Diseases caused by arthropod-transmitted virus and Liberibacter in southwestern desert crops

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Viruses are very small parasites

- Virus = very small, non-cellular parasites of cells.
- 'Obligate' = require a living host.
- Virus particles are produced from the assembly of pre-formed components
- Other organisms grow from an increase in the sum of their components and reproduce by division.
- Viruses do not divide, they replicate their genome and make proteins needed to replicate and make new particles.



Plant viruses: Different nucleocapsid shapes and sizes



Viruses are obligate parasites = Require a host to reproduce or 'replicate'



Challenges

- **Plant virus-insect vector complexes** are the single most important causes of biotic stress in subtropical/tropical crops
- New variants emerging = human activities, cropping practices, climate change
- Plant virus **disease incidence on the rise**:
 - Food production (arable land) increased to feed more people
 - large-scale monoculture production
 - genetically uniform varieties; little or no resistance to insect feeding or viral pathogens
 - other pathogens that once limited production can be managed
 - climate change distribution, seasonal abundance, other
- **Particularly important vectors** aphids, leafhoppers, mealybugs, psyllids, thrips, whitefly-transmitted viruses
- Seed borne viruses more problematic as heirloom and land races are revived, becoming more popular



Six legged transportation

• Order Hemiptera

True bugs - cucurbit yellow vine agent, a bacterium Leafhoppers Planthoppers Aphids Psyllids Whiteflies

• Thysanoptera Thrips





• What do they have in common = flight for dispersal, phloem or xylem feeding; co-evolved with plant pathogens they transmit



Plant viruses and fastidious bacterial pathogens are retained inside the vector body

In circulative transmission, they circulate from the gut into the blood, and then to the salivary glands from where they are transmitted



Stylets Foregut Gut-blood-salivary glands

Specific relationships, not just syringes on wings!

OT!!

Types of Virus-Vector Relationships



Watson, 1946; Costa, et al., 1959; Duffus, 1963

Second most important: transmission – through seed

- About 20% of the known plant viruses are transmitted through seed (of at least one host species)
- Many species can be infected through seeds
- Legumes, Composites (lettuce), Cucurbitaceae
- Importance
 - 1% transmission can give multiple foci of infection means 10⁵ in 10⁷ plants per hectare
- Globalization of seed industry increases risk of dispersal of viruses, even at a low rate of seed transmission.

Cotton -- Whitefly-transmitted geminiviruses

New World: low diversity *Cotton leaf crumple virus*: AZ, CA, TX, Mexico, Guatemala, Caribbean, Brazil (93-100%) (Idris and Brown, in prep)









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Asia: extreme diversity *Cotton leaf curl virus* **complex** (8+ species?) Often-same beta, different alphasats







Africa, Arabian Peninsula

Cotton leaf curl Gezira virus: moderate diversity Sudan cotton, Sida (Idris & Brown) Burkina Faso okra (Tiendrébéogo, 2010) Arabian Peninsula: CLCuGV-okra TomatoL TYLCV-OM recomb (Asia-Oman) with Gezira alphasatellite (CLCuGA) Diverse betasats 88-98%, alphasats 89%









Cotton leaf curl disease pandemic timeline – Pakistan/India = poses 'high risk' to US



Resistance-breaking Burewala strain of CLCuMV

Host-plant resistance to CLCuMV + beta satellite in *Gossypium hirsutum*



Rahman, M., Hussain, D., Malik, T. A., and Zafar, Y. (2005). Genetics of resistance against cotton leaf curl disease in *Gossypium hirsutum*. *Plant Pathol*. 54, 764-772.

Geographical expansion of CLCuMV 2008-2013 First introduction into China



Cotton leaf curl virus complex 2015 Next, introduced into Philippines *via* Hibiscus /ornamentals



Poses high risk to US and other cotton growing areas = keep a look out for unusual symptoms

Common viruses of desert forage and vegetable crops

Legumes: alfalfa, common bean, garbanzo bean tepary bean

Most common viruses that infect legumes:

Alfalfa mosaic virus

Bean yellow mosaic, **Bean common mosaic**, Bean yellow mosaic (potyviruses) Bean leaf roll / Beet western yellows (puteoviruses) Cucumber mosaic virus

Many annual and perennial legumes, and wide range of non-legume-crop plants, and weeds are susceptible to these viruses = of epidemiological importance.

Most important currently in our deserts: Alfalfa mosaic virus many strains infects more than 220 species of plants in 73 genera extreme example among plant viruses

AMV - Distributed worldwide where alfalfa and clovers are grown





Symptoms

- Vary with host species
- Foliar: Bright yellow mosaic or mottle
- Localized necrosis on leaves, flowers, fruit
- Phloem necrosis, stems and roots
- Can cause severe stunting or plant death
- Seed number and size are reduced







AMV host range and transmission

- Wide host range over 700 plant species in 170 genera, 70 families (mostly *Fabaceae*)
- Natural hosts: alfalfa, lucerne, red/white clover, common bean and faba bean
- Transmission
 - Sap / mechanical inoculation field machinery/mowing
 - Aphids: non-persistent (few min to few hrs) by Aphis craccivora, A. pisum, A. fabae, M. persicae
 - Seed: 1-10% transmission
 - Can persist for up to 5 years in a seed lot



Cucumber mosaic virus - distributed worldwide





CMV Symptoms

- Symptoms differ with virus strain and host
- Common bean
 - Mosaic and/or mottle
 - Necrosis
 - Chlorosis
 - Leaf deformation
- Yield loss 5 75% / varies with
 - Age of infection
 - Virus strain
 - Environmental conditions
- Satellite RNA may intensify symptom expression





CMV Host Range and Transmission

- Wide host range, over 1000 species in over 100 families
 - dicots and monocots: bean, cucurbits: cucumber & melons, pepper, tomato
- Aphids transmission
 - Non-persistent manner
 - Over 80 spp., important *Myzus persicae* and *Aphis gossypii*
- Seed transmitted in some hosts, >10% in *common bean*
- Dodder
- Mechanical



Non-persistently transmitted

Cucumber mosaic virus

Vector: Aphids

Legumes and cucurbits

• Can be seedborne

cukes

melon

- Non-persistent
- Transmission in a few minutes



Electron micrograph - CMV





Tospoviruses



- Serious threats to vegetables, ornamentals
- ~1000 species of plants in
 •70 plant families (dicots & monocots)
- Estimated global yield losses of up to \$1 billion



Thrips are the vectors of tospoviruses

Thrips palmi

T. tabaci T. setosus Scirtothrips dorsalis Ceratothrips claratris

Flower thrips

Frankliniella occidentalis F. fusca F. bispinosa F. schultzei F. intosa F. zucchini F. schultzei







Onion thrips

Association between tospoviruses and thrips vectors: specificity



Melon severe mosaic virus -first cucurbit tospovirus identified in Americas/ Mexico

Impact on the crop

- Netted and honeydew melons, squash, and watermelon develop severe symptoms
- Epidemiology is not understood thus far, only identified in Mexico
- Nearby countries of Central America and SW USA are at risk
- Field test kits have been developed to detect / identify this virus

Symptoms:

Mosaic, leaf blistering, leaf formation, and fruit splitting

Control:

Remove infected plants Control thrips populations Host resistance will be the primary control measure – mostly unavailable

Melon severe mosaic virus

watermelon



Melons



New tospovirus of pepper and tomato: Capsicum chlorosis virus



Emerging virus in Southeast Asia and Australia Could be problematic in the US if introduced



Exotic: Tomato yellow leaf curl virus

introduced some time ago, persists in US

Taxonomy: Begomovirus family: Geminiviridae

- Particle morphology: Paired icosahedral 20 x32 nm
- Genome type and size: ssDNA, circular 5.2 kb
- Vector: Polyphagous whitefly- *Bemisia tabaci* complex
- Symptoms: leaf curling, stunting, reduced fruit set
- Distribution:

Worldwide in much of the tropics

Western Hemisphere: U.S., Mexico, Caribbean





Symptoms / other hosts

Narrow host range:

<u>Crops</u>: Bean, pepper, tomato <u>Weeds</u>: *D.stramonium*, milkweed <u>Ornamentals</u>: petunia, others





pepper

Worldwide Distribution - TYLCV Is



In western US & Mexico, TYLCV was introduced on tomato transplants and ornamentals- from east to west.

Whitefly vector transmission

• Persistent in vector: once acquired, can transmit for life

Transmission pathway

- Circulative: circulates in the vector after ingestion via mouthparts
- Particles pass into midgut and cross the gut membrane to enter hemolymph
- Enters salivary glands; from there, transmitted in saliva during feeding
- Acquisition access period = 30 min+
- Inoculation access period = 30 min+
- Latent Period = 8+hrs)



| Gut | Salivary |
|---------|----------|
| oarrier | glands |
~ Among the 32 viruses that infect cucurbits/melons ..

Closteroviruses Vector: whiteflies Bemisia tabaci, Trialeurodes vaporariorum

Beet pseudo-yellows virus (US) Cucumber vein yellowing virus (Europe) *Cucurbit yellow stunt disorder virus* (Israel, Jordan, Spain, Guatemala, Texas, US)* Cucumber yellows virus (Japan) Muskmelon yellows disease (France, Spain)

*Introduced to US 1990



Melons - honeydew and cantaloupe Studies indicate the CYSDV host range is broader than reported in Mid-East



Most recent introduction: CYSDV

1985 First recognized as a new virus disease in the Middle East

1999 <u>Middle East</u>: Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE

1996 Europe: Spain (south coast melons, cucumbers)

1999-02 <u>North America:</u> Zacapa Valley, Guatemala, Tamaulipas, Mexico; Colima, Mexico; Texas-USA

2006 <u>North America</u>: Arizona/California, USA; Sonora, Mexico

Virus particles- long flexuous rods 2000 x 12 nm



2000 nm long x 10 nm wide



Semi-persistent transmission
Transmits for ~3 days post AAP
Yellows symptoms
Not seedborne



Symptoms in squash



yellow



acorn





POSSIBLE ROUTES OF SPREAD to the U.S. - known sources in Texas, Mexico, Guatemala (map Nolte & Brown)





Cucurbit-infecting begomoviruses

Squash leaf curl virus (1970-1980) Squash mild leaf curl virus (1970-1980) Cucurbit leaf curl virus (emerged: 1998)



Distribution: AZ, CA, TX, Mexico Vector: *B. tabaci* A & B biotypes Persistent transmission: lifetime of the vector Not seed transmitted

pumpkin



watermelon

Squash leaf curl virus (1979)





• Host Range

Bean Cucumber (mild) Melon (mild) Squash & Pumpkin Watermelon

2. Squash mild leaf curl virus:Infects Bean, Squash, PumpkinAlso- mixtures occur of SMLCV+SLCV



Cucurbit leaf curl virus - 'emerged in 1998 US & Mexico



melons



•<u>Host Range</u> Bean Cucumber (severe) Melon (severe) Squash & Pumpkin Watermelon



Melon chlorotic leaf curl virus



- New bipartite begomovirus of melon (*Cucumis* species) (Brown *et al.*, 2002)
- Emerged in Zacapa Valley, Guatemala 2000
- Symptoms: interveinal chlorosis, leaf curling, stunting, fruit discoloration & cracking

MCLCV symptoms in melon leaves & fruit



Fruit lesions



Fruit discoloration

Cracking

New ssRNA viruses with unusual symptoms

-Torrado virus Two ssRNAs (7807 + 5403) -First identified in Spain 2005, then Mexico, Guatemala, other



Compare TSWV

Tomato apex necrosis virus Two ssRNAs (6478 + 3013) -Identified in Mexico 2006





Tomato apex necrosis virus Mexico 2005-07





Fruit symptoms could possibly be confused with those caused by ToSWV

Emergent fastidious bacterial pathogens

Ca. Liberibacter spp.



