

Program Name: Expansion of Asian Citrus Psyllid Biocontrol
Project ID: 2805
Lead Agency: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.4
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 4

Project Synopsis: Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae), was discovered by Division of Plant Industry personnel in Boynton Beach, Florida in June of 1998. It quickly spread to all citrus producing counties in Florida. ACP is one of the most efficient vectors of citrus greening disease, which was found in Florida in 2005. Infection with citrus greening, or Huanglongbing (HLB), results in a systemic tree infection leading to poor fruit production and tree decline.

In cooperation with UF-IFAS, two parasitoids of the psyllid, *Diaphorencyrtus aligarhensis* (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) and *Tamarixia radiata* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), were introduced into the division's quarantine laboratory in 1998 and a permit for field release of *T. radiata* was granted in July of 1999 and *D. aligarhensis* in March of 2000.

Tamarixia radiata quickly established and can be found throughout Florida providing varying levels of ACP control. *Diaphorencyrtus aligarhensis* is not known to have established to date. However, augmentative releases of this wasp does provide additional psyllid control.

Both parasitoids are mass reared and distributed to researchers and citrus growers throughout Florida. In 2012 alone, approximately 1.5 million *T. radiata* and *D. aligarhensis* were distributed.

Current Status: Ongoing (project up for renewal annually)

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 5/1/2014
 Finish Date: 4/30/2015

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	\$535,500						
SFWMD**							
Local							
Total	\$535,500						

Contact: Dr. Greg Hodges, Chief-Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Hyperlink: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Bureaus-and-Services/Bureau-Of-Methods-Development-Biological-Control/Biological-Control/Classical-Biocontrol>
Pictures: