



# Spotted Wing Drosophila - Overview of National Research Programs

*Hannah Burrack & Lauren Diepenbrock*

*North Carolina State University  
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology*

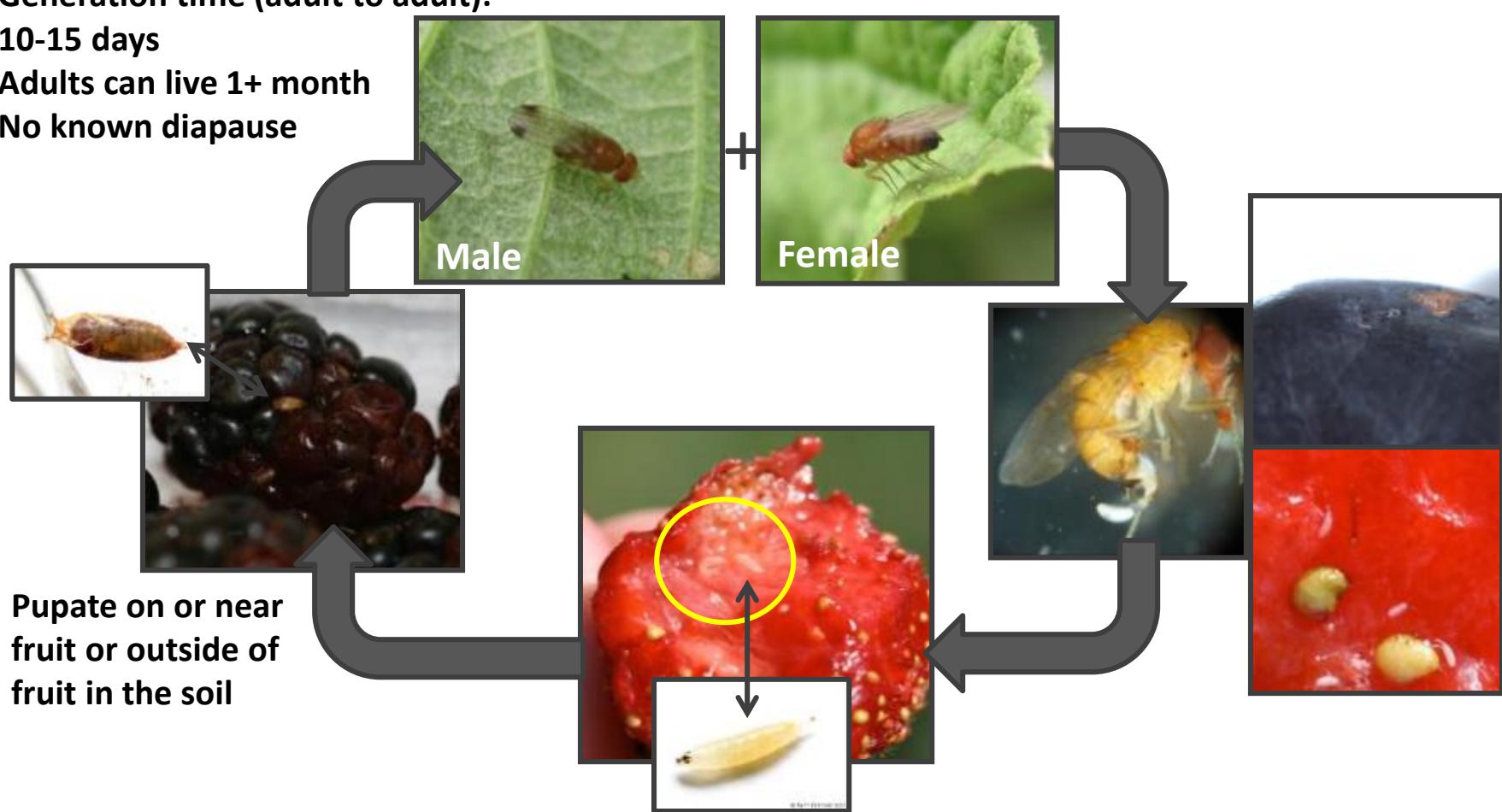
# Spotted wing drosophila life cycle

Generation time (adult to adult):

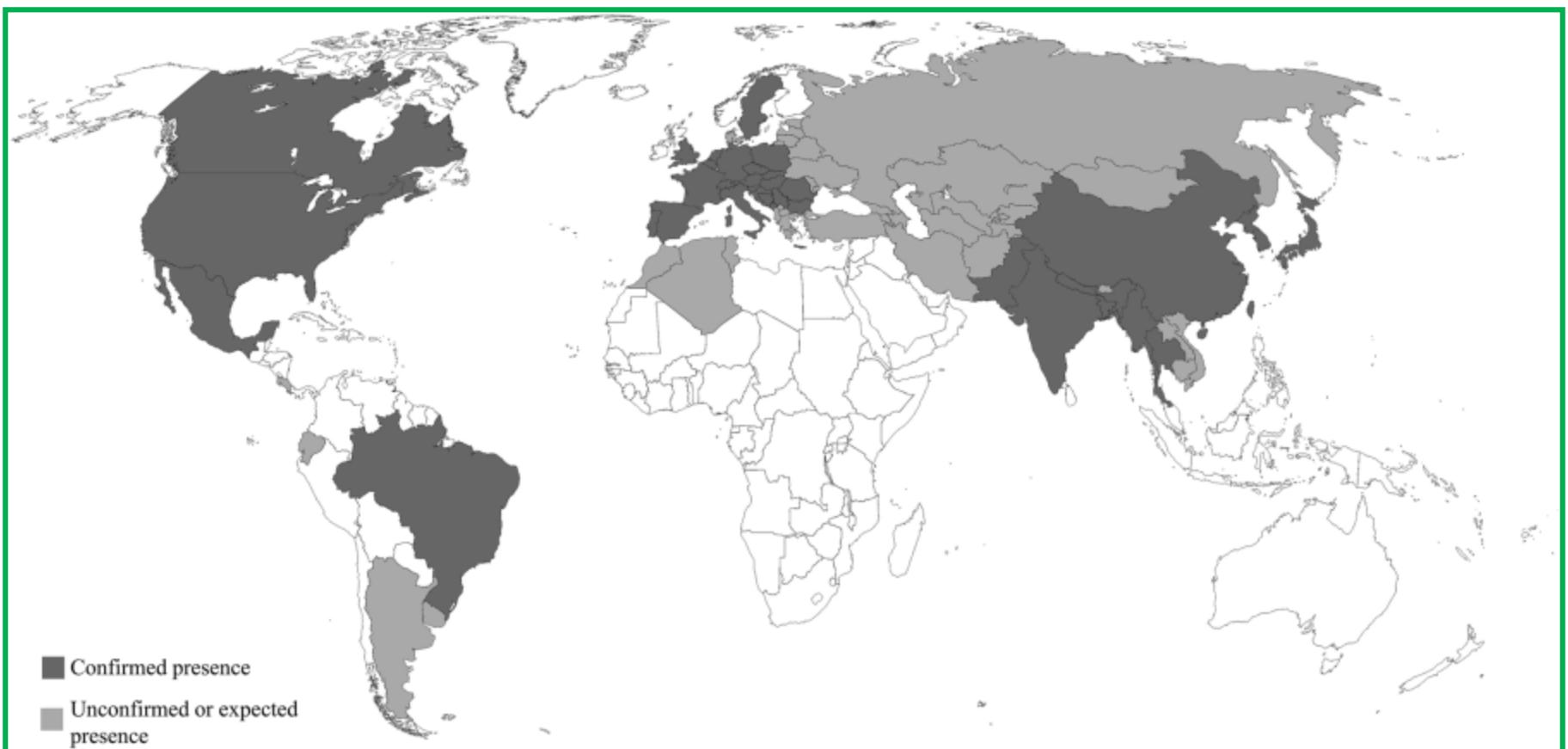
10-15 days

Adults can live 1+ month

No known diapause



# Invasion pathways



Asplen et al. 2015

# Challenges for management

- Fast life cycle → Overlapping generations
- High fecundity
- Highly mobile adults
- Wide range of crop and non-crop hosts



