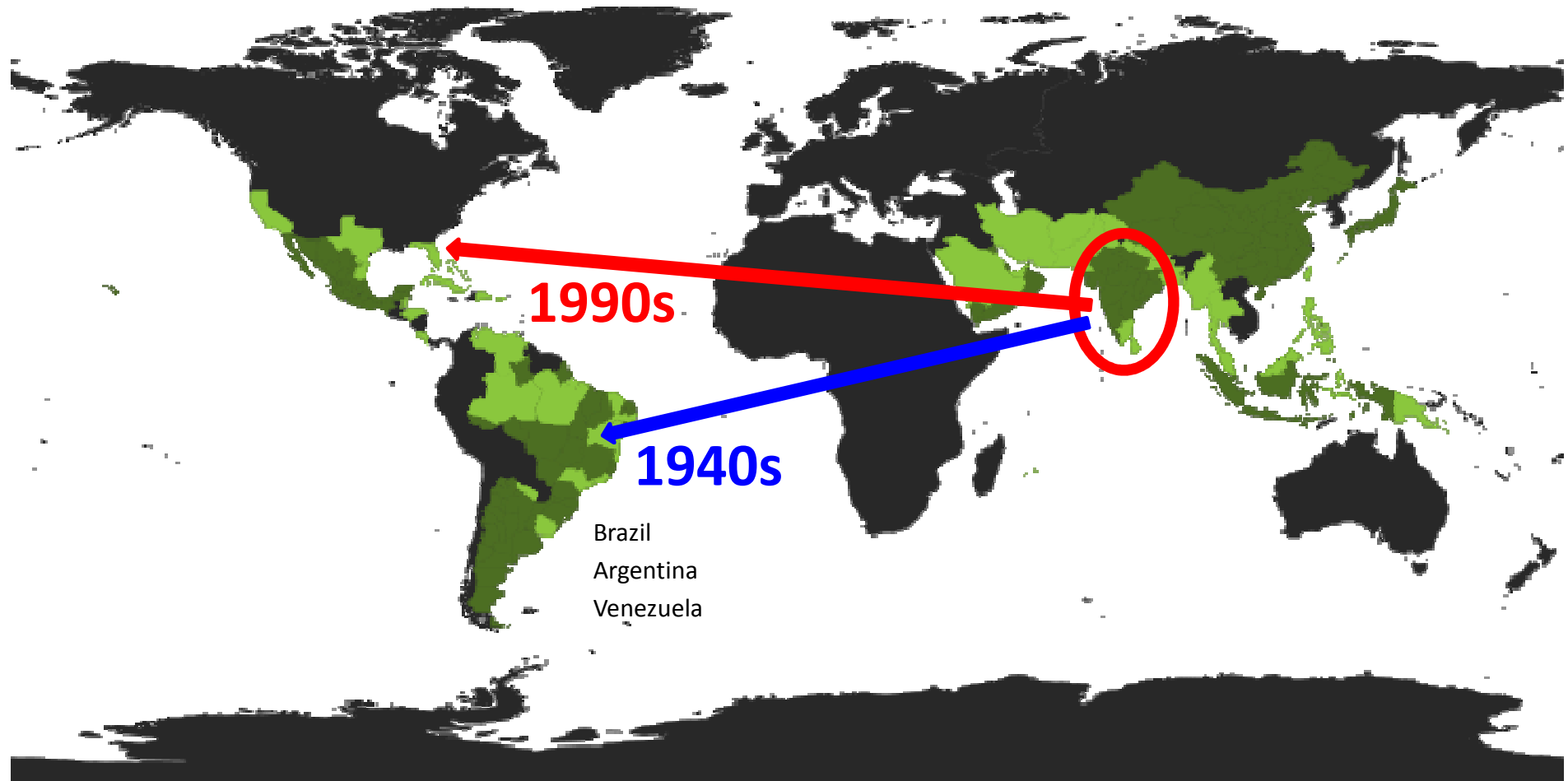
(Vorgelegt in der Versammlung am 5. November 1879.)

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# Geographic origin of *D. citri*

- ❑ South-western Asia (Halbert & Manjunath 2004, Beattie et al. 2009)
  - ❑ ACP has evolved in India (Beattie et al. 2009)
  - ❑ In Asia: China, India, Myanmar, Taiwan, Phillipine Islands, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Thailand, Nepal, Ryukyu Islands (Japan), Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Reunion, and Mauritius
  - ❑ Americas: Most of South, North and Central American countries
  - ❑ In the USA: FL (1998), TX (2001), CA (2008), but also present in AZ, LA, AL, GA, MS and SC
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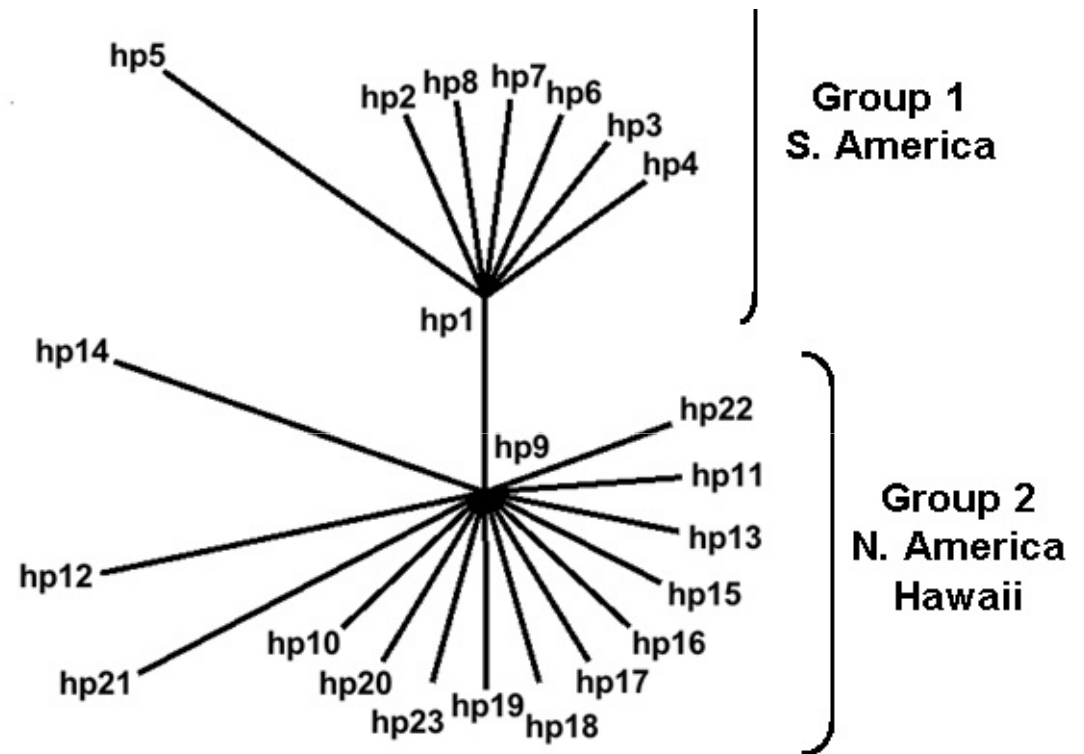
Geographic origin: **Southwestern Asia, "India"**



Ouvrard, D. (2013) Psyllist - The World Psylloidea Database. <http://www.hemiptera-databases.com/psyllist> - searched on 15 August 2013

## Network of evolutionary relationships among COI haplotypes of *D. citri* in the Americas and Hawaii

- 23 haplotypes identified that fell into two groups
- **hp1 present in highest frequency in group1**
- **hp9 present in highest frequency in group 2**
- **No hp shared between the 2 groups**
- ( $\Phi_{CT}=0.733$ ;  $P<0.001$ )

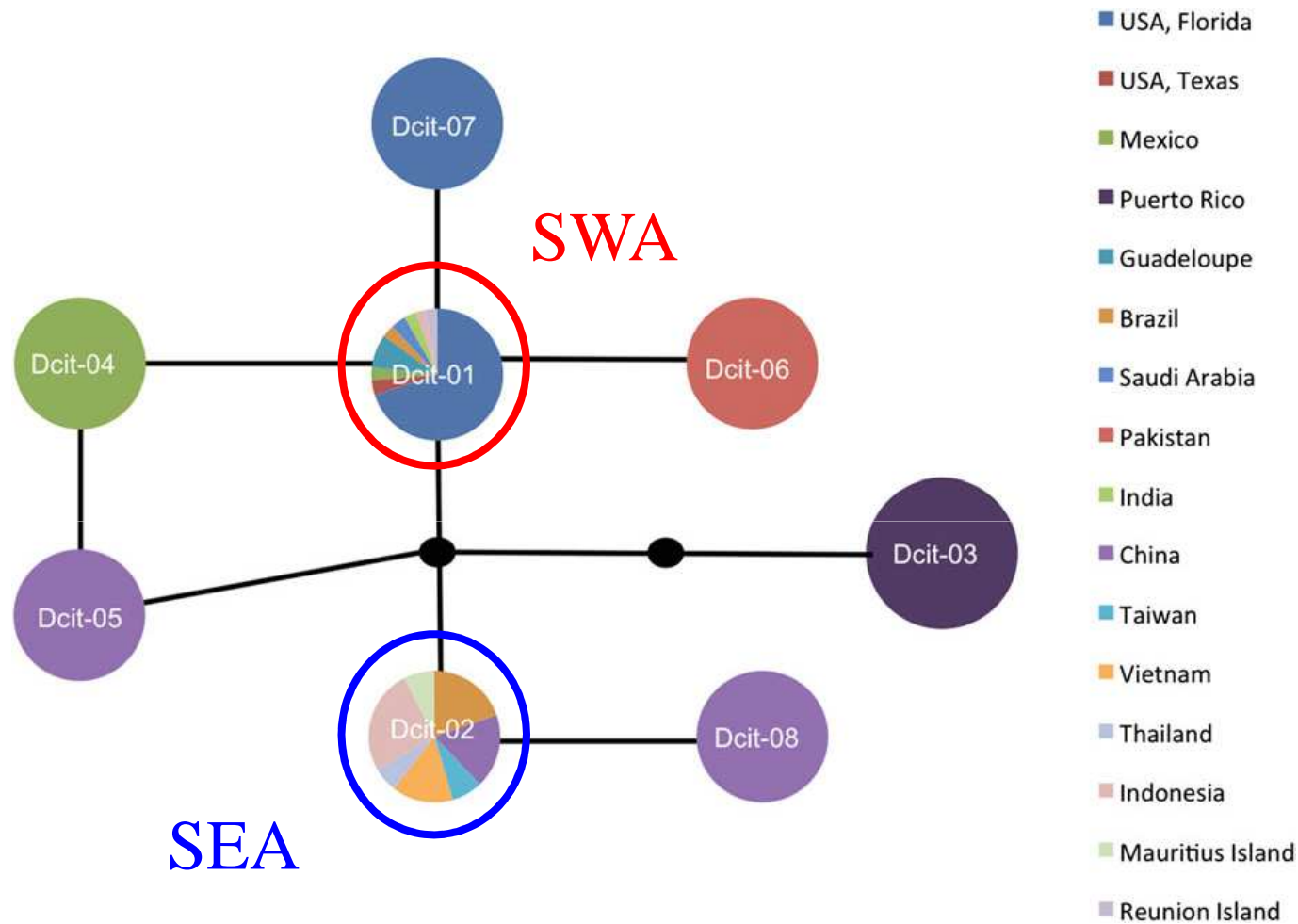


De Leon et al. 2011, Annals of Entomological Society of America 104: 1392-1398.





# Phylogenetic relationships between worldwide population of ACP



Haplotype network generated with statistical parsimony analysis of *D. citri* mtCOI DNA sequence  
(Boykin et al. 2012, Bulletin of Entomological Research 102: 573-582)