Obligate pathogen Psyllid vector

Relatively host-specific

Citrus greening disease (HLB)

•Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease is caused by three *Ca*. Liberibacter species

•Causal agent is fastidious, gram-negative, phloemlimited bacteria, *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus

Transmitted by Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*Circulative, propagative transmission











D. citri

Search for the microbe - Not a Virus – but a Fastidious Bacterium



Bacterial

cells in plant

The genome of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter has been determined

The pathogen forms 'biofilms' in the host:

- A biofilm is an aggregate or group of microorganisms in which cells adhere to a surface – usually embedded in a matrix of slime.
- 0.2mm
- This is one part of the life cycle; the other part consists of cells that float or swim

HLB symptoms

- Leaf 'mottling' that crosses veins on older
 leaves is the best 'diagnostic symptom' to look for.
- Newest leaves have symptoms – similar to zinc deficiency
- Notch in leaf is due to feeding by Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of Liberibacter, the citrus greening pathogen.



Photo: Susan Halbert, DPI

'Funky' fruit symptoms - citrus greening





Orange fruit photos: Jose Luiz Rodrigues (Brazil)



Grapefruit - Florida (S. Halbert)











Psyllid Vector



- Small, about the size of aphids (2.5 mm)
- s.o. Homoptera (Hemiptera)
- Phloem feeder



- Prefers new growth
- Numbers increase rapidly when plants are actively growing
- Feeding alone causes damage when psyllids are abundant
- <u>Two vector species</u>:

Asian species vector: Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri - U.S. African species vector:* African citrus psyllid *Trioza erytreae*



Life Cycle – Asian citrus psyllid



- Eggs are bright yellow or orange
- Deposited on young leaves
- Up to 1000-2000 eggs/female ~ 3 wk
- Nymphs yellowish orange-new growth of leaves and stems
- Waxy honeydew visible on leaves
- Nymphs move slowly, no flight
- Adults (winged) disperse/migrate









5 immature instars



Chrus thread found The second second

Other Pathways..

Of the pathogen



- Infected seedlings, budwood, infected plants; smuggling of plants
- Ornamental hosts: Murraya paniculata (orange jasmine) 23 spp. in Rutaceae
- Vegetative transmission by grafting

Of the psyllid vector - invasive species

- Psyllids dispersing on wind currents and major tropical disturbances
- Transmission rate variable bacterium irregularly distributed plant



Asian citrus psyllids can fly long distances



Asian citrus psyllids move on unprocessed fruit



Photos: Susan Halbert and Matt Brodie

Citrus greening sometimes is for sale ... local nurseries and tourist shops (FL)







Fifteen U.S. States or Territories are under full or partial quarantine due to the detected presence of Asian citrus psyllid and/or the greening pathogen

Alabama, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands



- Depts of Agriculture in CA and AZ
 / USDA-APHIS psyllid monitoring
- Arizona has a \$37 million dollar citrus industry



(Courtesy, J. Caravetta, ADA)



Zebra chip of potato / Vein-greening of tomato 2004-onward in US

-Causal agent: fastidious, gram-negative, phloem-limited bacterium *Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum (CLso)

-Vector: potato/tomato psyllid Bactericera cockerelli (Sulc)

-Infects phloem of plant –disrupts metabolism, source and sinklike effects in tubers, tomato fruit – sugars don't accumulate

-Multiplies and circulates in the psyllid vector









Potato (tomato) psyllid



Infected PoP gut

Uninfected PoP gut







SEM images of Liberibacter-infected psyllid guts





Symptoms of tomato vein greening



Vein-Greening & Wilting



Life Cycle History Study at 26C

| Stage | Duration | % Survival | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Egg | 5 – 8 days | 40.6 % | Male/Female Ratio: |
| Instars | 19 – 24 days | 47.3 % | 1.1 +/- 0.12 |
| Adult | 10 – 15 days | 62.7 % | |
| Life Cycle | 32 - 38 days | | |
| | | | |



Duration in each stage is temperature dependent

Abdullah N.M.M (2008) Life History of the potato psyllid *Bactericera cockerelli* (Homoptera:Psyllidae) in controlled environment agriculture in Arizona. *African Journal of Agricultural Research* **3**, 60-67.