**>130 known hosts  
31 plant families**



# Sustainable spotted wing drosophila management for US fruit crops

Sustainable  
SWD  
Management

**Project Director: Hannah Burrack<sup>1</sup>**

Co Project Directors: Joanna Chiu<sup>2</sup>, Rufus Isaacs<sup>4</sup>, Greg Loeb<sup>5</sup>, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona<sup>6</sup>;  
Ash Sial<sup>7</sup>, Vaughn Walton<sup>8</sup>, Miguel Gomez<sup>5</sup>

Co Principle Investigators: Kent Daane<sup>3</sup>; Larry Gut<sup>4</sup>; Zack Brown<sup>1</sup>, Ke Dong<sup>4</sup>, Frank  
Drummond<sup>9</sup>, Kim Hoelmer<sup>10</sup>, Max Scott<sup>1</sup>, Zain Syed<sup>11</sup>, Nik Wiman<sup>8</sup>, Frank Zalom<sup>2</sup>

Project Coordinator: Lauren Diepenbrock<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>North Carolina State University; <sup>2</sup>University of California, Davis; <sup>3</sup>University of California, Berkeley; <sup>4</sup>Michigan State University; <sup>5</sup>Cornell University; <sup>6</sup>Rutgers University; <sup>7</sup>University of Georgia, Athens; <sup>8</sup>Oregon State University; <sup>9</sup>University of Maine, <sup>10</sup>USDA ARS; <sup>11</sup>Notre Dame University

# Project goal

Sustainable  
SWD  
Management

Four year duration: 15 Sept 2015 through 14 Sept 2019

*Project goals:*

*To integrate SWD management practices with those necessary for other pest species, to reduce the reliance on insecticides as the sole means of SWD management, to deliver this information to stakeholders, and to facilitate stakeholder adoption of recommendations.*

# Objectives

# Sustainable SWD Management

**Objective 1:** Implement and evaluate SWD management programs

**Objective 2:** Develop tactics and tools that predict SWD risks

**Objective 3:** Optimize SWD management programs

# Objective 1.1: Develop and implement grower-scale best management practices

**Lead:** Hannah Burrack

**Progress to date:** During the first two years, we have conducted 35+ on farm research projects in 5 states designed to test best management recommendations in a real-world context.

## Best Management Practices Tests

### 2016

- Using traps to time first treatment (blueberries, cherries)
- Non OP and/or non pyrethroid management programs

### 2017

- Using traps to time first treatment (blueberries, cherries)
- Comparison of programs with and without adjuvants

# 2016 Best Management Trials

## NC Blackberry spray programs

Season long program	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Class
Maximum modes of action	Mustang Max	zeta-cypermethrin	pyrethroid
	Malathion 8F	malathion	organophosphate
	Delegate	spinetoram	spinosyn
Non pyrethroid	Malathion 8F	malathion	organophosphate
	Delegate	spinetoram	spinosyn
Non organophosphate	Mustang Max	zeta-cypermethrin	pyrethroid
	Delegate	spinetoram	spinosyn

Infestation varied between crops, but not between treatments within a crop

# Objective 1.1: Develop and implement grower-scale best management practices

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# 2017 Best Management Trials

## NC Blackberry

### Rotation

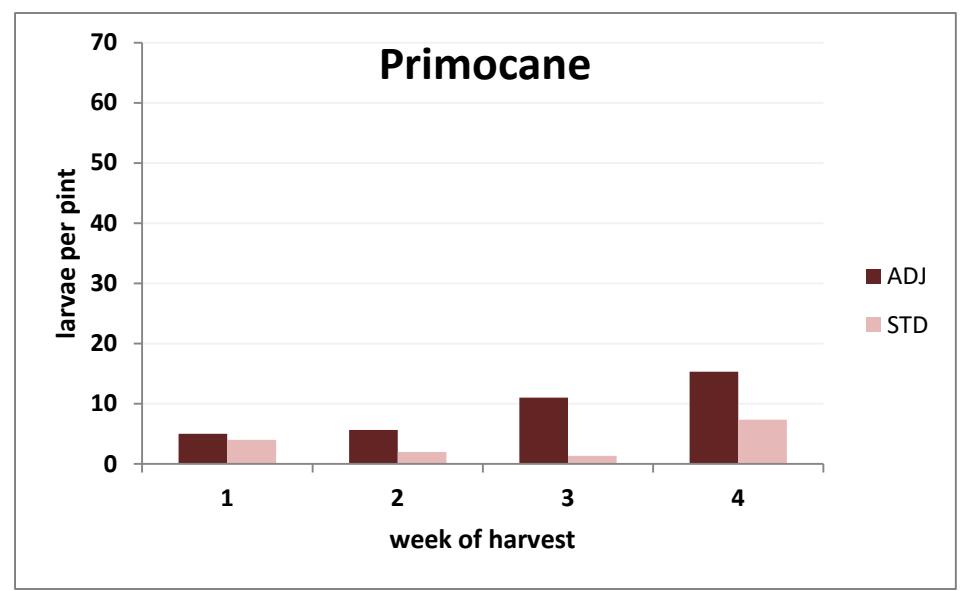
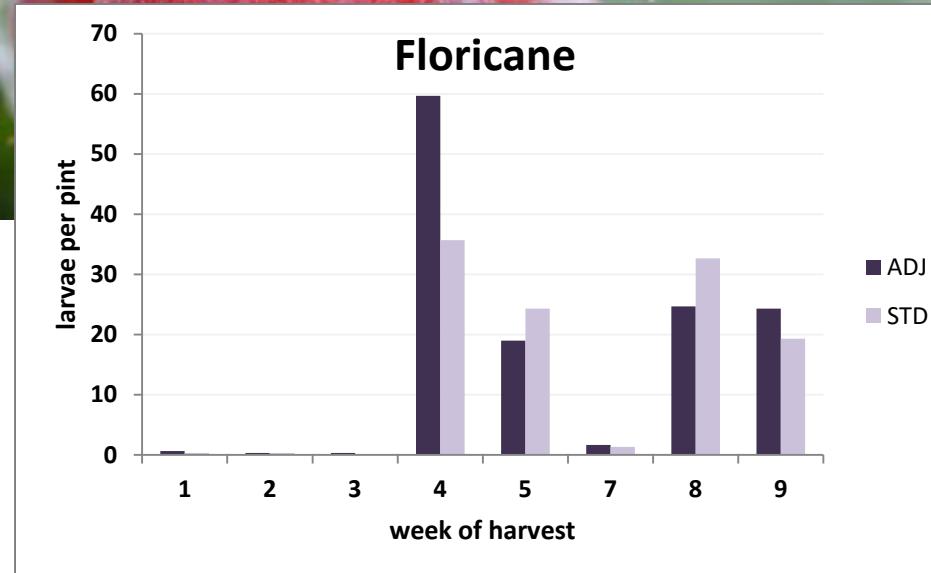
Delegate & Malathion  
+/- adjuvant NuFilm P

### *Floricane*

No difference in infestation  
( $F_{1,30} = 0.16, p = 0.693$ )

### *Primocane*

More infestation in plots with  
adjuvant  
( $F_{1,14} = 6.72, p = 0.0213$ )



## Objective 2.2: Determine sources of SWD populations between and during growing seasons

**Lead:** Greg Loeb, Joanna Chiu

**Progress to date:** Overwintering study conducted during 2016-2017. Spring food source experiments in NY and OR. High temperature tolerance in GA and OR.