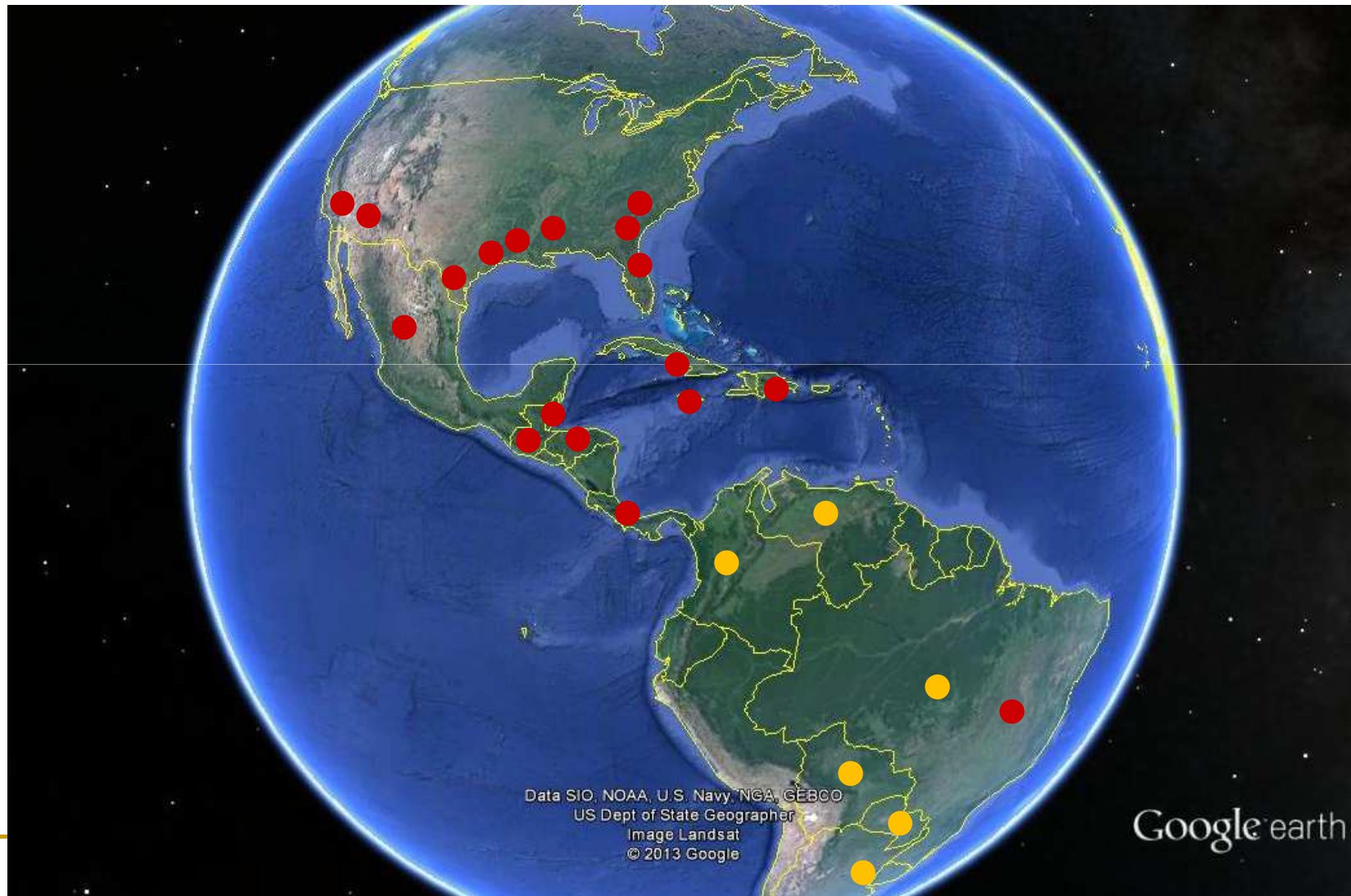
## Two founding events of *D. citri* in the Americas and Hawaii

Major Group	Countries	Haplotype group
South America	Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay	Southeastern Asia
North & Central America	Belize, Costa Rica, Hawaii, Mexico, and USA (California, Florida and Texas)	Southwestern Asia

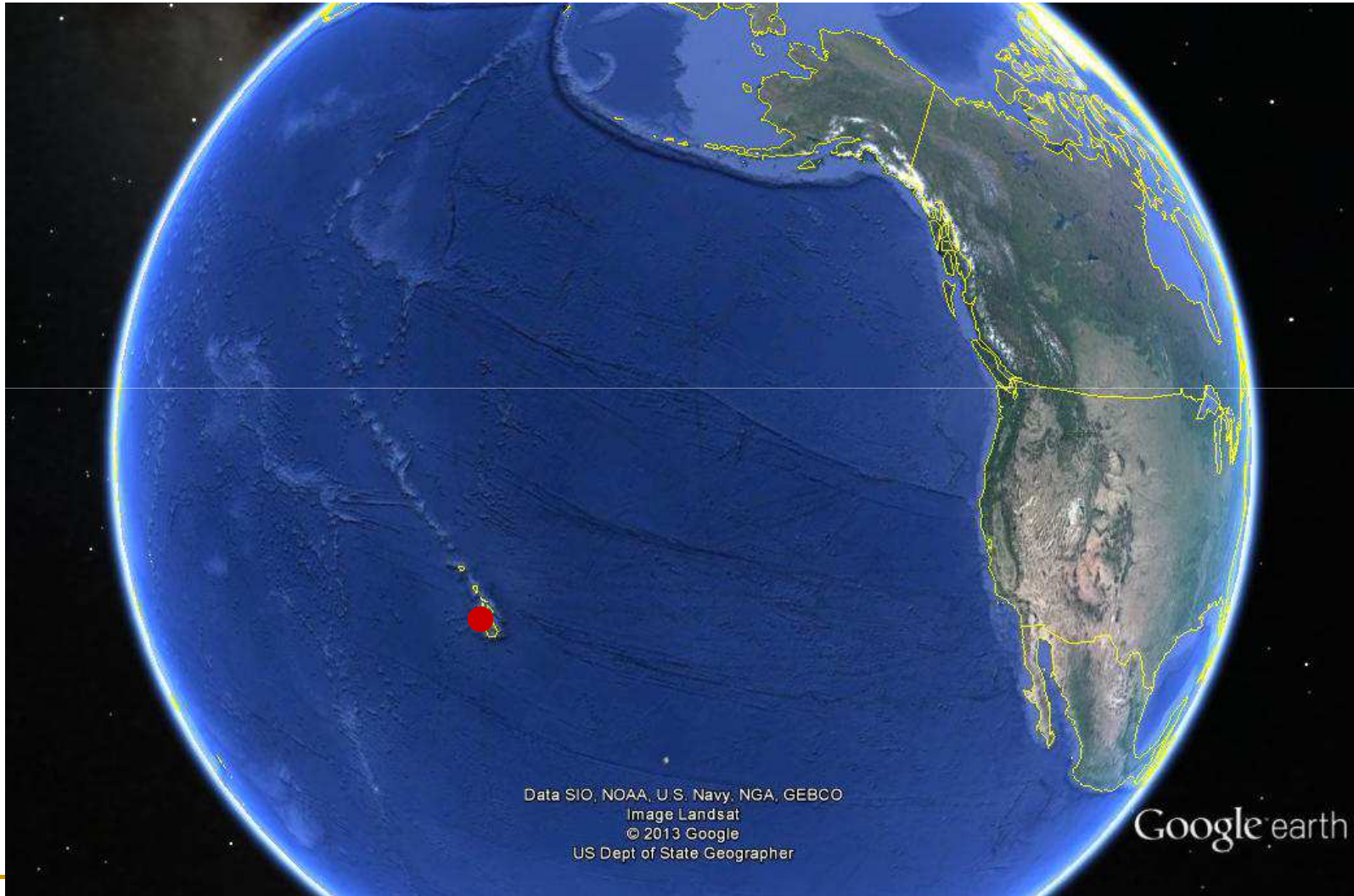
**Both haplotype groups invaded separate locations of Brazil.**

**Haplotype unique to the Caribbean (Puerto Rico & Guadeloupe) was also found (Boykin et al. 2012)**

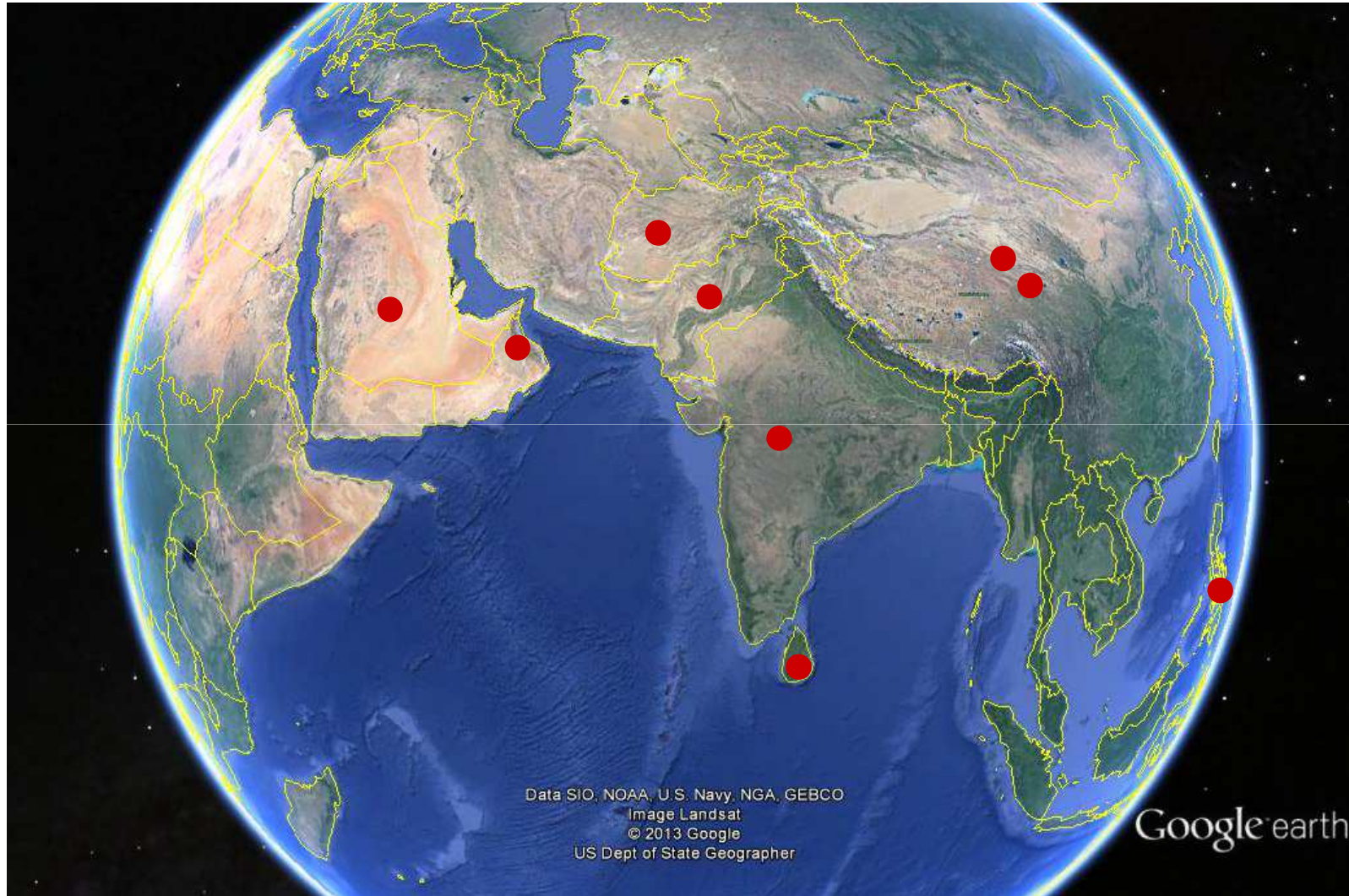
## World distribution of *D. citri* in the Americas



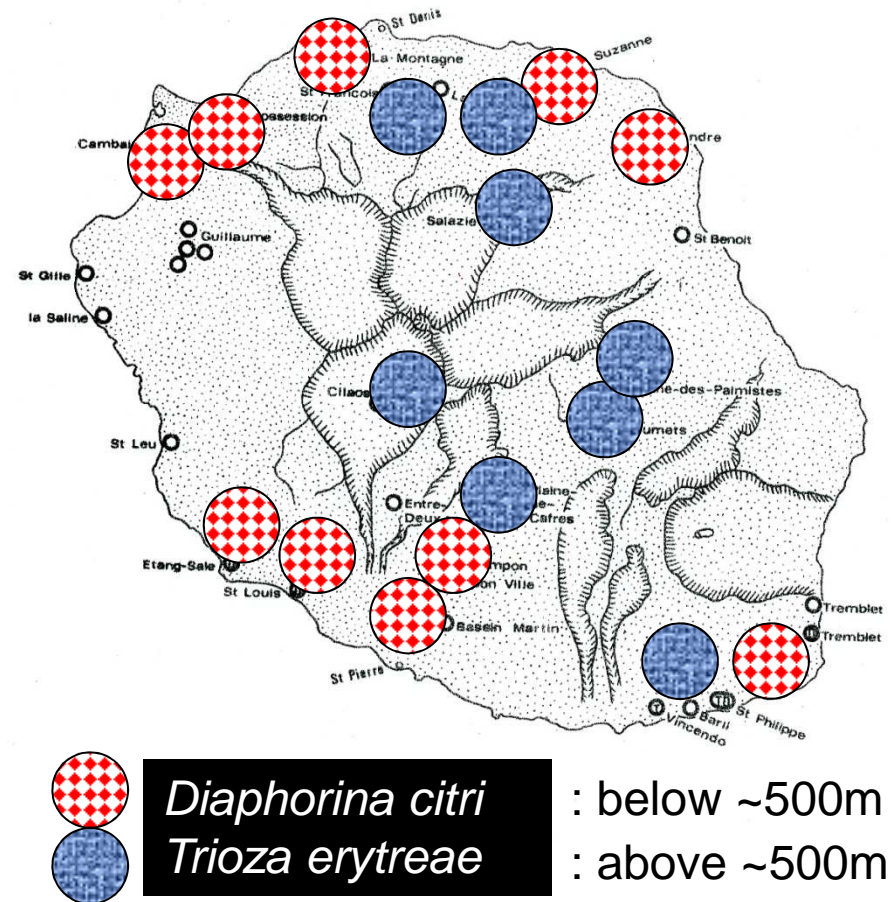
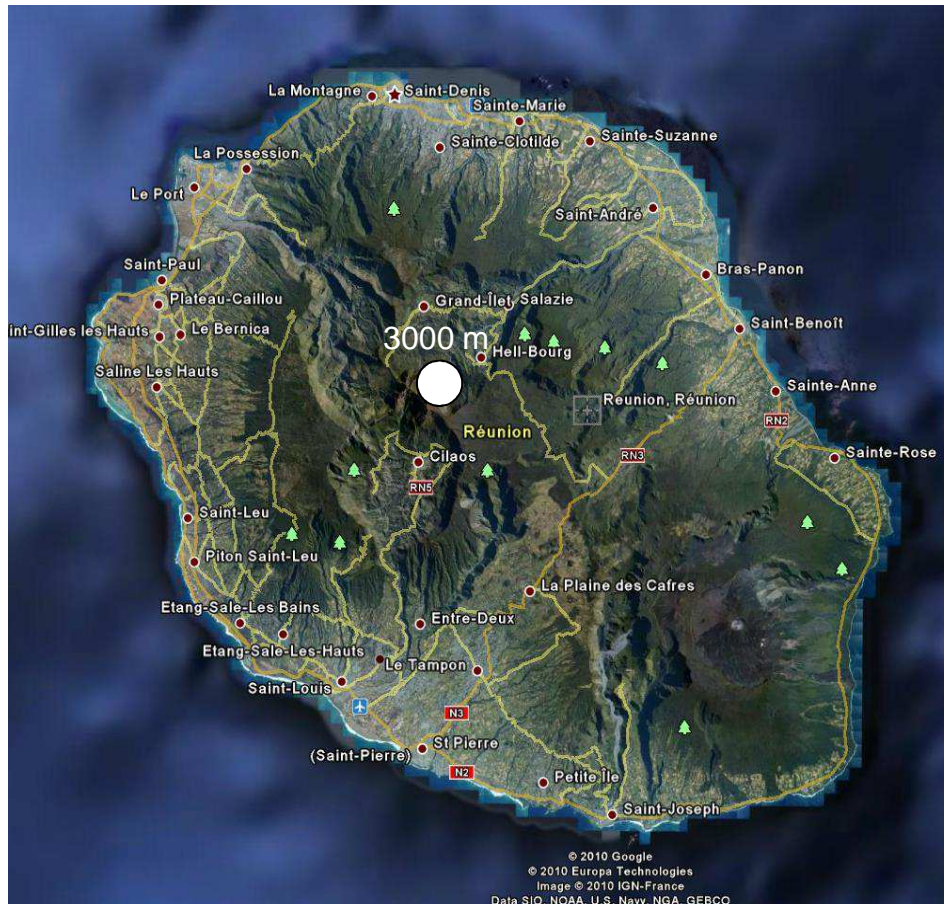
## *D. citri* in Hawaii



## *D. citri* in Asia



# Distribution of (1) Heat tolerant *Asian psyllid*, *Diaphorina citri*, and (2) Heat sensitive *African psyllid*, *Trioza erytreae*, in Reunion island





Description, life cycle and biology of ACP



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# *Diaphorina citri*-Adult



- Small (2.7-3.3 mm long) with mottled brown wings
- 3 abdominal colors (**gray/brown**, **blue/green**, **orange/yellow**)
- Gravid females are mostly orange/yellow but significant of colors remain largely unknown
- Sex ratio is ca. 1:1
- Adult feeding position is 30-45° from plant surface



# *Diaphorina citri*-Adult



Feeding sites of adults	Trees flushing	No new flush
Young shoots	49.5 A	-
Midrib/veins of leaf	24.0 B	38.5 a
Leaf margin	13.0 C	43.0 a
Twig	13.5 C	18.5 b
<i>Chi-square</i>	8.32 *	25.44***

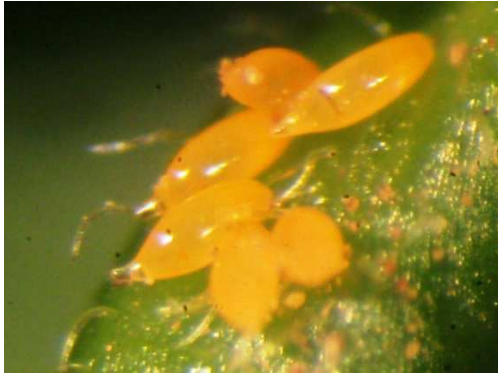
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# *Diaphorina citri*-Adult



- Adult locate their mates using vibrational sounds, and females emitted pheromones
  - **Adults mate multiple times**
  - ACP is a diurnal insect: **Mating, oviposition, movement restricted to daytime (light is important)**
  - **Female lay eggs throughout life time only if young shoots are present (500-1,000 eggs)**
  - Reproductive maturity reached in 2-3d after emergence
  - **Egg laying begin 1-2d after mating**
  - Adult live 2-3 months, but longevity is host plant, temperature and RH dependent
-

# ACP Eggs



- Almond-shaped eggs
- Bright-yellow in color when freshly deposited but turn orange when mature with 2 visible red eye spots
- Laid on the tips of new flushes or in crevices of unopened leaves
- Fixed to the site by a small stalk driven into the tissue called pedicel (moisture driven)

# Psyllid Nymphs



- Eggs hatch into small nymphs that go thru 5 instars (gradual metamorphosis)
- Flat, yellow-orange (0.01-0.07 inch)
- 2 red eye-spots that can be seen from 2<sup>nd</sup> instar
- Wing pad from the 3<sup>rd</sup> instar
- Settle and start feeding after hatching, but 2<sup>nd</sup> instar move to young stems
- Produce honeydew and waxy tubules that direct the honeydew
- Nymphal development takes 10 to 21 days; 16 d at 25°C

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## *D. citri* development



- Oviposition and development are temperature and humidity dependent
  - Egg laying occurs between 16-42°C, w/ peaks at 25-30°C
  - Very few eggs laid when RH < 40%
  - Developmental time from egg to adult ranged from 14.1d at 28°C to 49.3 at 15°C with optimum temp at 24-28°C
  - Generation time is 20-22d at 25°C
  - ACP overwinters as adult in citrus
  - Adults and nymphs can survive at -8 to -6°C for several hrs. Mild to moderate freeze events are non-lethal to ACP, but may lower spring pop.
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# *D. citri* feeding



- ACP adults and nymphs have piercing-sucking mouthparts, feed by inserting stylet into phloem tissue leaving their **salivary sheaths and stylet tracks behind**
- **Adults found on young stems and leaves of all ages while nymphs only found on young leaves and stems (shoots)**
- Nymphs produce tube-like waste covered by waxy white materials
- **Adult females also produce waxy excretory substance but males produce clear substance**

# *D. Citri* life cycle



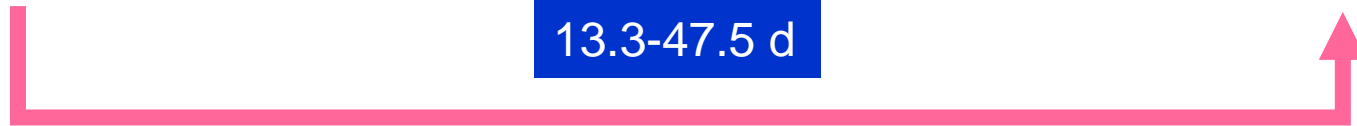
2.6-8.2 d



11-39 d



13.3-47.5 d





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## *D. citri* host plants

- ACP is an **oligophagous** with host plants restricted to the Rutaceae family, sub-family Aurantioideae (Citrus and relatives)
  - A Moraceae (*Ficus carica* L.) has been reported as hosts by Thomas & De Leon (2011), but we did not confirm these findings
  - Within its host plant family, ACP exhibit strong host plant preference which affects its oviposition, development, longevity, reproduction and size (morphometric analysis)
  - Larger adults recorded on preferred hosts (e.g. Lemon)
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## *D. citri* host plants

- Most species in the genus *Citrus* are common hosts but there is huge variation in the preference/performance of ACP on these hosts
  - Plants in other genera are also recorded as host plants of ACP: *Bergera koenigii*, *Murraya exotica* & *M. paniculata*, *Microcitrus sp.*, *Alatantia sp.*, *Eremocitrus glauca*, *Fortunella spp.*, *Merrillia caloxylon*, *Zanthoxylum fagara*, *Poncirus trifoliata*, *Choisya ternata*, *C. arizonica*, and *Helietta baretta*
  - Other *Rutaceae* are just egg laying sites in no-choice situations but do not support nymphal development (*Amyris madrensis*, *A. texana*, *Zanthoxylum clavahercules*)
  - Some *Rutaceae* are known non-host species (*Esenbeckia berlandieri*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Casimiroa tetrameria*, *C. edulis*, *Sargentia greggii*)
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## ***D. citri* host plants**

- Reason of acceptance of some Rutaceae and non-acceptance of others as host plants is poorly understood
  - What we do know is that on yellow chapote (*Casimiroa greggii*) the presence of hairs does not allow successful establishment of nymphs for feeding although adult survival and egg laying occur
  - Elucidating this will help in developing resistance materials to ACP
  - Among the known host plants, ACP exhibit strong host plant preference
-

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# *D. citri* preferred host plants



*Bergera koenigii*  
(curry leaf plant)



*Murraya*  
(orange jasmine)



*Microcitrus*  
(finger lime)



*Citrus limon*  
(lemon)



*Citrus aurantifolia*  
(lime)



*Citrus sinensis*  
(sweet orange)

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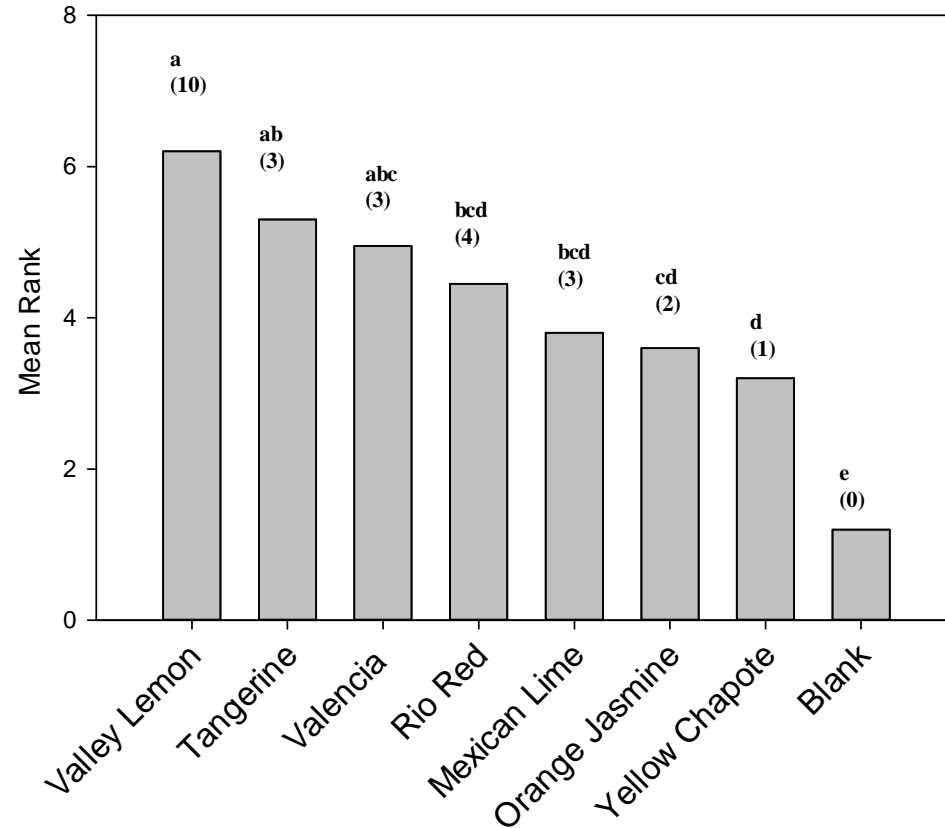
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# *D. citri* host preference



- Psyllid choice arena (**PCA**) used in *D. citri* host preference study (8 host plants can be used simultaneously)
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## *D. citri* host preference



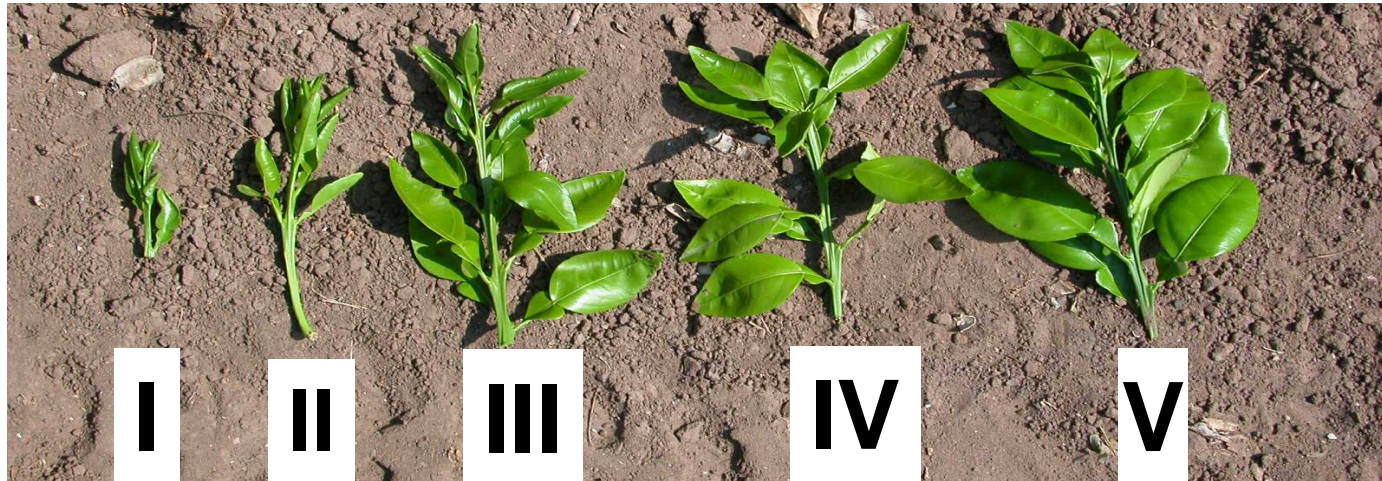
Values in parenthesis depict the number of first choices for each host plant

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## ***Factors governing D. citri* host plant selection**