Dispersal and overwintering biology of potato psyllid

•Wind-assisted dispersal

•Seasonal migration

•Genetic difference between central and western psyllid populations (Liu, 2006)

•Overwinter survival can occur even when conditions are unfavorable for psyllid development

•Ovarian diapause (inactive when food needed for breeding is absent)

•Overwintering in tropical and/or temperate species ?



Proposed recent migration routes of PoP in North America

Experimental Host Range Study

Ca. Liberibacter psyllaurous

24hr AAP; 7 day IAP

(20 adults/plant) on transmission of *Ca*. Liberibacter

Solanaceaespecific in crops

Some wild hosts In other plant families

| P • • • • • | Test species | Inoc | Inoculation access period (7 days) number of infected plants (%) confirmed by PCR | | | | | | Symptoms (days) | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|--|---------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------------|----------|
| | | 7d | ays | 15 d a | ys | 25days | 3 | 5days | | |
| | Tomato | 3/4 | (75%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 11 d |
| | Potato | 3/4 | (75%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 11 d |
| | Pepper | 0/4 | (0 %) | 3/4 | (75%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 21 d |
| | Eggplant | 3/4 | (75%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 11 d |
| | Datura stramonoum | 0/4 | (0 %) | 1/4 | (25%) | 3/4 | (75%) | 4/4 | (100%) | 25 d |
| | Cotton | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | Pumpkin | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | Bean | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | Cantaloupe | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | Watermelon | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | N. benthamiana | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
| | Sugarbeet | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | 0/4 | (0 %) | NS (35d) |
Goal: <u>Healthy Plants</u>

To manage problems leading to poor health / rule to remember is:

- KNOW WHO and WHERE your enemy is
- Sounds simple - Mostly, it is ...
- ENERGY and KEEN OBSERVATIONS



BE PROACTIVE:

- Be ahead of the problem routine monitoring
- Control psyllid vectors upon arrival to prevent infection and reduce secondary infestation/infection
- Use chemicals judiciously prevent insecticide resistance
- Use clean seed (potato) and virus-free seedlings





Mission of the National Plant Diagnostic Network



Judith K. Brown, AZ Coordinator

School of Plant Sciences The University of Arizona Email: ibrown@ag.arizona.edu **MODULE 1 – Mission of the NPDN**



NPDN Mission

Enhance national agricultural security by quickly detecting and identifying introduced pests and pathogens.





Method

- Create a nationwide network of land-grant universities
- Provide training to first detectors and diagnosticians
- Establish protocols for reporting to responders and decision makers





Network Responsibilities

- Outbreak detection and identification
- Secure communications system
- Information storage and management
- Data analysis
- Reporting and alerts
- Training

Minimize Impact

MODULE 1 – Mission of the NPDN



Need for Plant Biosecurity



Maintain profitability of crop production

Invasive species cost \$ billions/year



Maintain security of food production

MODULE 1 – Mission of the NPDN





What is the National Plant Diagnostic Network? ... a Suite of Regional Networks



Pacific Territories

AZ and CA belong to the Western Regional Network

Importance of Early Detection





Everyone's role as a First Detector

- Be alert to the unusual or different
- Receive NPDN First Detector or First
 Detector Educator training
- Be placed on a national notification registry of First Detectors
- Receive pest alerts and other relevant updates
- Report new or unusual observations



Thank you