39+ populations sequenced to assess long distance movement. Initial analysis suggests state level grouping which is promising for marker development

**Future directions:** Tools to track SWD movement and off season management strategies

# Potential sources of early-season flies

## Fruit waste / Compost



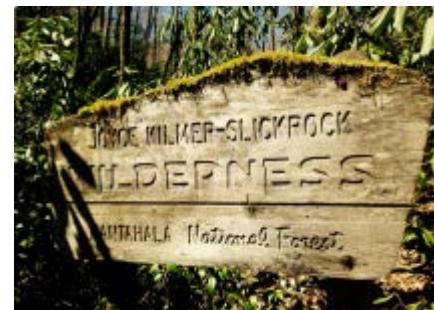
Bal et al. 2017



Briem, F. et al. 2016. *J Pest Sci*

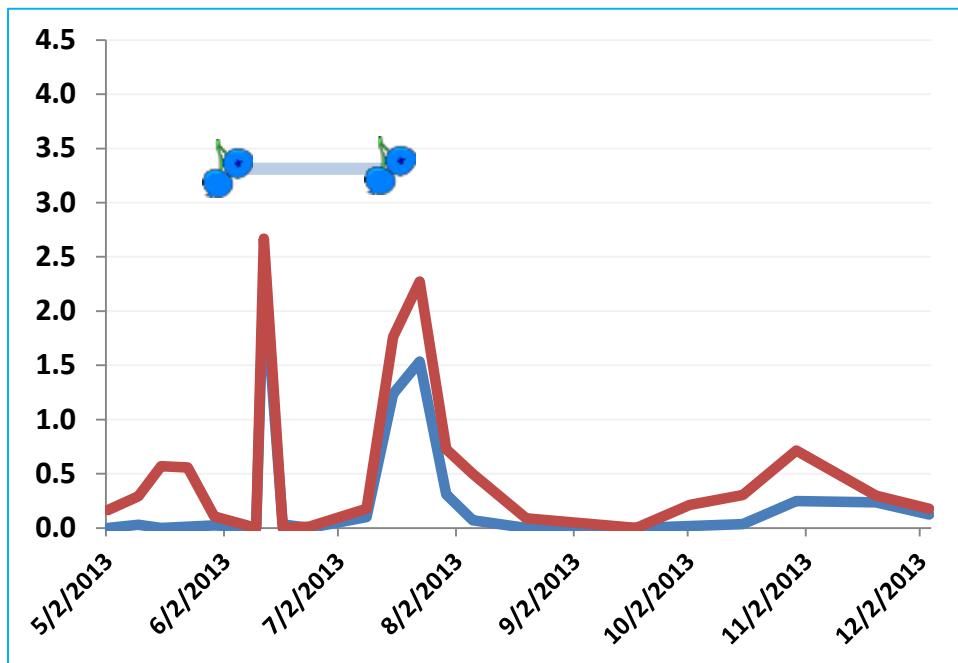
## Winter fruits (mistletoe)

## Wilderness areas



Elsensohn and Burrack *unpub.*

# Potential sources of early-season flies: Do they survive local winter conditions?



- flies present after harvest
- trapped throughout winter

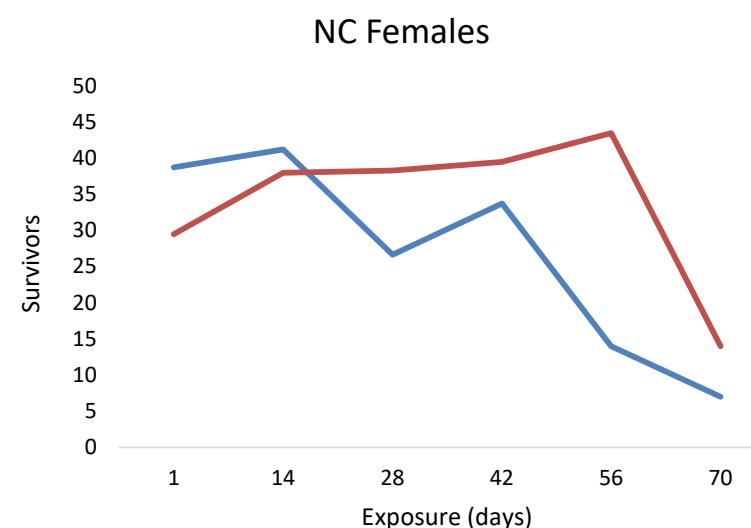
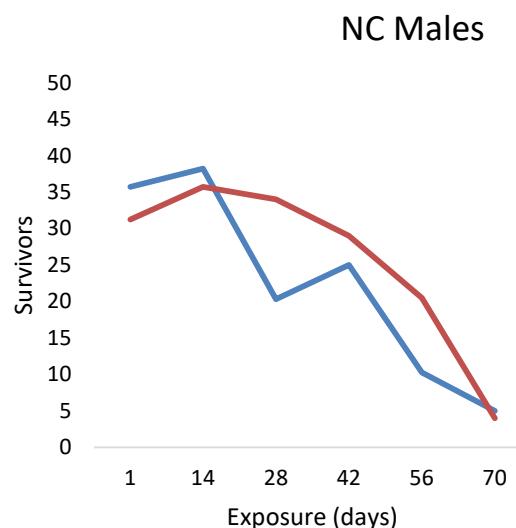
# Potential sources of early-season flies: Do they survive local winter conditions?

## National overwintering study (Year 1)

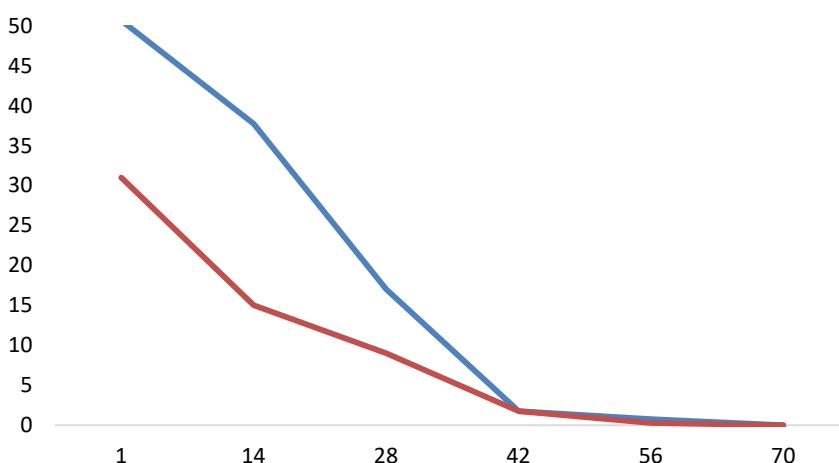
- Wild flies (lab-reared)
- Check survival every 2 weeks for 10 weeks
- Saw reproduction in 2016/17 in NC



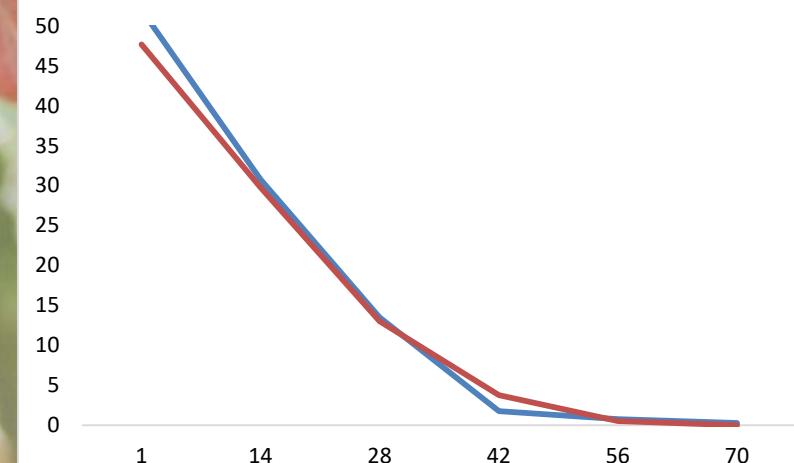
# 2016-17 Overwintering Survival NC, NY



**NY Males**



**NY Females**



# Objective 2.3: Develop monitoring tools that accurately estimate SWD populations

**Lead:** Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Zain Syed, Larry Gut

**Progress to date:** Comparison of novel attractants conducted during two years in 7 states.

Methods to assess attraction of currently available traps developed in MI cherries suggest that one trap is effective over 7.5 acres. Mark-recapture experiments conducted in 3 additional states during 2017.

**Future directions:** Trap attraction experiments will be replicated in different crops and regions. Different, novel attractants will be tested.