- Combination of visual, olfactory, tissue softness and nutritive value of flush shoots
  - Visual characteristic (higher reflectance values in the yellow range)
  - Olfactory cues (some sesquiterpenes involve in ACP adult attraction)
  - Tissue softness allowing copious feeding and egg laying
  - Nutrient content of flush shoot (high N and protein content)
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# Flush shoot growth stages and ACP phenology



Eggs



Nymphs



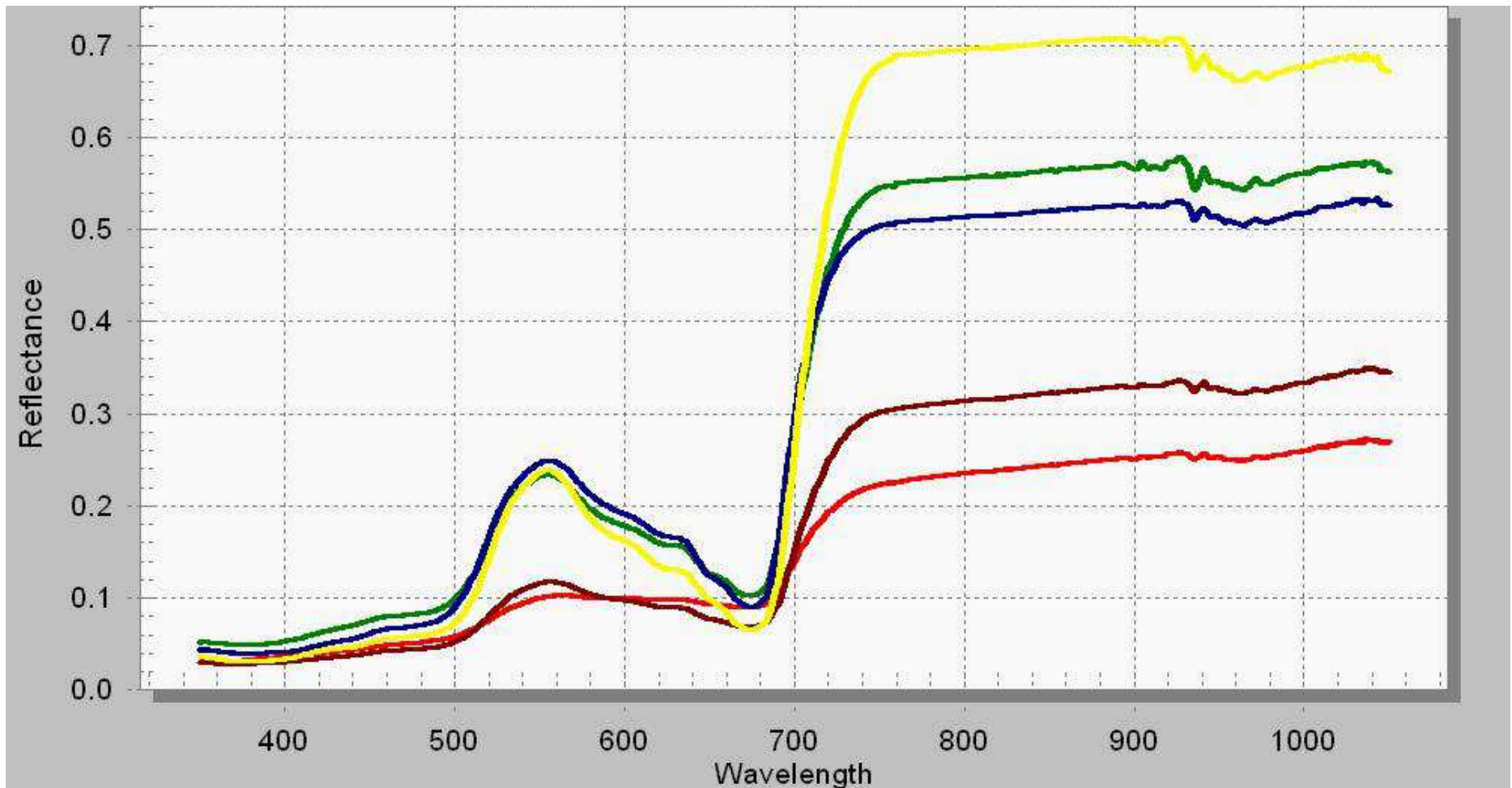
Adults





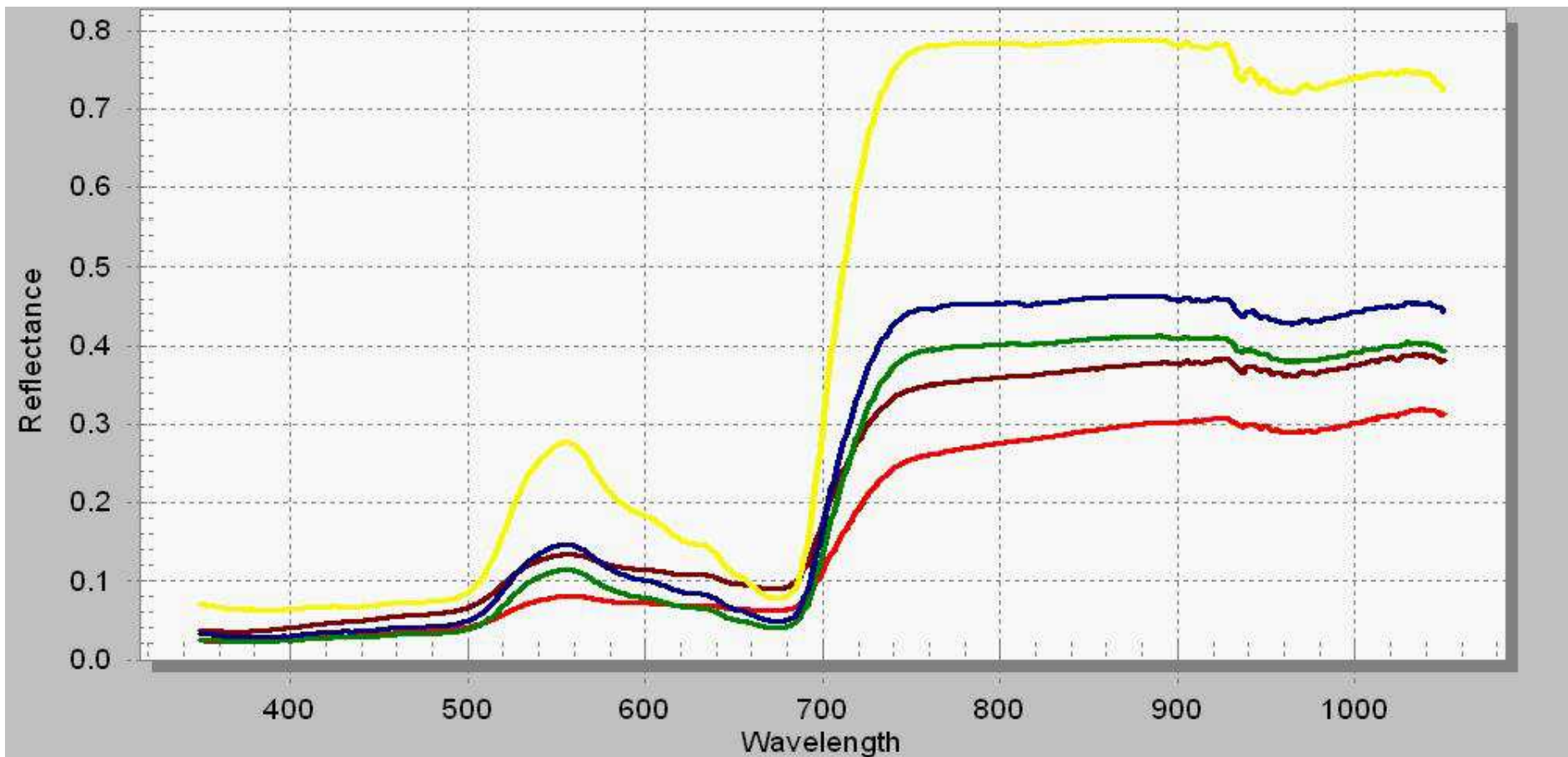
# Spectral reflectance of citrus flush shoots (sweet orange)

Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 3 Stage 4 Stage 5

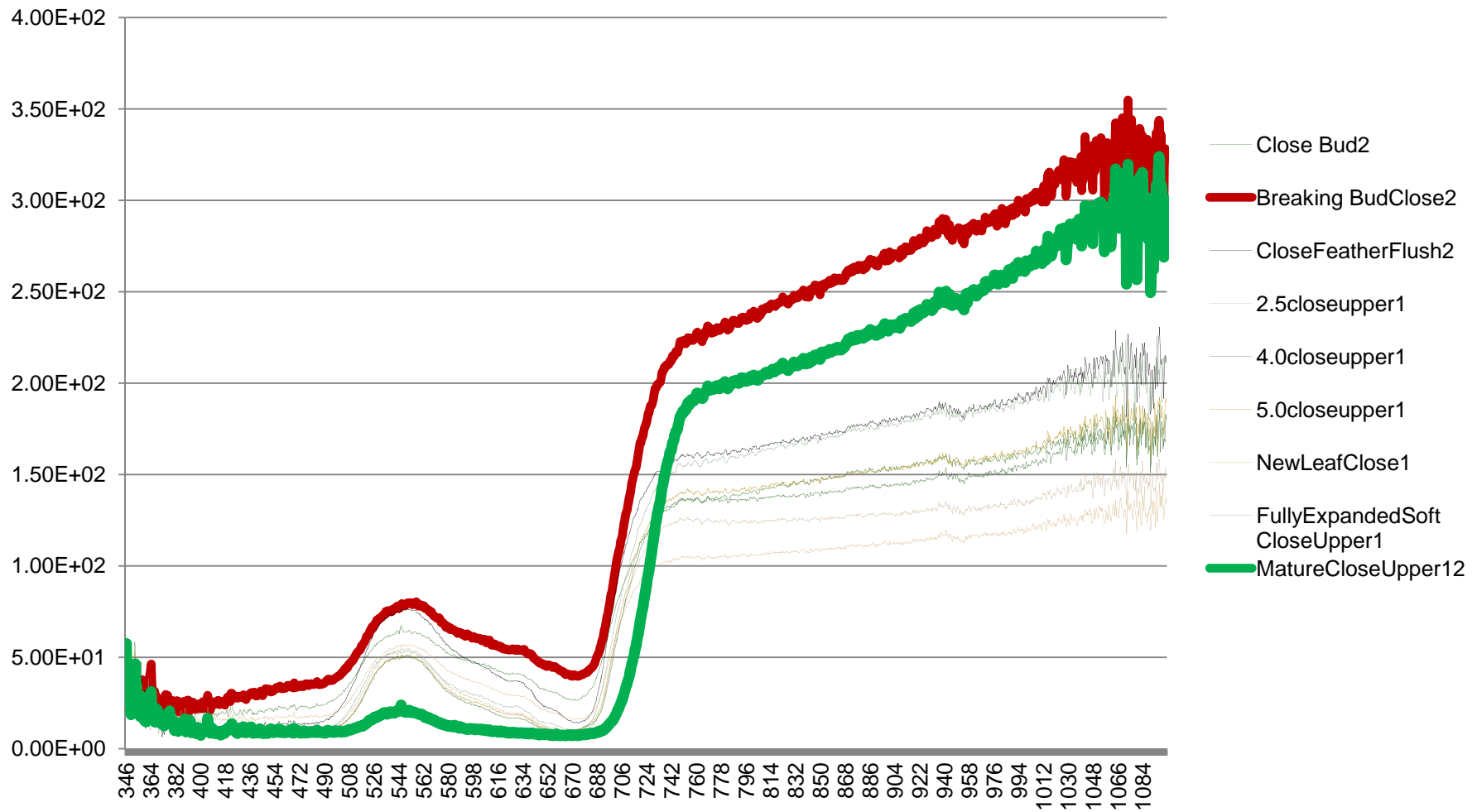


# Spectral reflectance of citrus flush shoots (Grapefruit)

Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 3 Stage 4 Stage 5

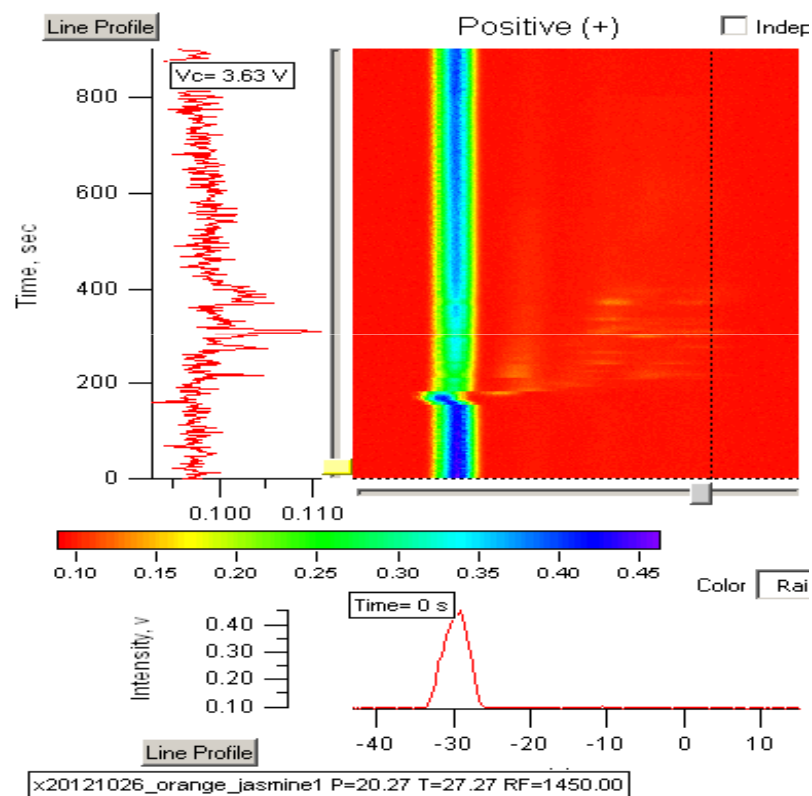


# Factors governing *D. citri* host plant selection: Flush shoot reflectance

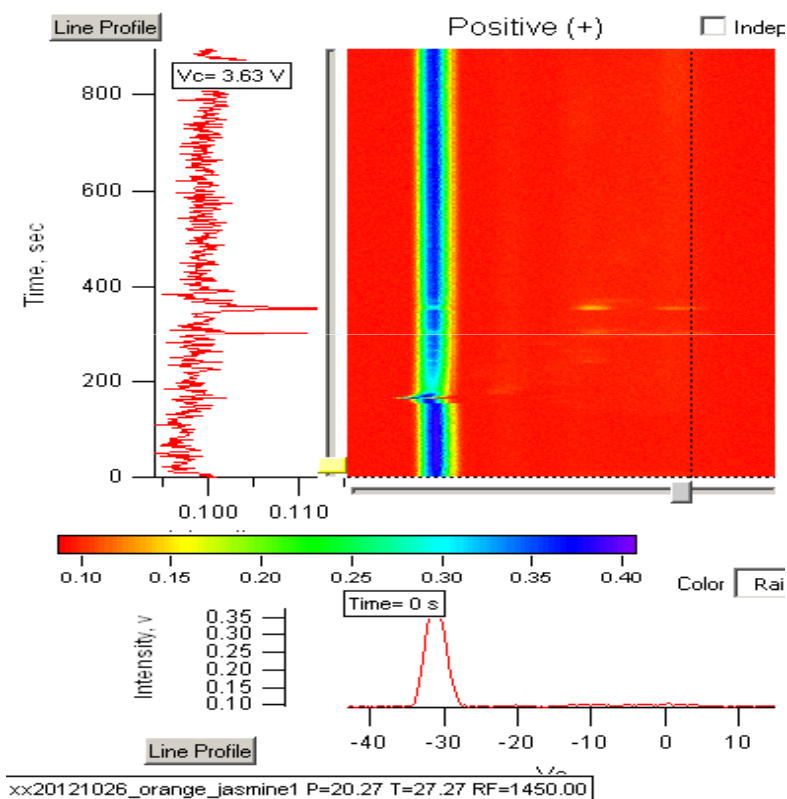


# Volatile profile of flush shoot

Young flush shoot



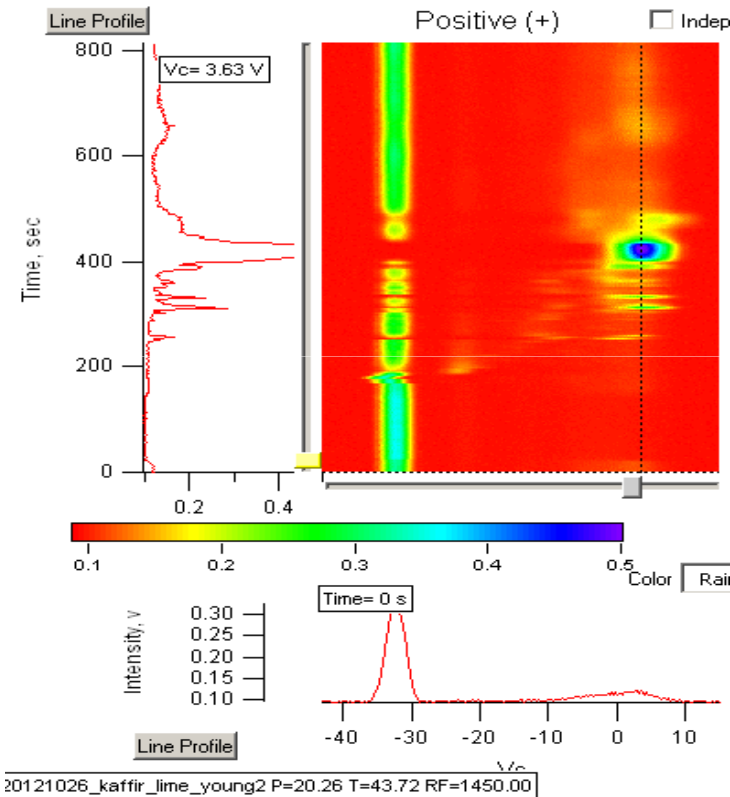
Mature flush shoot



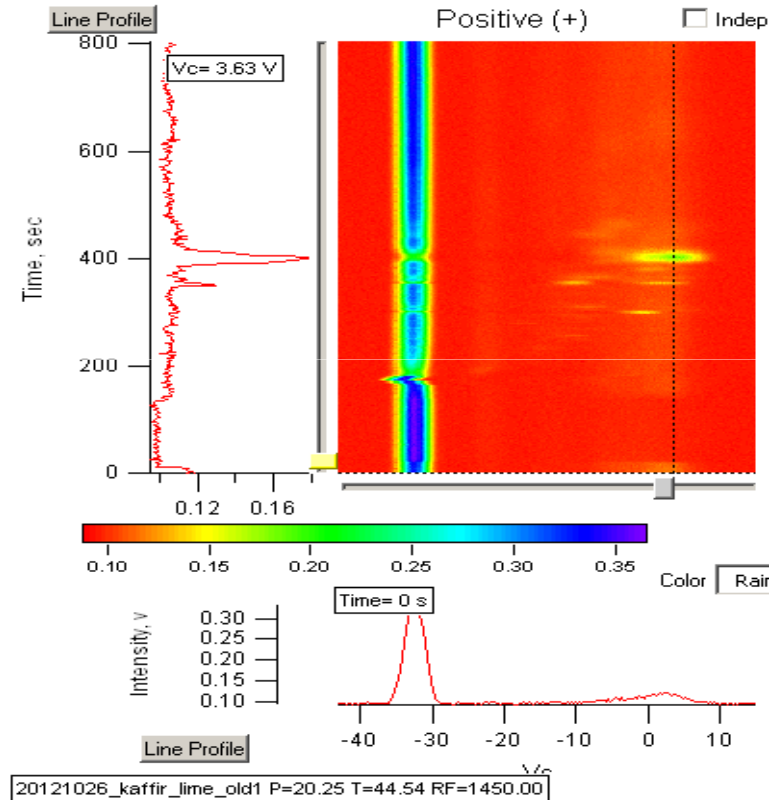
Orange jasmine

# Volatile profile of flush shoot

## ■ Young flush



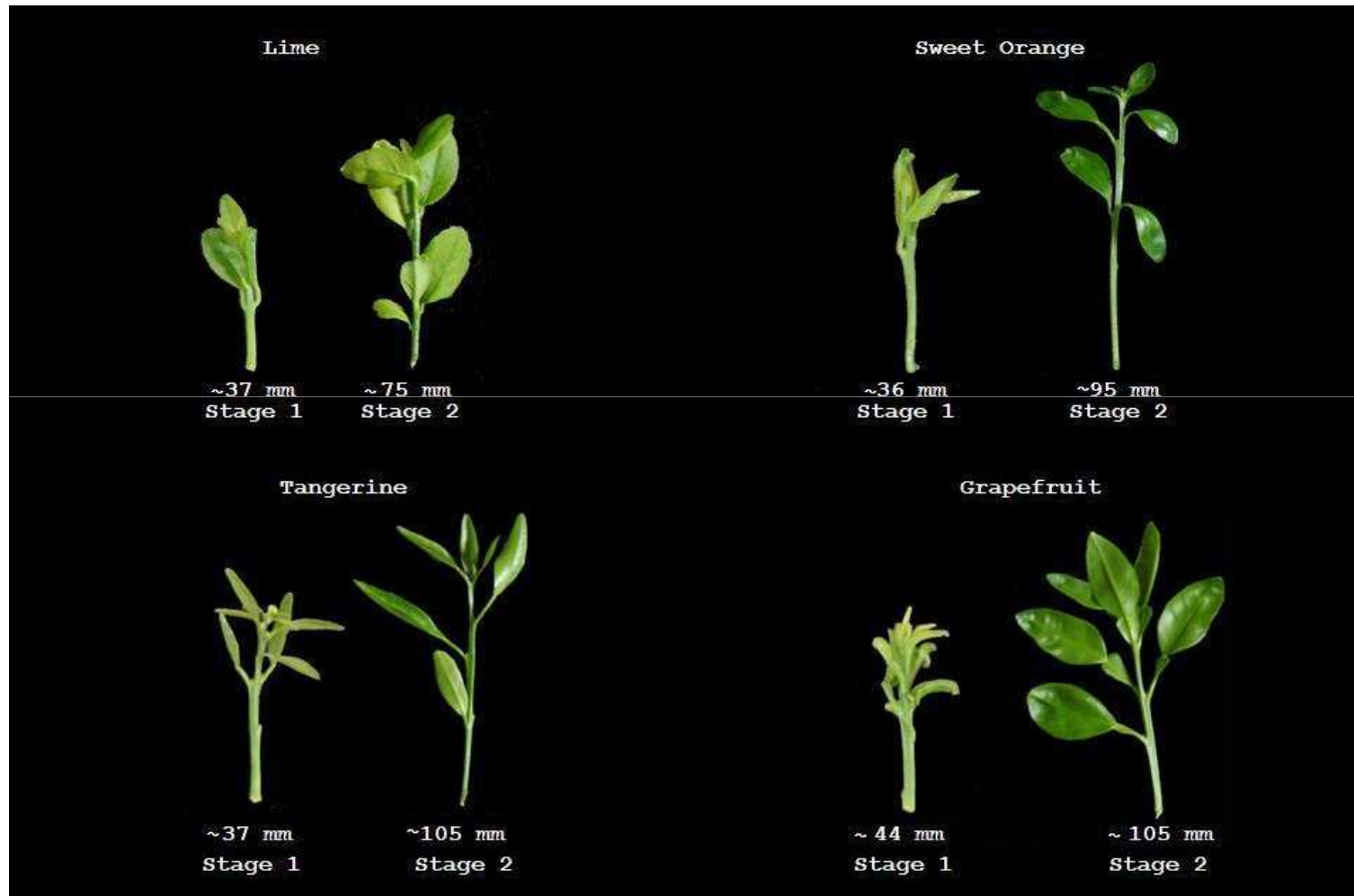
## ■ Mature flush shoot



Kaffir lime

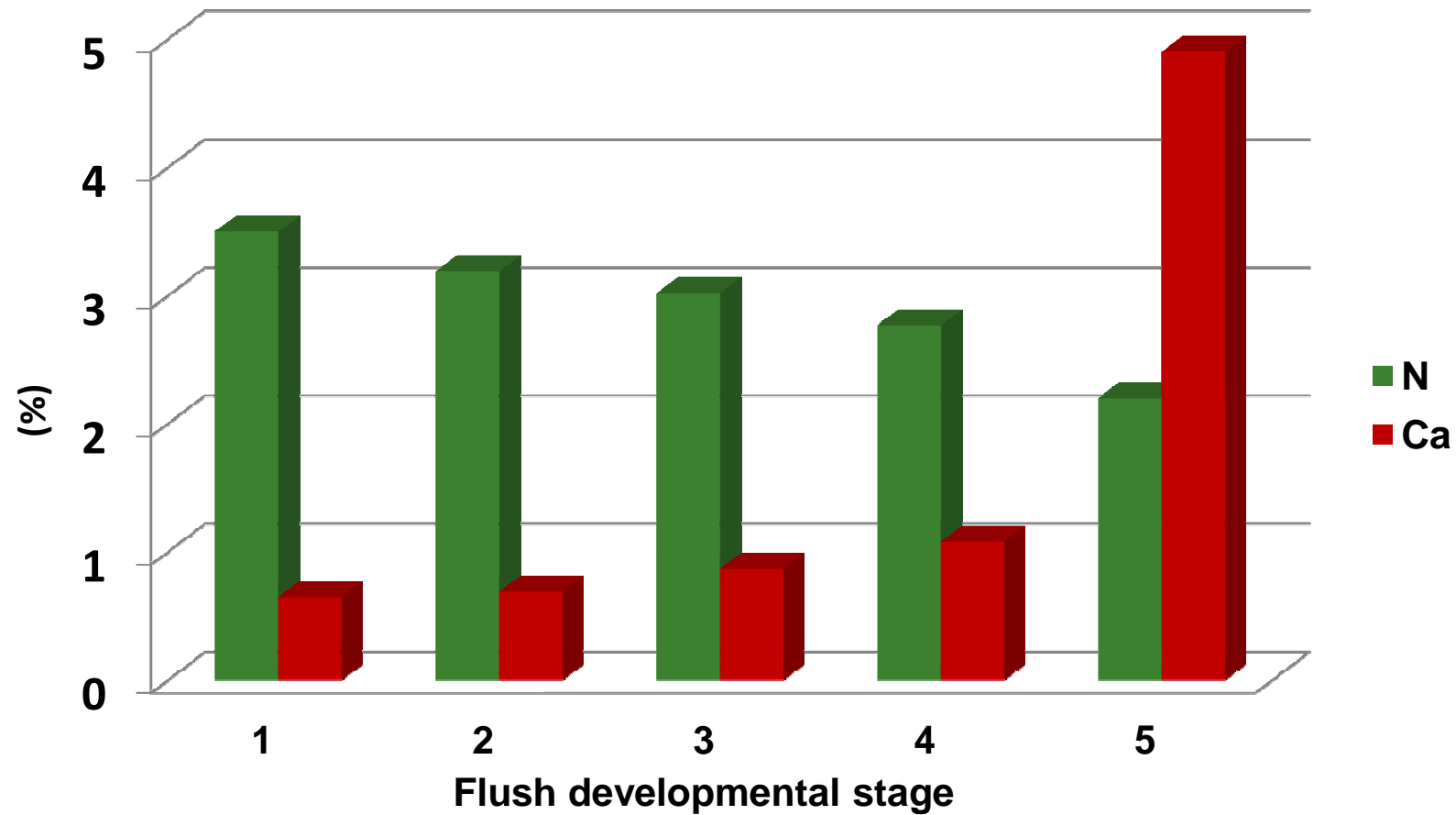
# Factors governing *D. citri* host plant selection:

## Flush shoot architecture



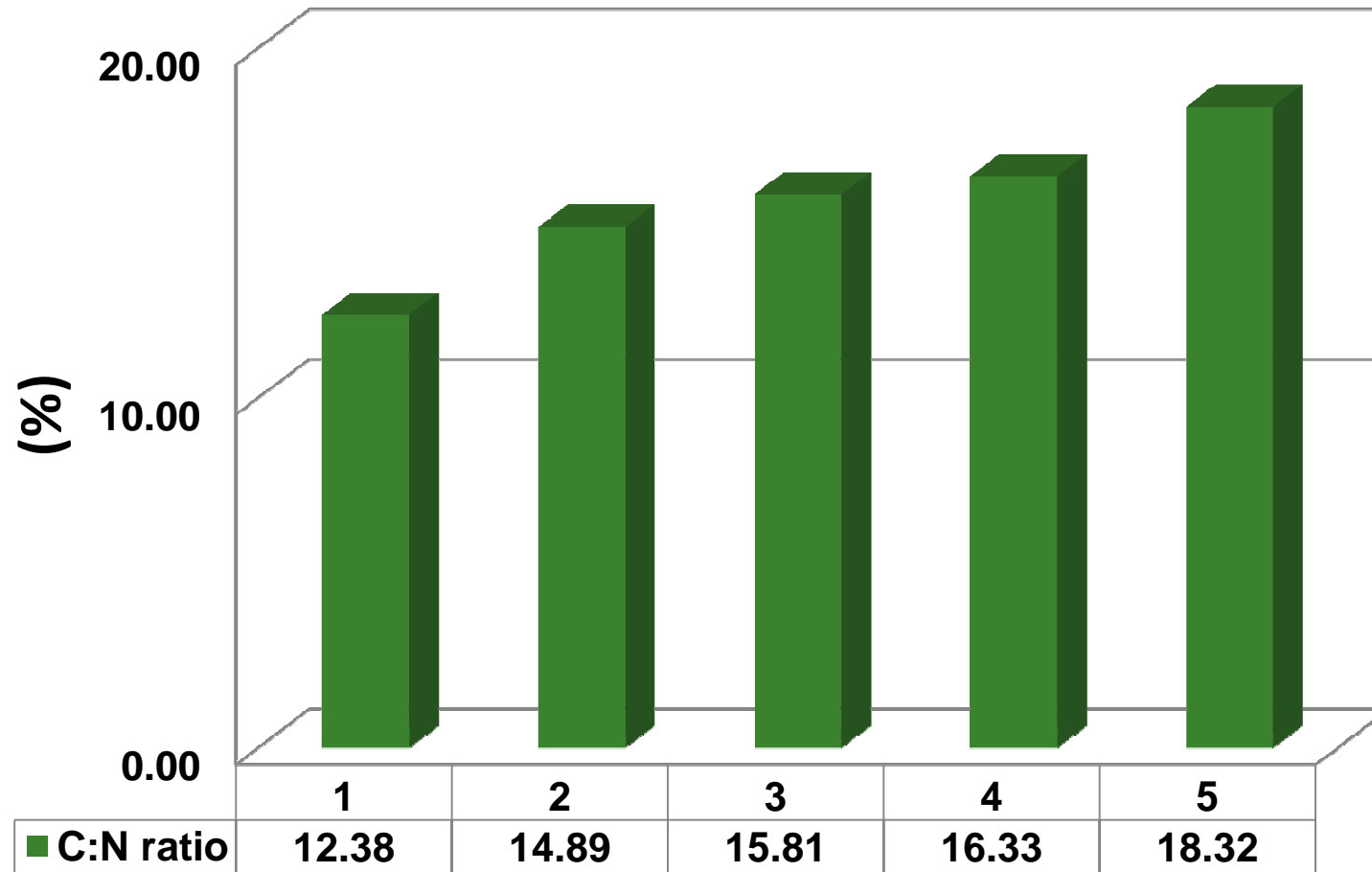
# ***Factors governing D. citri* host plant selection:**

## **Flush nutrient content**



# ***Factors governing D. citri* host plant selection:**

## **Flush shoot C:N Ratio**





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## ***Factors governing D. citri* host plant selection:**

### **Tissue softness**



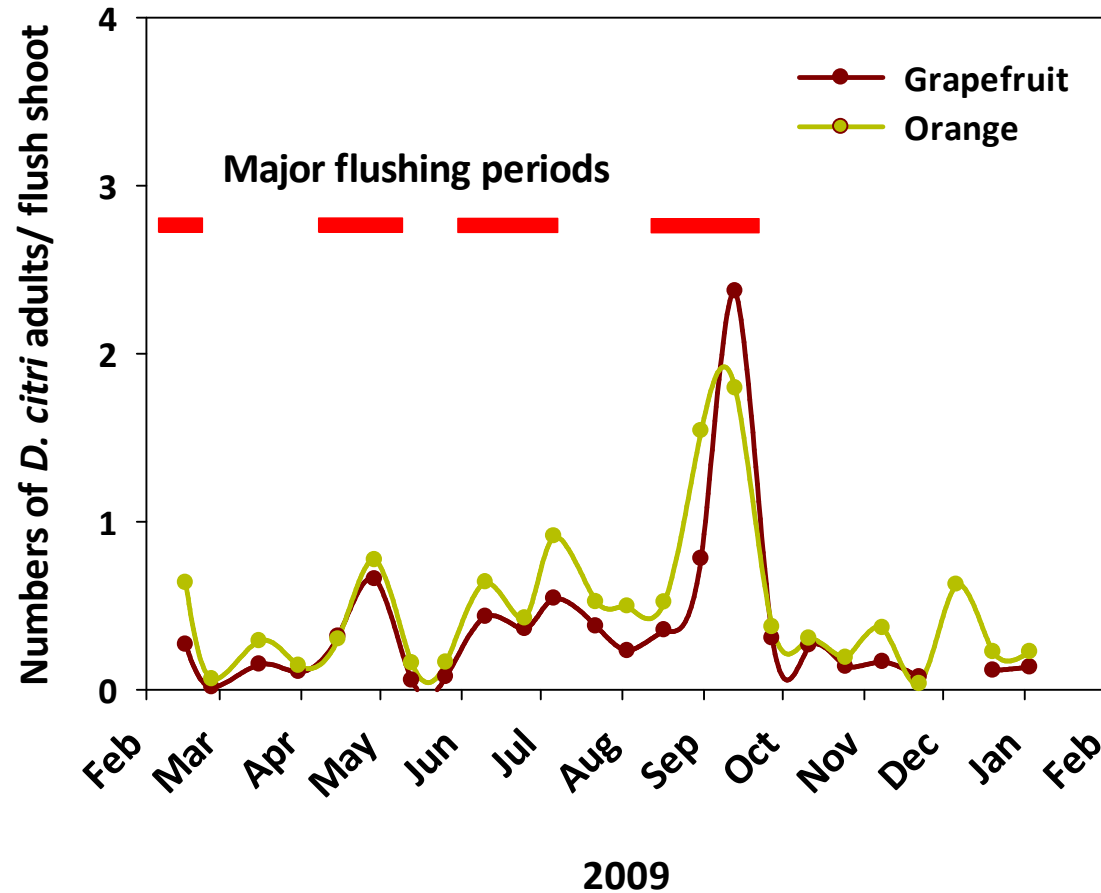
- **Eggs are deposited on soft tissue**-As flush shoots mature their softness decreases. **Good relationship between tissue softness and number of eggs laid**
  - Flush shoot availability, softness and speed of maturity could explain differential densities of ACP on ≠host plants (**lemon shoots are soft, lime & lemon frequent flushing**)
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## ***Factors governing *D. citri* populations***

- In citrus groves, ACP population is intimately related to flush cycles because egg laying and nymphal development ONLY occur on young shoots
  - **Host species also determine ACP population**
  - Periods of peak ACP populations depend on the region:  
E.g. in Florida large ACP infestations occur from late Spring to mid-Summer, **in contrast in Texas, ACP populations gradually increased reaching its peak in September (late Summer to Fall)**
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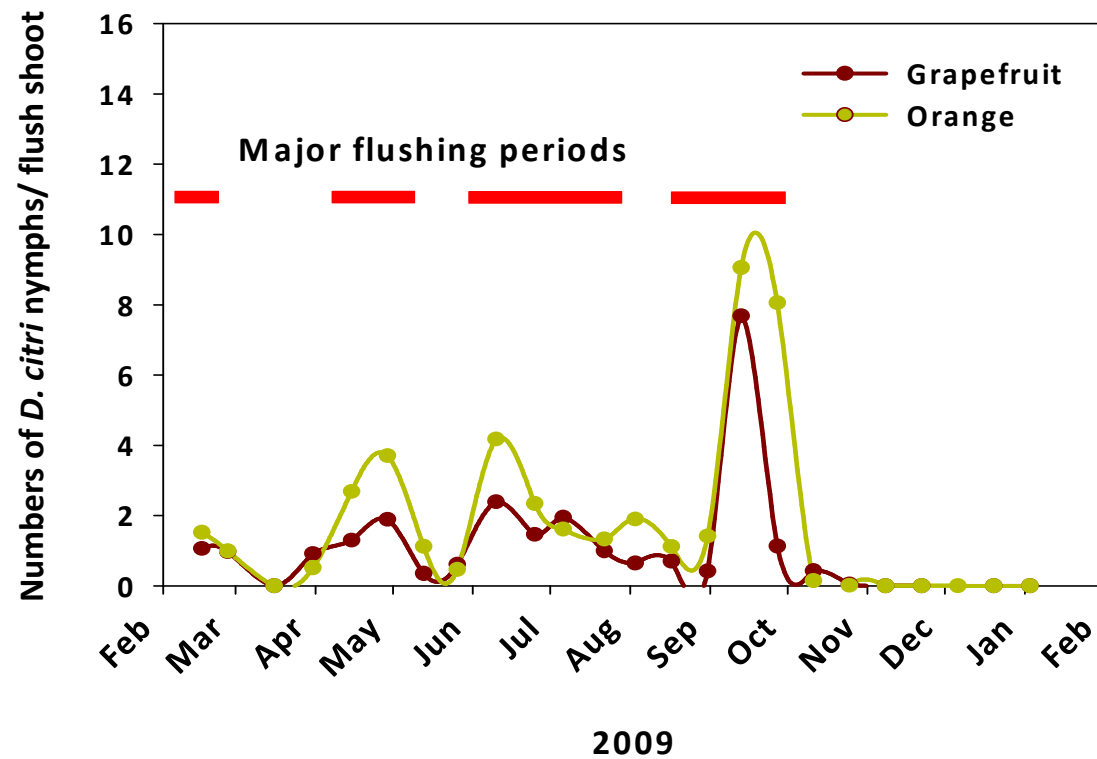
# Factors governing *D. citri* populations



