

**Chilli Thrips  
Technical Working Group  
Conference Call  
April 10, 2008 (2:00 – 3:15 pm; ET)**

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**Participants:** Lance Osborne (Co-Chair, TWG)  
Matthew Ciomperlik (Co-Chair, TWG)  
Cindy McKenzie (USDA-ARS)  
Bob Shatters (USDA-ARS)  
Cristi Palmer (NJ – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager)  
Carol Sutherland (NM – Extension Entomologist)  
Amanda Hodges (FL – SPDN Assistant Director)  
Joe Funderburk (FL – Extension Specialist)  
Lin Schmale (Chair, IWG)  
Jack Reed (MS – Research Professor)  
Richard Stouthamer (CA- Professor)  
Eduardo Varona (Chair, I-AWG, FL, APHIS - PPQ)  
George Nash (TX- APHIS – PPQ)  
Alan Dowdy (APHIS – PPQ)  
Diane Schuble (APHIS –PPQ; Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

**Updates:**

- The new Inter-Agency Working Group chairman, Mr. Eduardo Varona, PPQ State Operations Support Officer, stationed in Miami, FL, was introduced to the group.
- Lin reported that she spoke to the States about Chilli thrips for about 15 minutes at the Southern Plant Board Meeting, emphasizing the need to concentrate on developing an integrated strategy.

**Important Discussions:**

**TWG Subgroups-** Lance reiterated the importance of the management of thrips in relation to Western Flower Thrips.

It was pointed out that Joe F. has written a White Paper on Western Flower Thrips in vegetable crops, which could be used as a template for overall thrips management. Joe would be good candidate for Best Management Practices. Some discussion was held on whether to include the Practical Biology and Ecology Group with BMP, but the consensus was to leave the groups as written in the agenda.

**Identifications-** Lance reported that Diane learned from NIS that Gillian Watson and GB Edwards can provide initial screening of Chilli Thrips suspects. Jack R. volunteered to perform this screening also. The question was asked whether identifiers can split their samples and keep half, in order to add to their own collection in developing molecular diagnostics. (NOTE: Diane received approval from NIS for identifiers to split samples. Jack Reed and Cindy McKenzie will also provide initial screening of Chilli Thrips suspects.)

[TWG = Technical Working Group; IWG = Industry Working Group; I-AWG = Inter-Agency Working Group]

**Research Update-** Cristi reported on IR-4 results, working with Matt C. and Scott L. There are more chemical options for the control of Chilli Thrips than for Western Flower Thrips. Those chemicals will not impact on level of resistance in Western Flower Thrips. Matt reported that he & Scott are looking at systemic approaches on roses. Next will be IGRs, followed by fungal pathogens. Regarding biocontrol, Lance reported that the commercially available Swirski mite achieves good success in greenhouses (while also controlling whitefly). The success rate is poor to establish it in outdoor ornamental conditions, however. Three other predators are being studied. In FL, determining host range is important when looking at ornamentals being shipped out of state. Bob S. discussed genetics and the question of the global context of the Chilli Thrips we have in the US. He referred to work by R. Stouthamer and R. Garza. Using the whitefly model, the mitochondrial gene will be used. So far there are samples from Singapore, Australia, China, and Florida. Bob will send instructions for sending more samples to be posted on the web. Alan D. suggested capturing information on molecular markers for Lucid key updates. Matt said determining the origin of US Chilli Thrips would give useful direction in where to look for foreign explorations. Lance discussed the research on transmitted viruses, saying not much has been done. It was decided that the TWG needs to enlist a virologist. The co-chairs can invite a candidate.

Lin S. asked about any research done on Chilli Thrips ability to survive in low temperatures. Some work is being done in the ARS lab, but lower lethal temperature work has been done in Japan. It was agreed that this is a critical issue and research must be done on the subject of over-wintering.

Lance will be in Europe for the next several weeks. He asked the subgroups to go forward and begin their work, using one year goals or less. Matt C. will facilitate the next call.

**Next Call: Thursday, May 1, 2008 (2 – 3 pm; ET)**