**Significant outputs:** Hickner, et al. 2016. BMC Genomics.

# SWD- specific lure development

## Problems:

(1) Current traps/lures not specific



Yeast-Sugar-Water bait



Scentry lure bait

(2) Current lures not more attractive than fruit for laying eggs

# What attracts SWD?

## Novel attractant development

Tested previously identified fermentation, yeast, and leaf odors for attraction in the lab

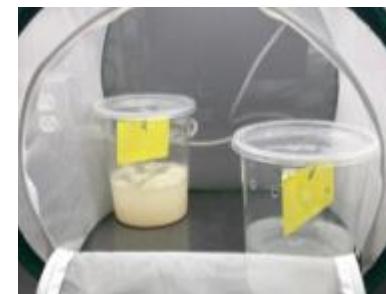
Cha et al. 2012,2013, Scheidler et al. 2015, Keesey et al. 2015



Individual attraction tested with electro-antennography (EAG) ✓



Determine if both sexes are attracted ✓



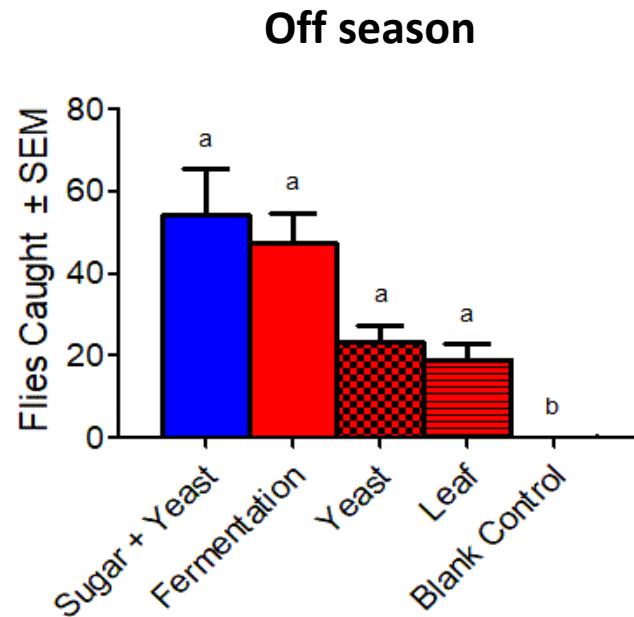
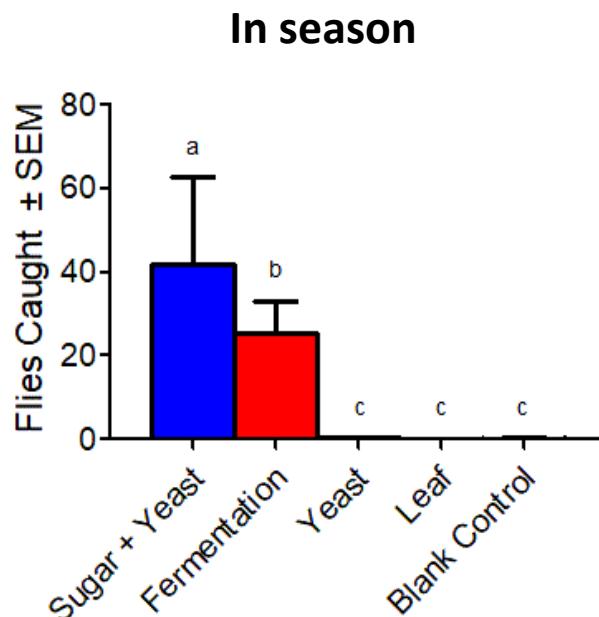
Is a mix of compounds more attractive?

✓ Fermentation mix

Images from Cesar Rodrigues-Saona

# Novel attractant development: Field tests

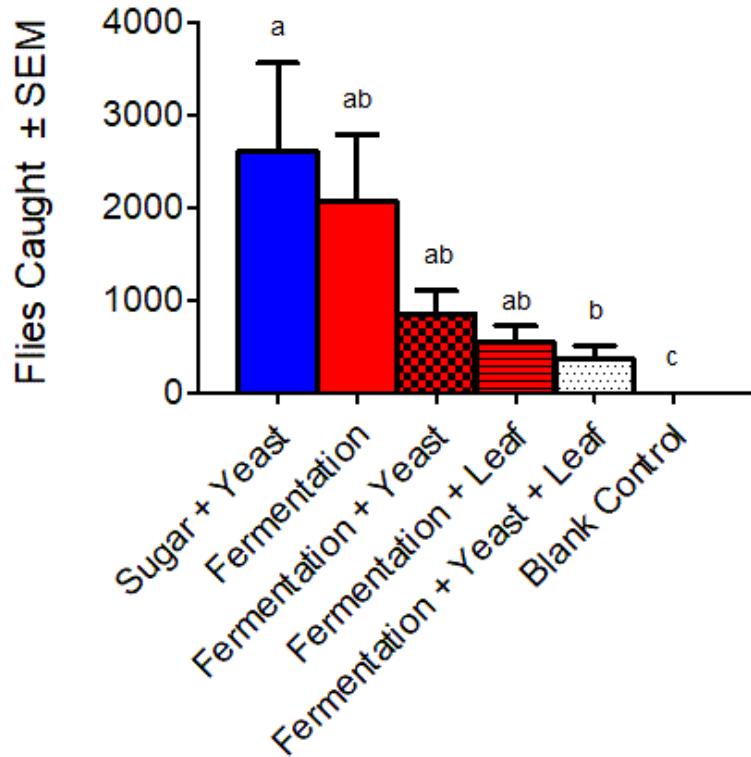
2016-tested in blueberry, blackberry, cherry



Flies are more attracted to the yeast and leaf lures when no fruit is available

# Novel attractant development: Field tests

2017-tested in blueberry, blackberry, cherry, raspberry



Adding yeast and leaf volatiles to the fermentation lure significantly decreases fly catch

## A Filter Method for Improved Monitoring of *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) Larvae in Fruit

Steven Van Timmeren,<sup>1</sup> Lauren M. Diepenbrock,<sup>2</sup> Matthew A. Bertone,<sup>2</sup>  
Hannah J. Burrack,<sup>2</sup> and Rufus Isaacs<sup>1,3</sup>

<https://academic.oup.com/jipm/article/8/1/23/4157137?searchresult=1>

# Monitoring & risk assessment for *Drosophila suzukii*

## Traps



- Traps indicate presence/absence of adult flies
- Traps may be useful for timing the start of treatments in some crops
- No adult monitoring system has been demonstrated to work well with fruit infestation

Traps are inefficient at predicting infestation



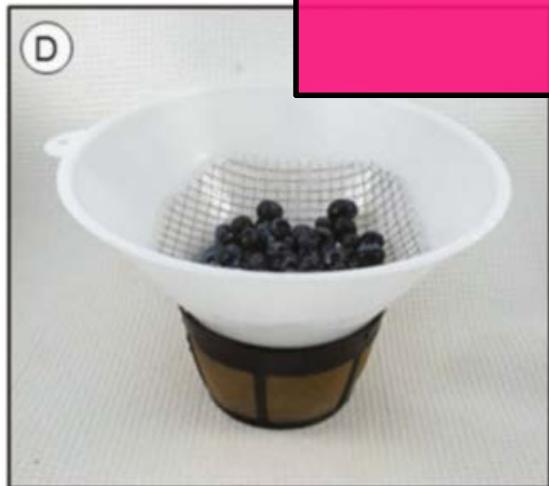
# Need for an efficient larval assessment

- Research
  - Lack of consistency across research groups
  - Rearing is only way to detect eggs, small larvae, & ensure species identity
- Grower/Scout
  - Need easy tool that is cost efficient
  - Ability to detect infestation sooner can aide in management decisions

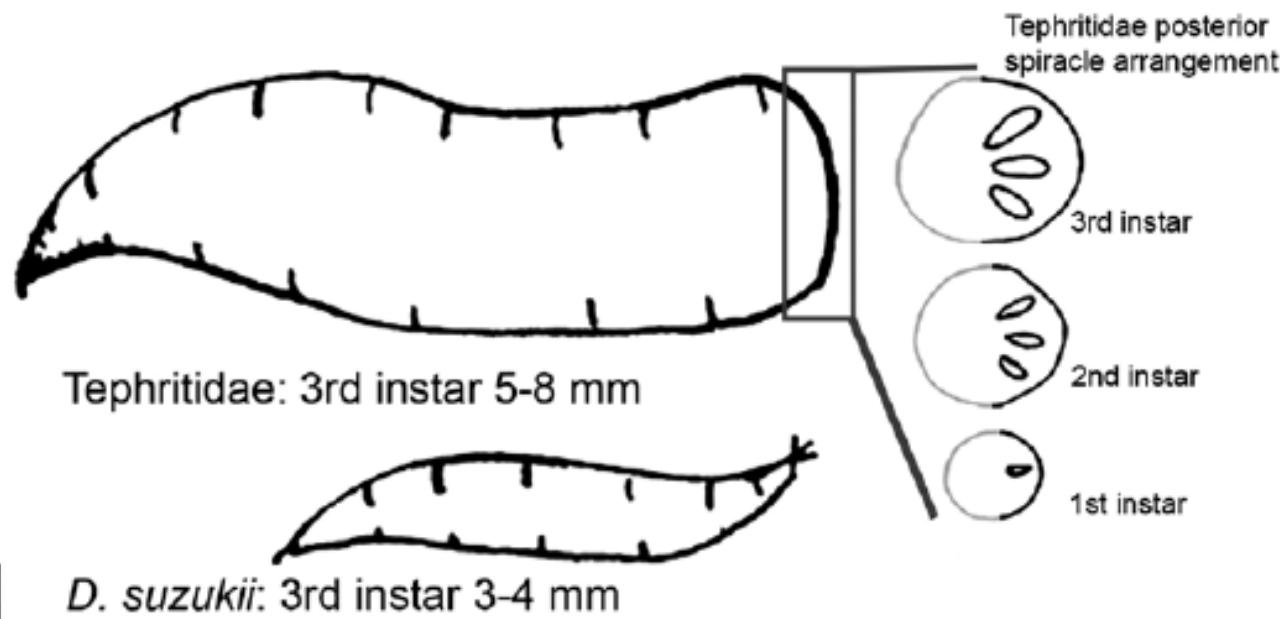
# Filter salt test methods



Maybe not the best for sampling  
strawberry...