- Adult numbers increased with new flush shoots

# Factors governing *D. citri* populations

Immatures only present when new flush are produced



## ACP flight behavior

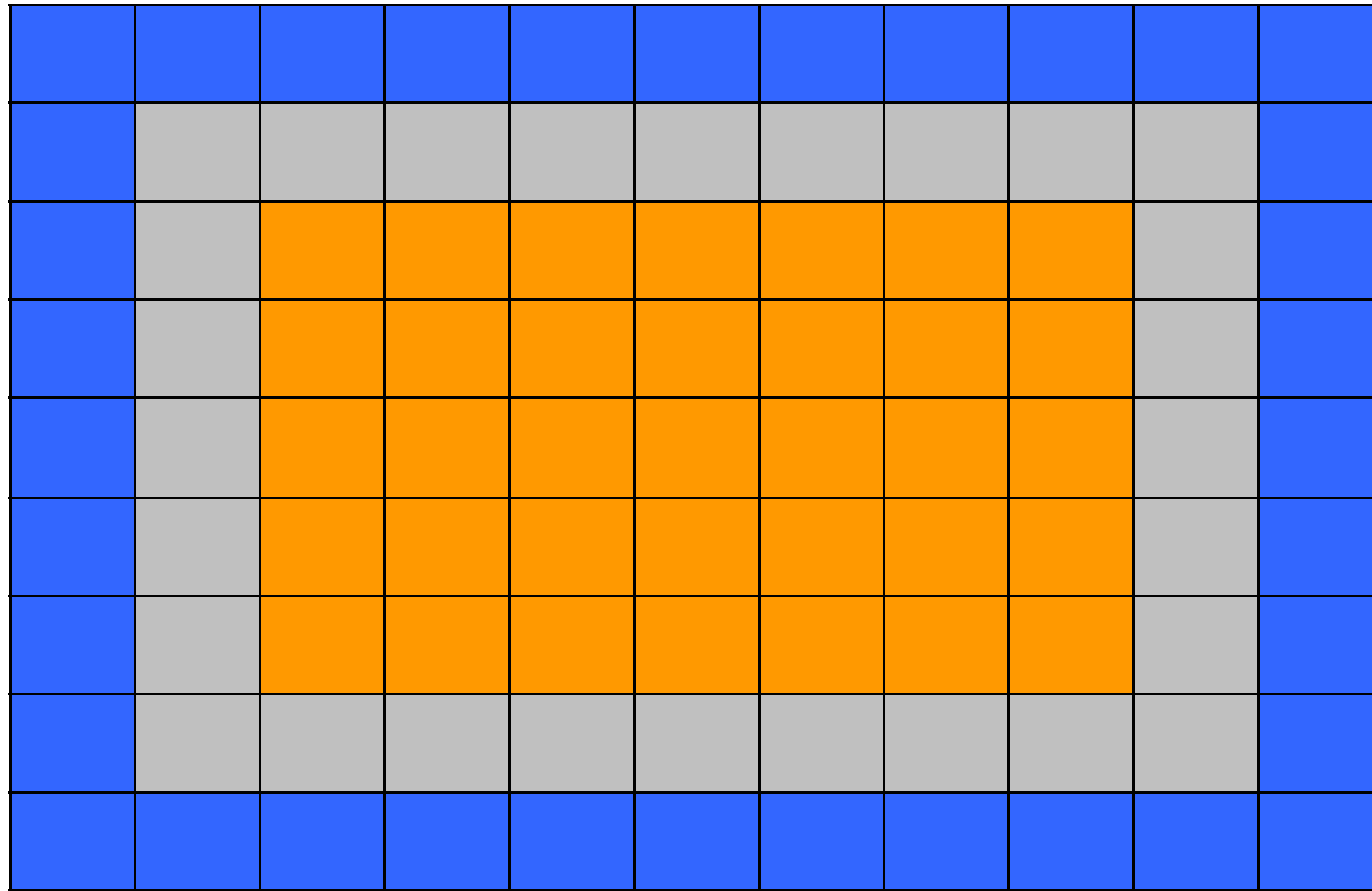
- **ACP is a weak flyer:** Adults cannot fly very far or sustain long flights because of weak muscles relative to large size of wings
- **Longest flight is 47-49 minutes in flight mill** (Arakawa & Mivamoto 2007)
- Longest distance is 978m for females and 1.2 km for males (speed 1.4 km/hr)
- **ACP active during daytime**
- ACP can be transported by winds over long distance
- **However due to its posture, ACP adults mostly face the direction where wind is coming from: explain higher densities on southeast of groves in FL & TX** (dominant wind SE)

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## Field distribution

- ACP are frequent movers, move frequently between adjacent groves, thus explaining the border effects in ACP spatial distribution in the field
  - Studies need to be conducted within each region to determine which side of the grove is the most infested
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# Field distribution studies of *D. citri*



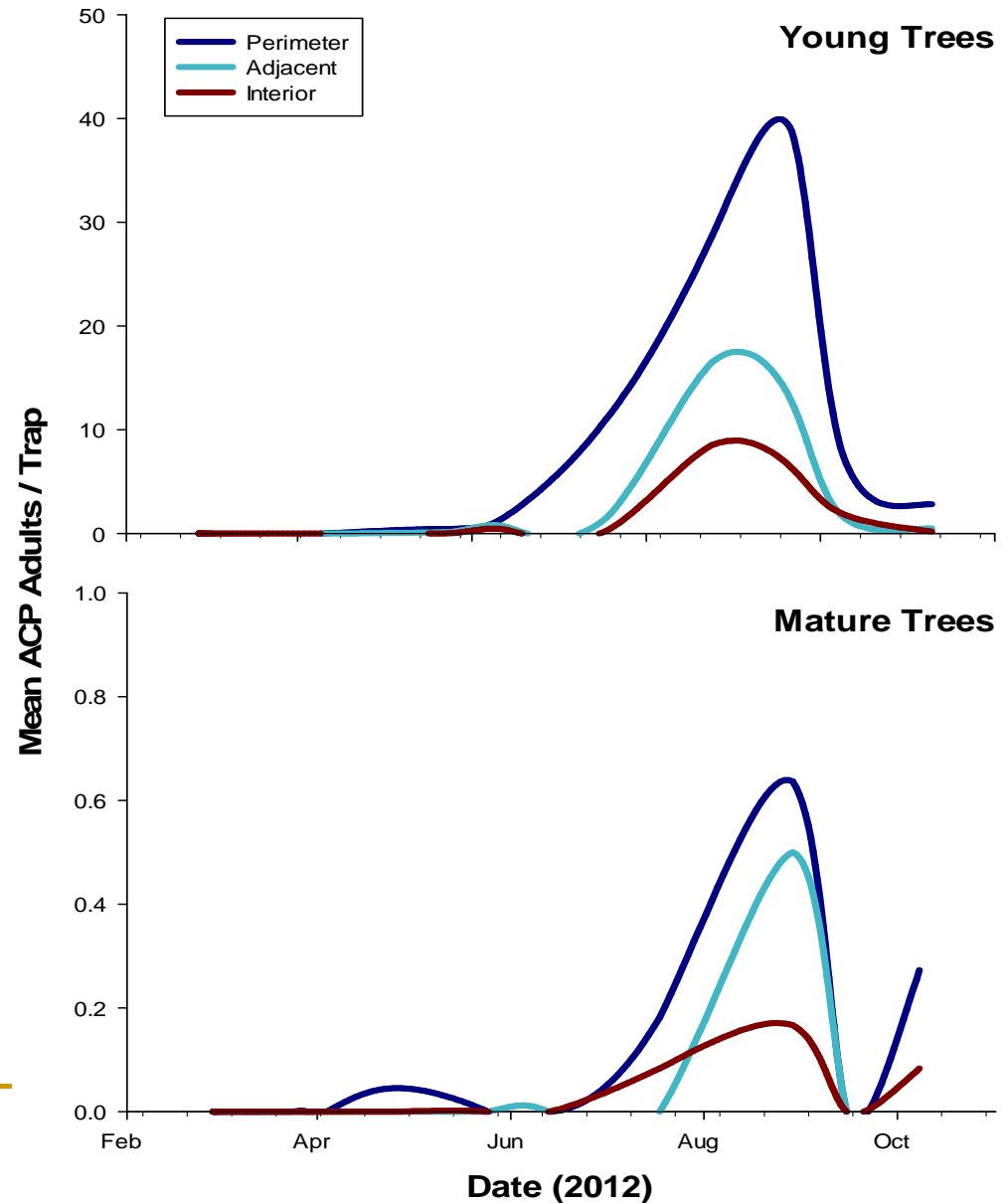
Blue Border

Gray Adjacent

Orange Interior

# Field distribution

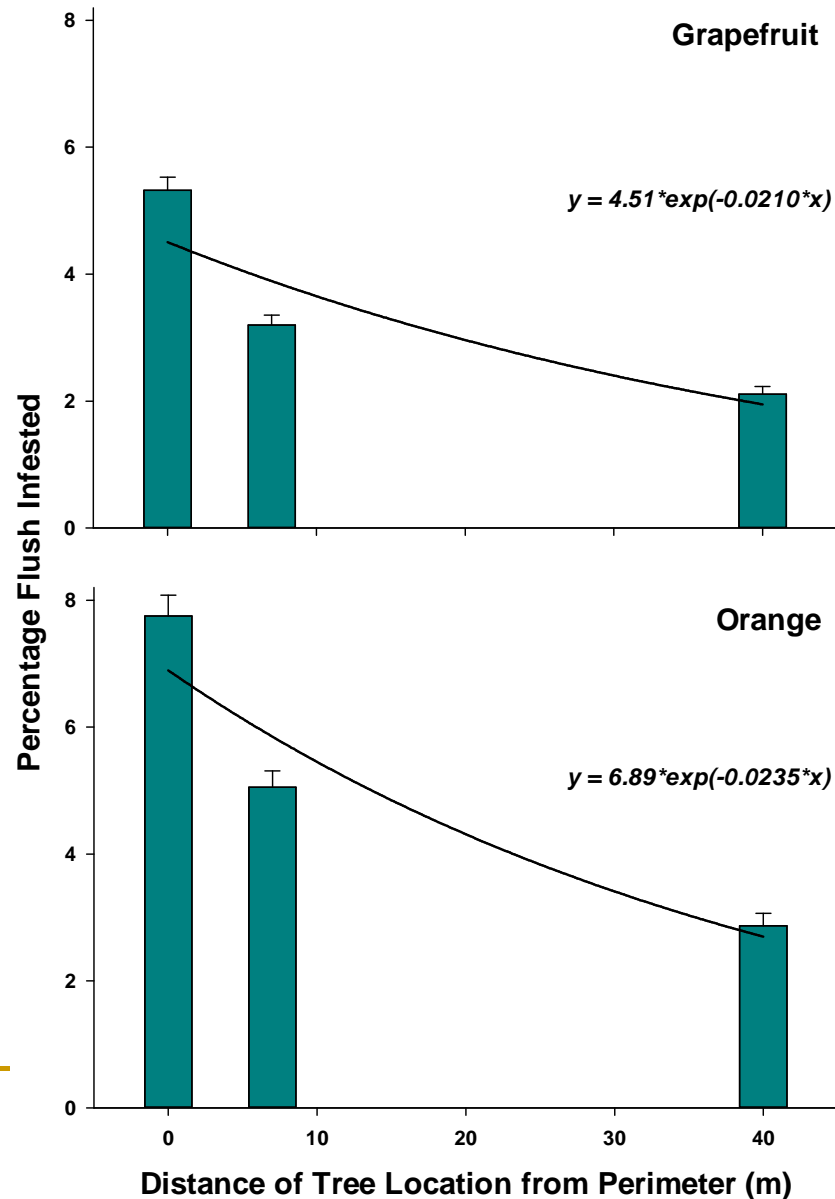
- Strong edge effects in the distribution of ACP that could be used for developing control methods



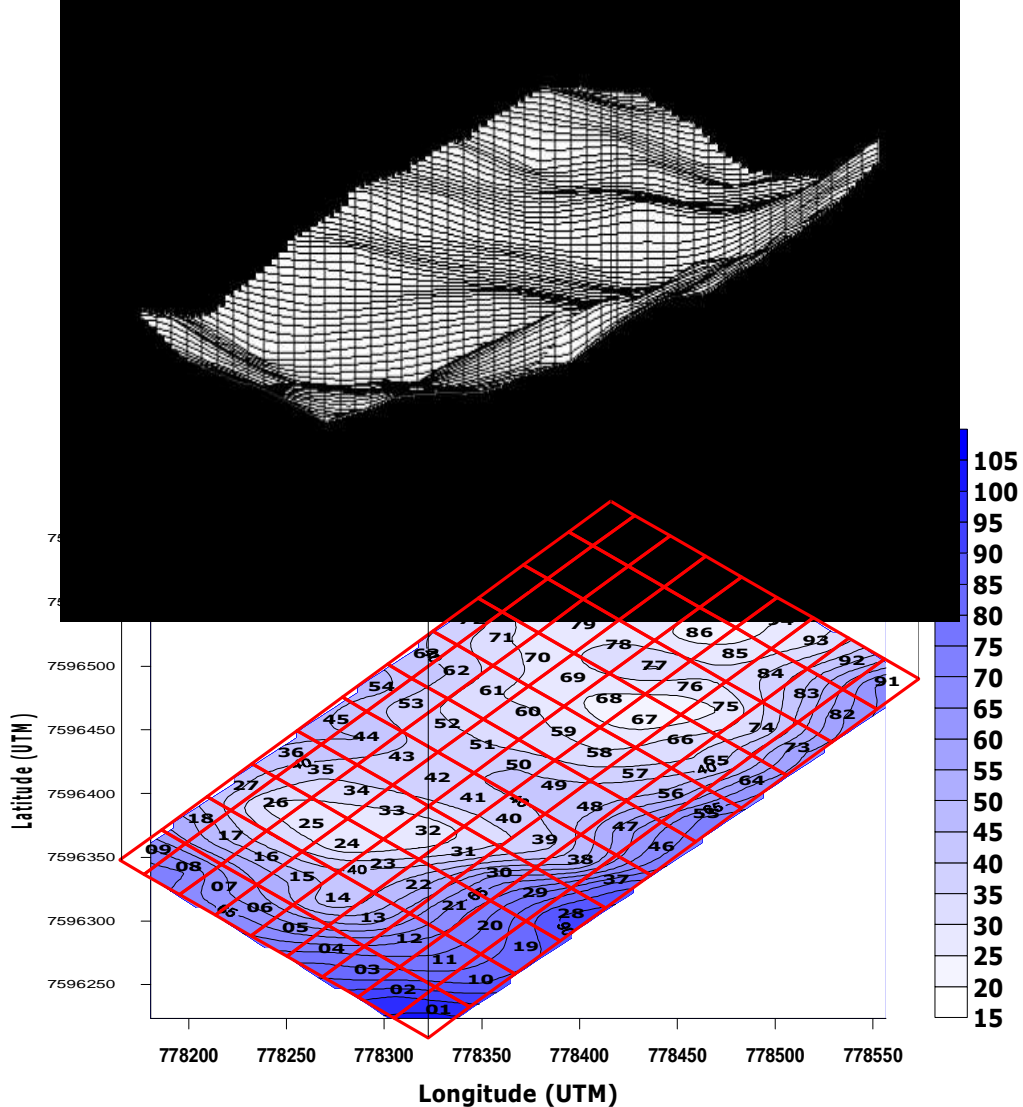


# Field distribution

- Strong edge effects in the distribution of ACP that could be used for developing control methods



