

**Chilli Thrips
Technical Working Group
Conference Call
June 16, 2008 (2:00 – 3:15 pm; ET)**

Participants: Lance Osborne (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Matthew Ciomperlik (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Scott Ludwig (Tri-Chair, TWG)
Cindy McKenzie (USDA-ARS)
David Haviland (CA-Entomology & Pest Management Farm Advisor)
Cristi Palmer (NJ – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager)
Bob Shatters (USDA-ARS)
Stuart Reitz (USDA- ARS)
Amanda Hodges (FL – SPDN Assistant Director)
Joe Funderburk (FL – Extension Specialist)
Mike Parrella (CA- Professor)
Scott Adkins
Robert Gilbertson
Eduardo Varona (Chair, I-AWG, FL, APHIS - PPQ)
Kevin Hoffman (CA- SPRO)
Diane Schuble (APHIS –PPQ; Chilli Thrips Task Force Coordinator)

Important Discussions:

Updates from the Subgroups- Matt C. led the call and asked each group to identify their participants and deliver updates.

Diagnostics- Amanda H. reported that the diagnosticians are identified. Diane was corrected that Gillian Watson, GB Edwards, Jack Reed, and Cindy McKenzie (not Cristi Palmer) will do initial screening, with new finds to be sent to SEL. Amanda reported that the emphasis since the last call has been on education issues. Joe F. pointed out that there is a problem with record keeping regarding the proper recording of adults vs. larvae. Matt C. discussed the example of *S. dorsalis* on mango from Puerto Rico and the need for economic analysis. Further discussion was held on the use of FBDDIS for sharing information.

Genetics- Cindy M. reported that the mtCO1 and variable regions (ITS and 28S -D2) in the nuclear ribosomal RNA gene are being used for phylogenetic analysis to determine if there is a species complex present. One group of samples from FL closely matched the mtCO1 sequence posted in NCBI from Taiwan. We are anticipating receiving samples from India, Pakistan and Japan for comparison. No analysis of Caribbean samples has been performed yet. Matt C. said he could make samples available from Barbados, St Vincent and Puerto Rico.

Chemical management- Scott L. said a list was sent out of what products are working. A second trial is under way. There is good baseline data on 3 products: spinetoram, spirotetramat, and spinosad. Cristi P. mentioned that Dow will be adding Chilli Thrips to their Conserve (spinosad) label within 2 years; Nichino is about to submit their initial tolfenpyrad registration and the master label will have ornamental uses. Lance discussed a grant proposal for testing pesticides on pepper. Whether to obtain IR-4 funds to test effects on beneficial insects is a critical issue. (Note: testing chemical impact on beneficial insects is not currently an IR-4 high priority project as established at the biennial Workshop, and under the current paradigm where research must have some impact on label registrations it might be unlikely to become a high priority project. With that said, there are a limited amount of discretionary funds which could be made available for testing promising tools on potentially sensitive beneficials.) Spinosad has produced good results in killing C.T. and conserving beneficials. Can we turn to WFT research to understand other choices or to push for other studies on the impact of chemicals on biocontrol organisms? Yes, Lance and Cristi will start working on the management plan based on data so far. The webpage will be assembled to develop chemical management systems. We need to identify gaps in knowledge regarding chemical impact on beneficials. Subgroups are asked to make recommendations where to go next and to identify the top 3 or 4 natural enemies.

Biological Control- Lance O. reported that he received funding and a new faculty member was added to the staff. Steven Arthurs is testing natural enemies in the greenhouse. They are screening commercially available pathogens. The Swirski mite is still not establishing in the Florida landscape, but it does well in the greenhouse. They are still looking for a magic bullet for the outdoors.

Best Management Practices- Landscape- Scott L. reported that a lot is happening. He is observing that C.T. is not establishing itself in the Texas landscape as in Florida and he will analyze why. Could it be related to the use of pyrethroids? There are only a couple of options to recommend to homeowners for chemical control as opposed to the many options for commercial growers. Recommendations need to be made for the TDA. Samples are coming in with damage, but no insects. Education will help.

-Production ornamentals- Lance O. said the focus is not on C.T. at this time and he is not receiving any reports on them.

-Cotton- Matt C. reported that a trial is underway using 10 varieties of cotton. C.T. started off slow but hundreds of organisms are now present after 3 weeks of growth. He will discuss this with Jack R. because it seems to be an early warning.

-Field crops- Joe F said nothing to report. There is still only the confirmed case of the 2 strawberry fields. Education will begin now that digital images are available.

Disease Transmission- Scott A. reported on the test that Lance conducted on peppers using TSWV inoculates to see if C.T. in Florida will move spotted wilt. It was not observed although Scott has seen it occur rapidly in WFT. It was suggested to run the test using WFT also. There is literature that says C.T. can transmit TSWV, but it was written before the genus was split into different species. It is known that C.T. transmits a virus to peanuts.

Practical Biology & Ecology and Communication, Education, and Outreach groups did not have the opportunity to present.

Assignments- Each group should write a status report for the I-AWG. Cindy M & Amanda H's template can be used.

Next Call: Tuesday or Wednesday, July 22 or 23, 2008 (2 – 3 pm; ET)