# Larval ID: Tephritid vs Drosophilid



*In blueberries only...*

Van Timmeren et al. 2017, Fig. 3

# Larval ID: Instars (Field ID)



5 mm

# Objective 3.1: Reduce reliance on insecticides

**Lead:** Rufus Isaacs

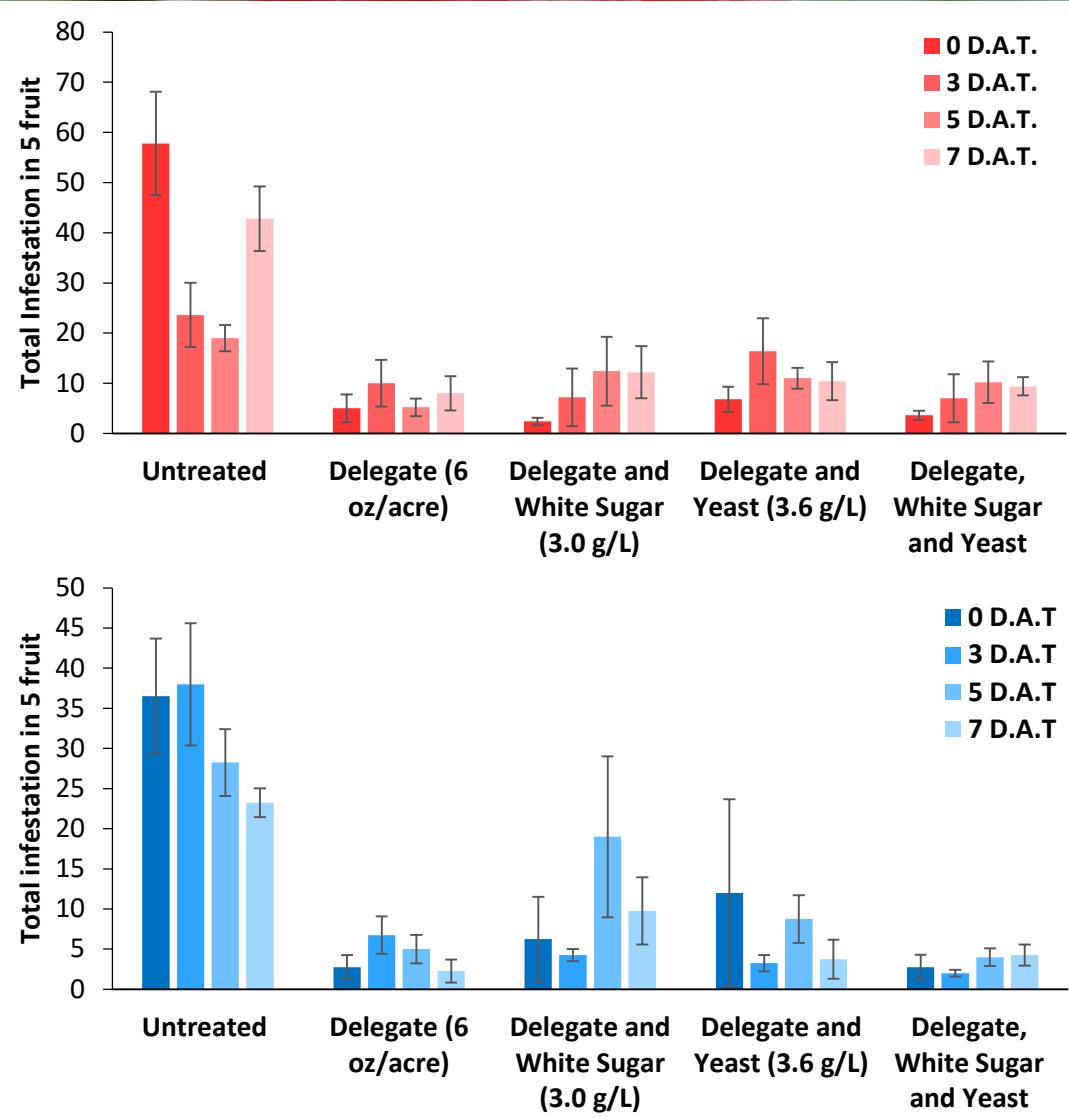
**Progress to date:** Conflicting results with other projects about the benefit of phagostimulants to improve insecticide efficacy. Results from our project suggest limited benefit in the field for high acute toxicity materials.

**Future directions:** Continue to identify materials and use patterns for reduced applications.

# Phagostimulants– No benefit of sugar or yeast in semi-field assays



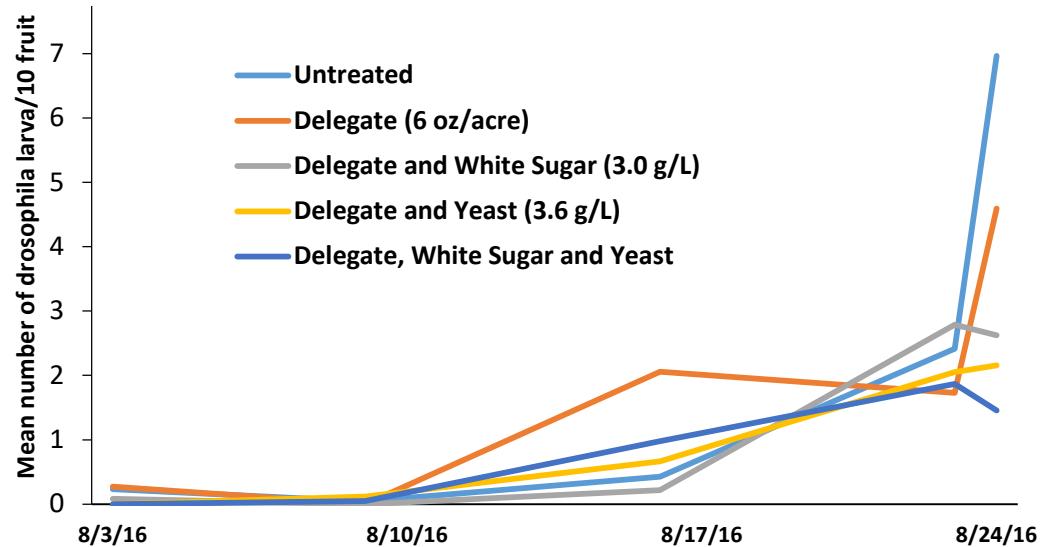
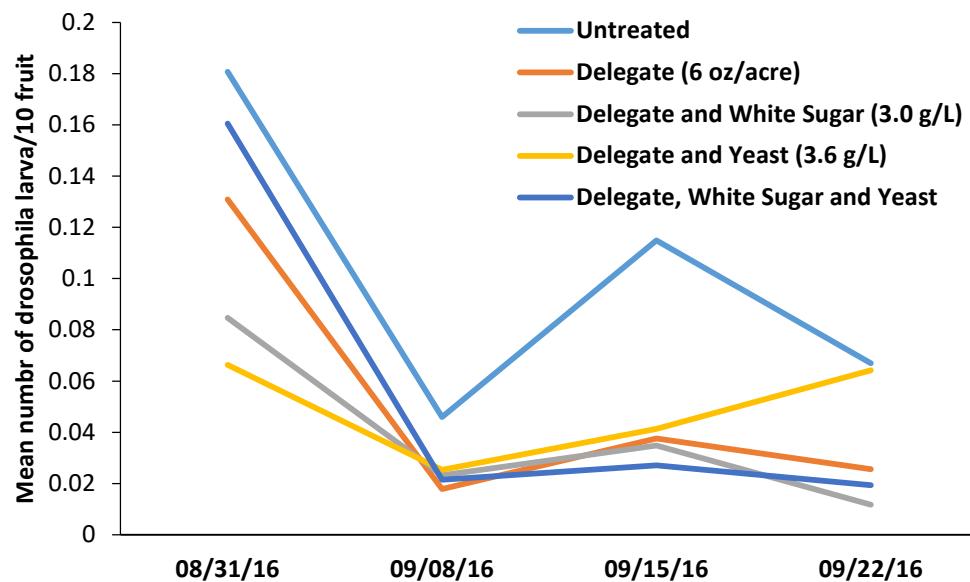
Isaacs lab, MSU  
Frank Drummond, Maine