# Field distribution



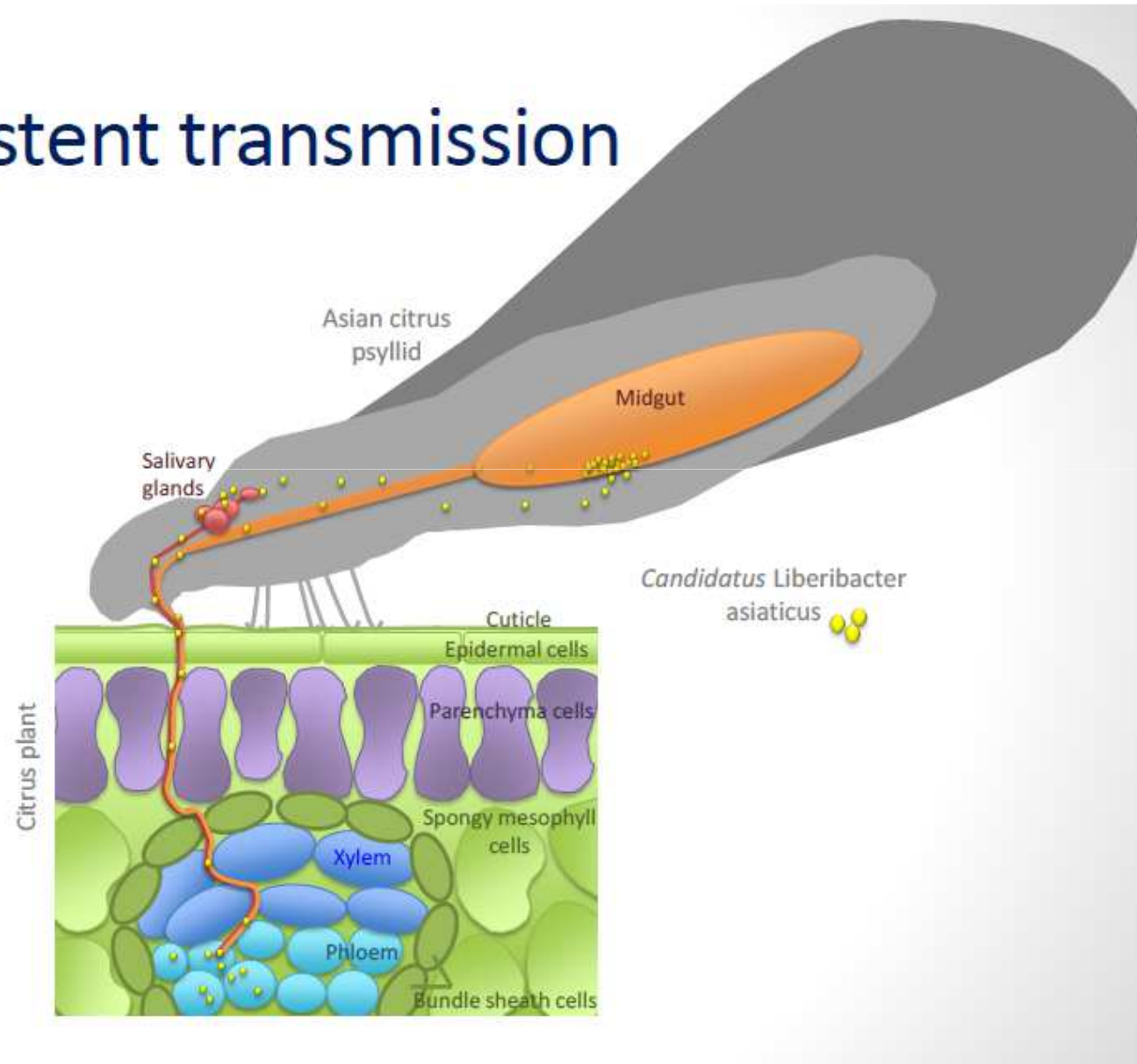
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## ACP Monitoring

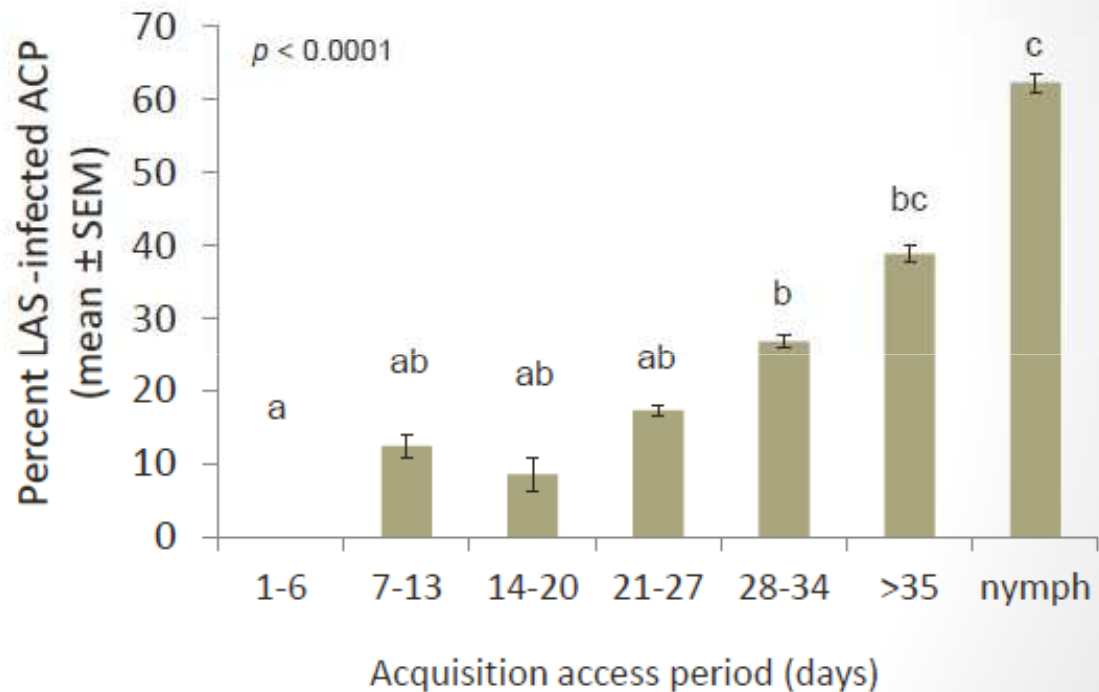
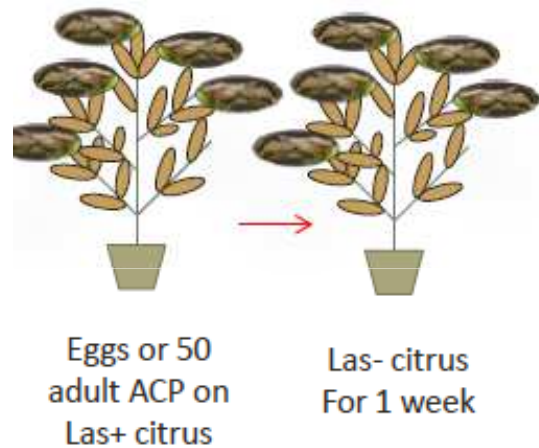
- **Monitoring of ACP:**
    - visual observations (for immatures)
    - tap sampling (beat sheets, bucket)
    - Sticky traps (yellow & lime-green)
    - Sweep nets & vacuum
  - Choice of method depends on objectives of study
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# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

## Persistent transmission



# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

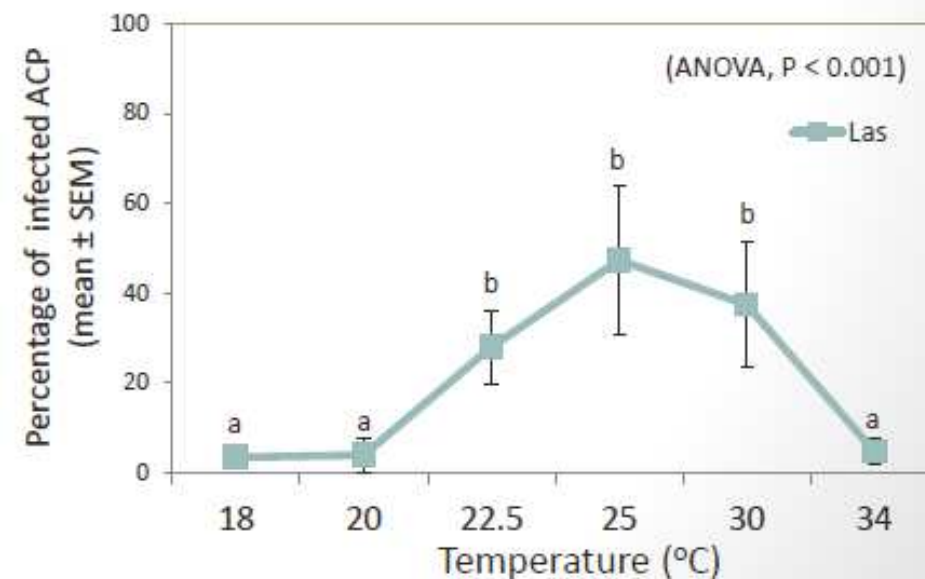


- Acquisition of Las by ACP greatest when reared on infected plant

# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

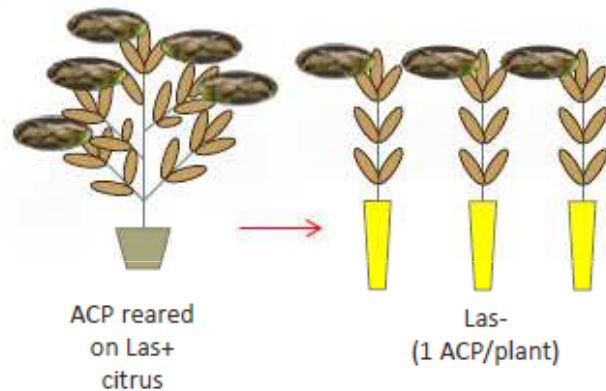
Does acquisition change with temperature?

- ACP reared on Las-infected plants and removed two weeks after adult emergence



# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

## Transmission: Inoculation

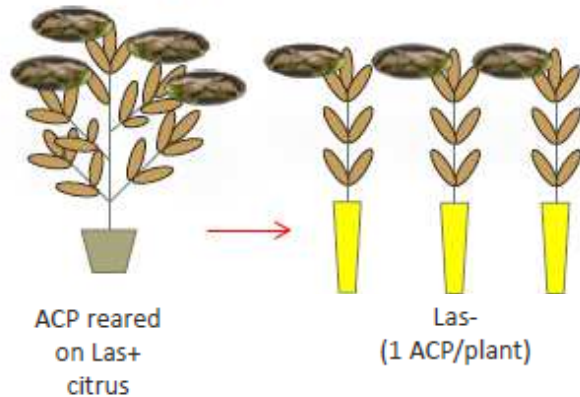


- ACP transferred to healthy citrus for 1-15 d inoculation access periods (IAPs)

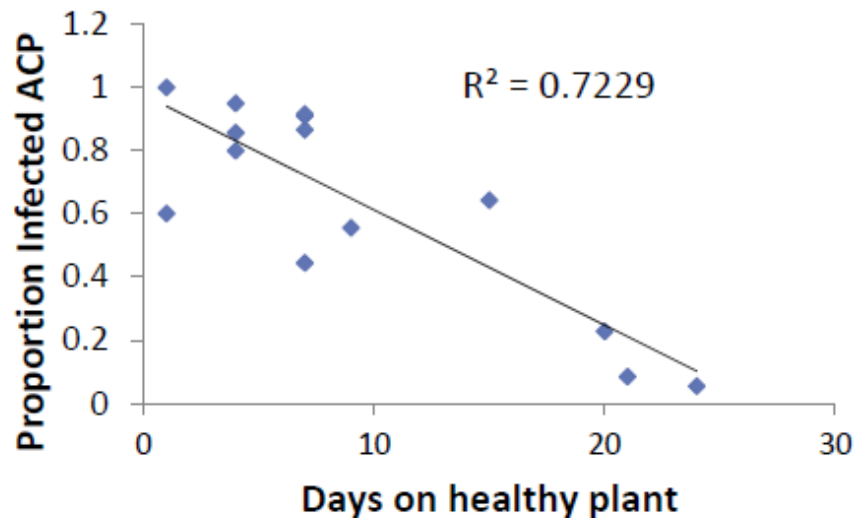
IAP (days)	% Positive psyllids (N)	Infected plants (%)
1	45.7 (35)	6.3 a
4	72.4 (58)	7.1 a
7	81.3 (48)	7.7 a
15	69.2 (39)	3.7 a

# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

Do psyllids retain the pathogen throughout their lifetime?



- ACP reared from eggs on Las+ citrus
- Held for 1-25 d, then tested for Las with real-time PCR
- N= 10-40 ACP per day



Retention of Las by ACP decreases over time



# CLas acquisition and transmission by ACP

## Pathogen-vector interaction: Transovarial Transmission

Developmental stage	<i>n</i>	% Infected offspring
Eggs	49	2.0
Nymphs	48	6.3
Adults	42	2.4



- Low rate of vertical transmission (parent-offspring)

# Summary

- ❑ ACP from India, 2 founding events in America
- ❑ ACP in North America from southwestern Asia
- ❑ ACP exhibit strong host plant preference: **Lime, Lemon**  
**>> Sweet oranges >> Grapefruit**
- ❑ Population fluctuations depend on flush cycles
- ❑ Border effects on ACP distribution
- ❑ Frequent movement of ACP between groves
- ❑ Spatio-temporal behavior of ACP dictates AWM strategies for ACP
- ❑ Acquisition of CLas greatest at nymphal stage  
(management strategies should prevent nymphal development)

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# Acknowledgments

Dr. De Leon, USDA

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Dr. Pelz-Stelinski, UF

Dr. M. Rogers

Dr. P. Yamamoto Univ of Sao Paolo

TX Citrus Growers

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**THANK YOU!**  
**GRACIAS**