# Phagostimulants— Limited benefit in the field



Isaacs lab, MSU  
Frank Drummond, Maine



# 2017 Best Management Trials

## NC Blackberry

### Rotation

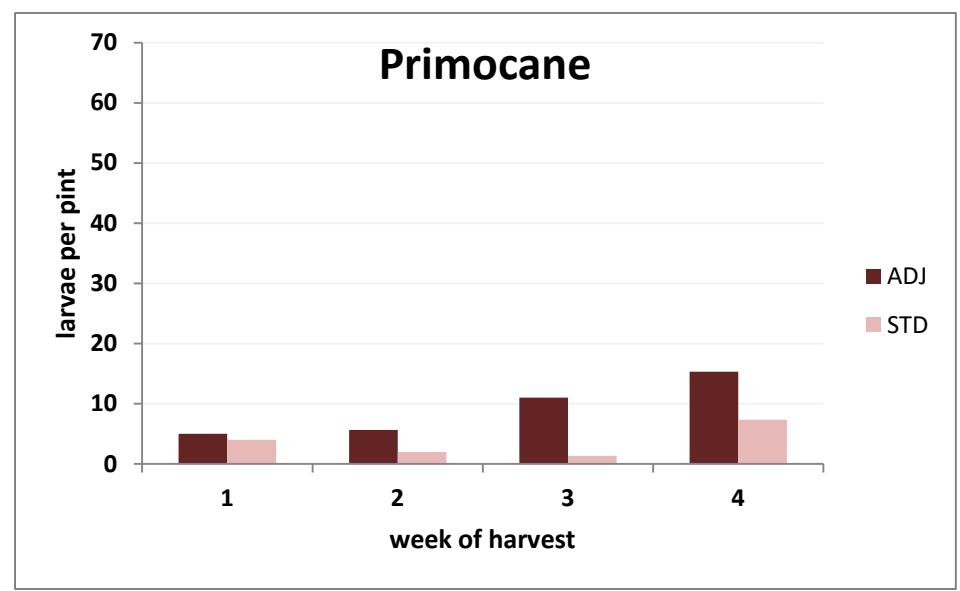
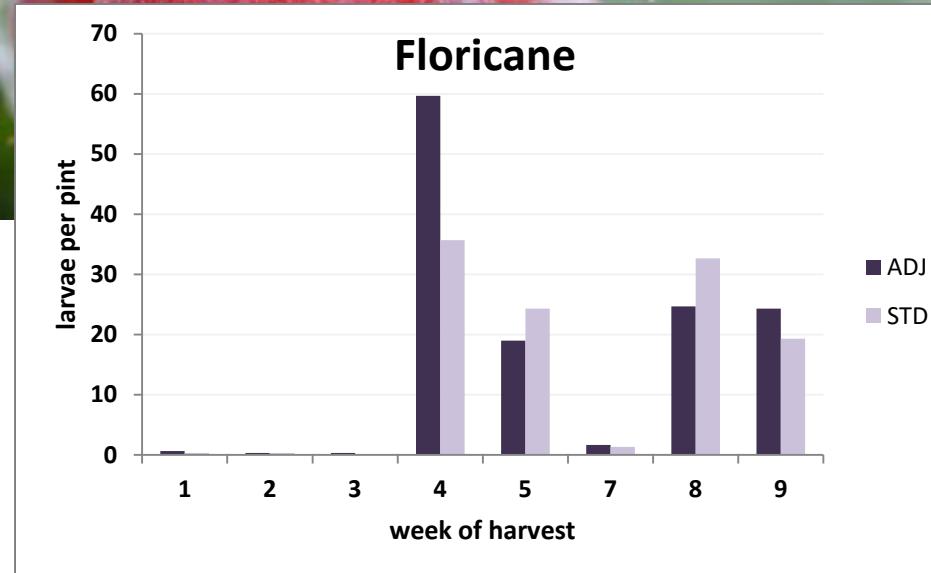
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# Objective 3.2: Insecticide resistance detection, minimization, and management

**Lead:** Ash Sial, Ke Dong, Zack Brown

**Progress to date:** Field population screening in MI and GA suggest very high susceptibility at rates far below field concentrations for key insecticides.

Standard glass vial assay developed, refined, and applied in multiple states during 2017.

**Future directions:** Resistance selection and mechanism targeting. Integration with population and economic models.

**Significant outputs:** Van Timmeren, et al. 2017. Pest Management Science.

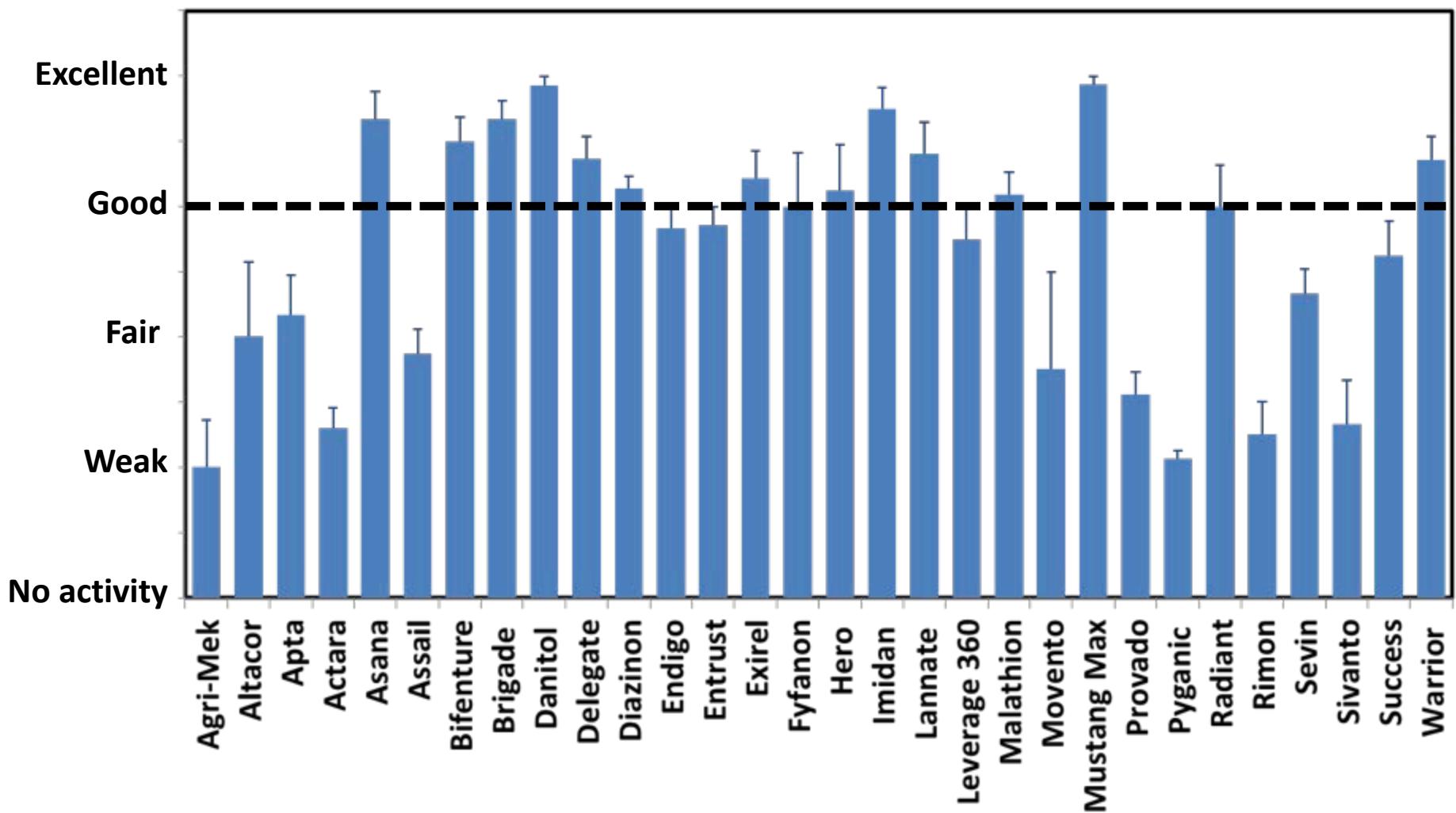
# Summary rankings of insecticide efficacy against *D. suzukii*

10 states, 20 state x crop combinations

CA, OR, WA, MI, ME, NY, NJ, NC, GA, FL



Rufus Isaacs  
MSU



# Efficacy of currently used insecticide tools



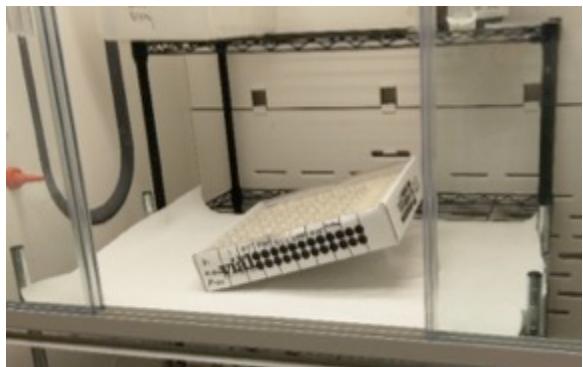
Rufus Isaacs  
MSU

Ash Sial  
U of GA

## Glass vial assays

Field collected populations from areas treated with target pesticides

Assessed mortality of 5 male, 5 female *D. suzukii* after 6 h of exposure



# Efficacy of currently used insecticide tools



Rufus Isaacs  
MSU

Ash Sial  
U of GA

Material	Location (# of populations)	Estimated LC90	Field LC90
Zeta-cypermethrin	Michigan (12)	0.4 ppm	2996 ppm
Zeta-cypermethrin	Georgia (4)	5-10 ppm	2996 ppm
Malathion	Michigan (12)	30-130 ppm	225 ppm
Malathion	Michigan (14)	30-130 ppm	225 ppm
Spinetoram	Michigan (14)	30-130 ppm	225 ppm
Spinetoram	Georgia (4)	2.5-30 ppm	225 ppm

No resistance in field-collected flies in the Southeast!



# Objective 3.3: Discover natural enemies capable of reducing SWD populations

**Lead:** Kent Daane

**Progress to date:** Three international trips yielding 5 candidate species thus far. Host range and life table analysis conducted in quarantine. Two promising species (*Ganaspis brasiliensis* and *Leptopilina japonica*) in permit process for field trials.

**Future directions:** Make additional international trips earlier in the growing season when parasitism rates seem particularly high. Screen new collections. Conduct field trials of materials once permitted.

**Significant outputs:** Biondi, et al. 2017 Journal of Insect Behavior; Kacar, et al. 2017. PLoS One.

# Sustainable SWD Management



## Good Bugs vs Bad: Using biological controls in SWD management



A webinar presentation from the  
Sustainable SWD Management SCRI Project



View recording at [www.swdmanagement.org](http://www.swdmanagement.org)

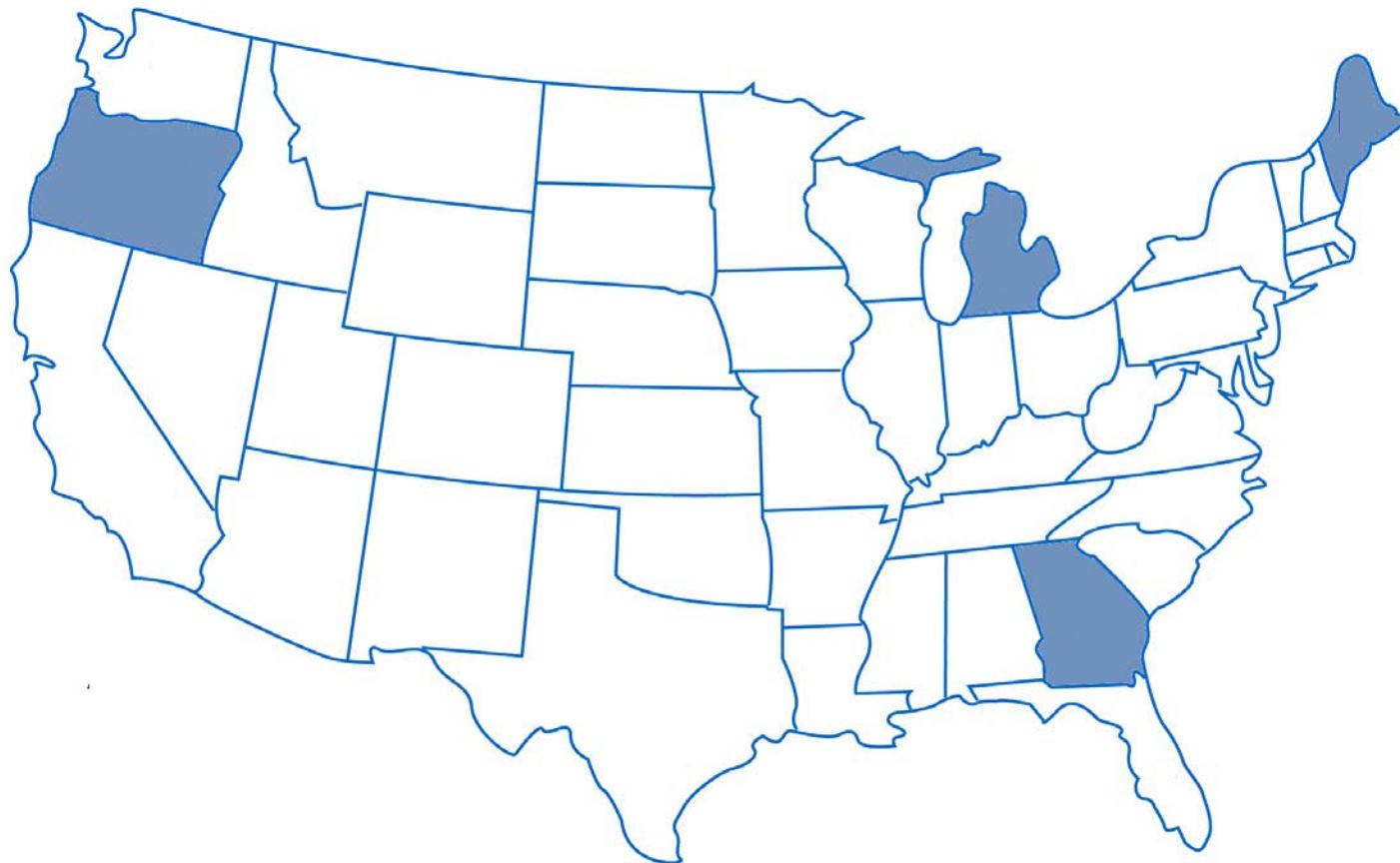




# SWD predators assessed throughout the US



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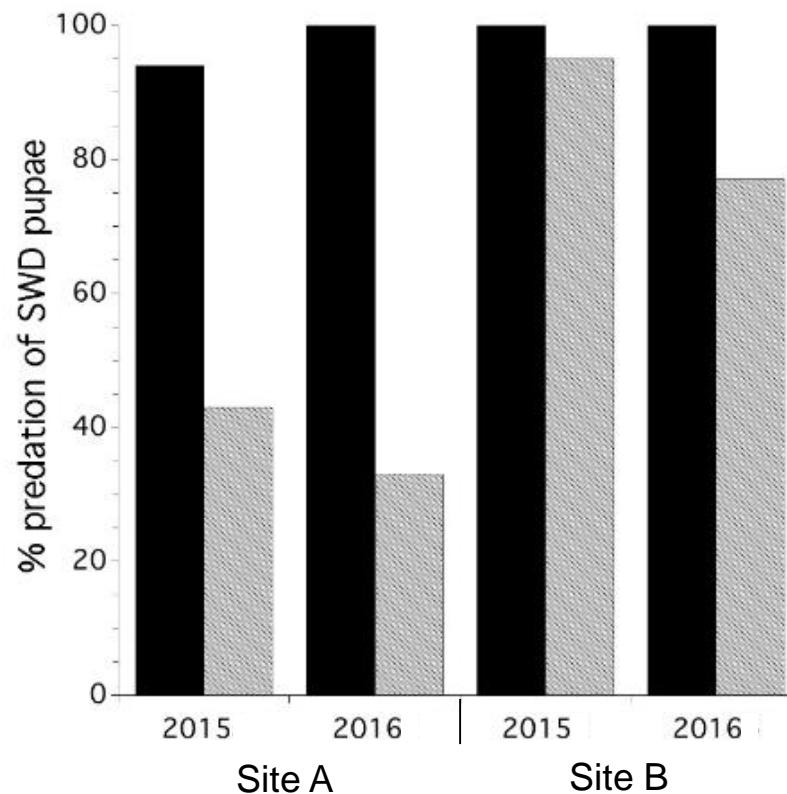


# Higher predation levels when pupae are on soil surface



Heather Leach  
MSU

■ surface  
□ 1cm below surface

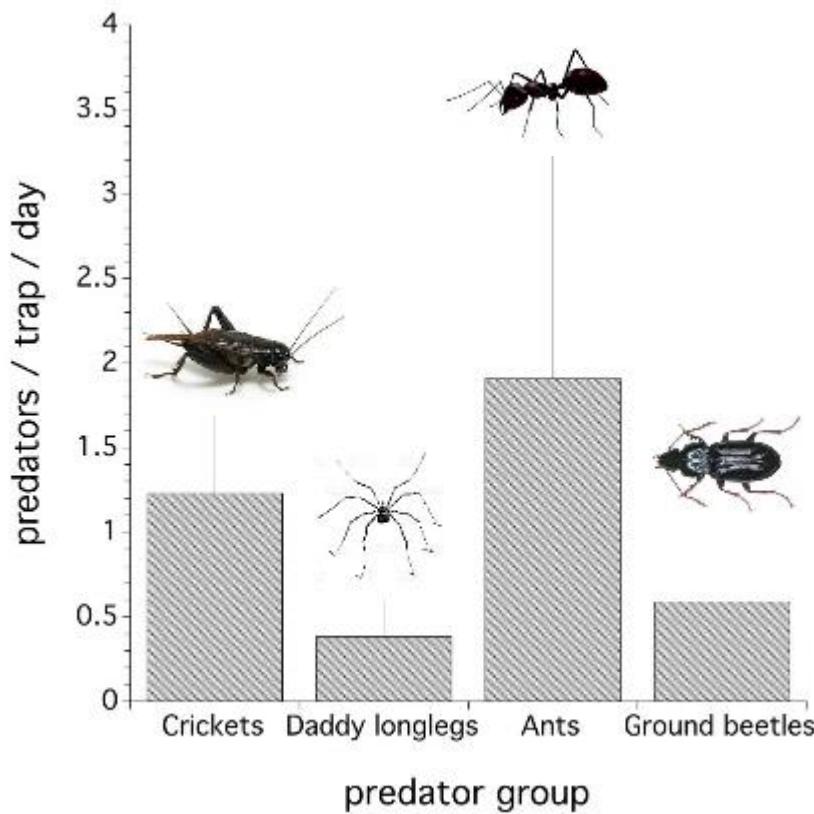


Ballman ES, Collins JA, Drummond FA. 2017. Pupation behavior and predation on *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) pupae in Maine wild blueberry fields. J. Econ. Entomol. 110(6):2308-17.

# Most common predators include ants, crickets, ground beetles, spiders



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61-91% SWD pupae removed in blackberry and blueberry

From video recordings, ants dug up pupae and removed them on **39 occasions**

Ballman ES, Collins JA, Drummond FA. 2017. Pupation behavior and predation on *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) pupae in Maine wild blueberry fields. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 110(6):2308-17, Woltz JM, Lee JC. 2017. Pupation behavior and larval and pupal biocontrol of *Drosophila suzukii* in the field. *Biological Control*, 110:62-9.

# Mulching type does not effect level of predation



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>85% predation of pupae in all habitat types

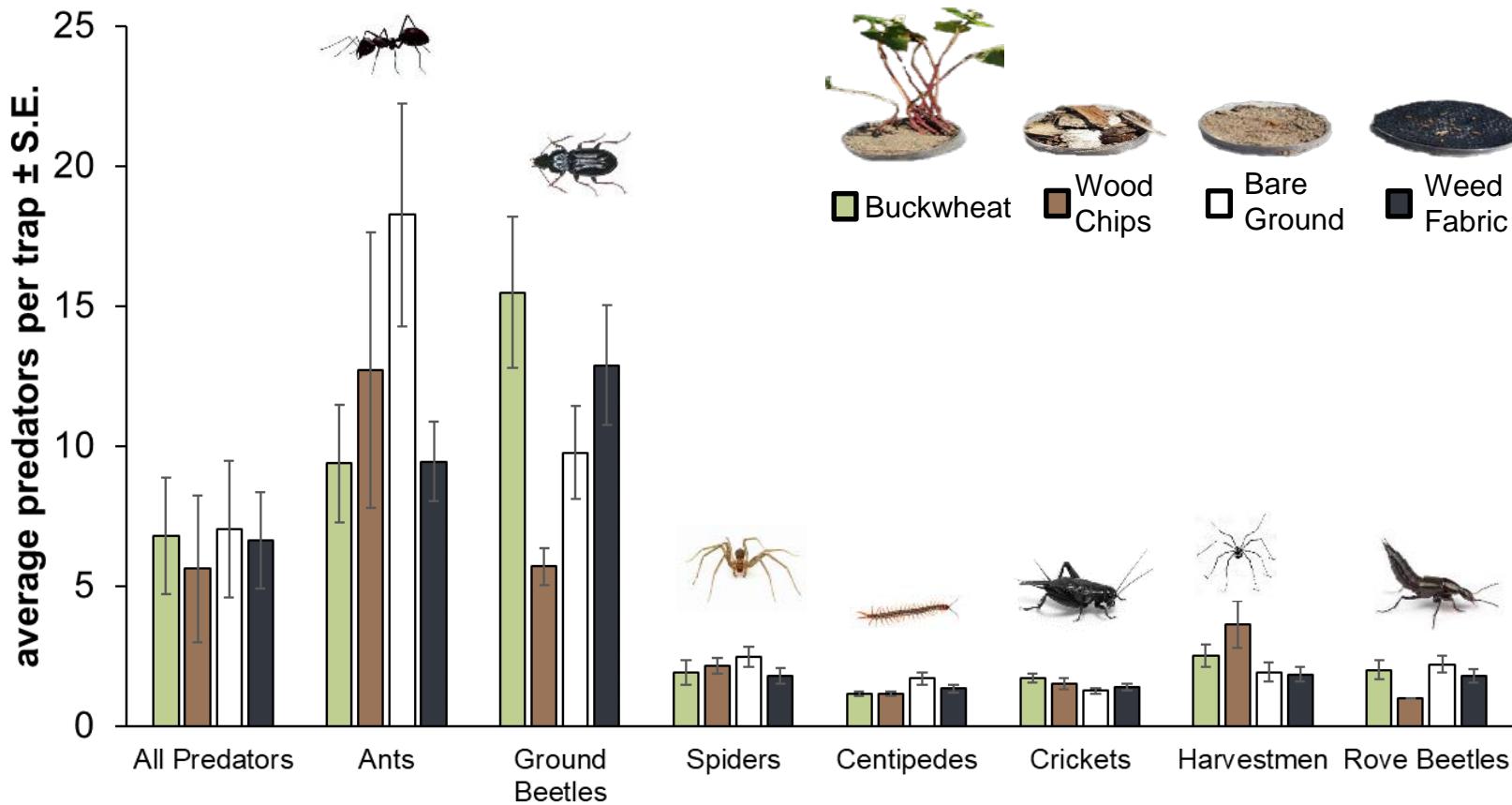


Data provided by H. Leach & R. Isaacs, Michigan State University

# Some predators prefer certain mulches



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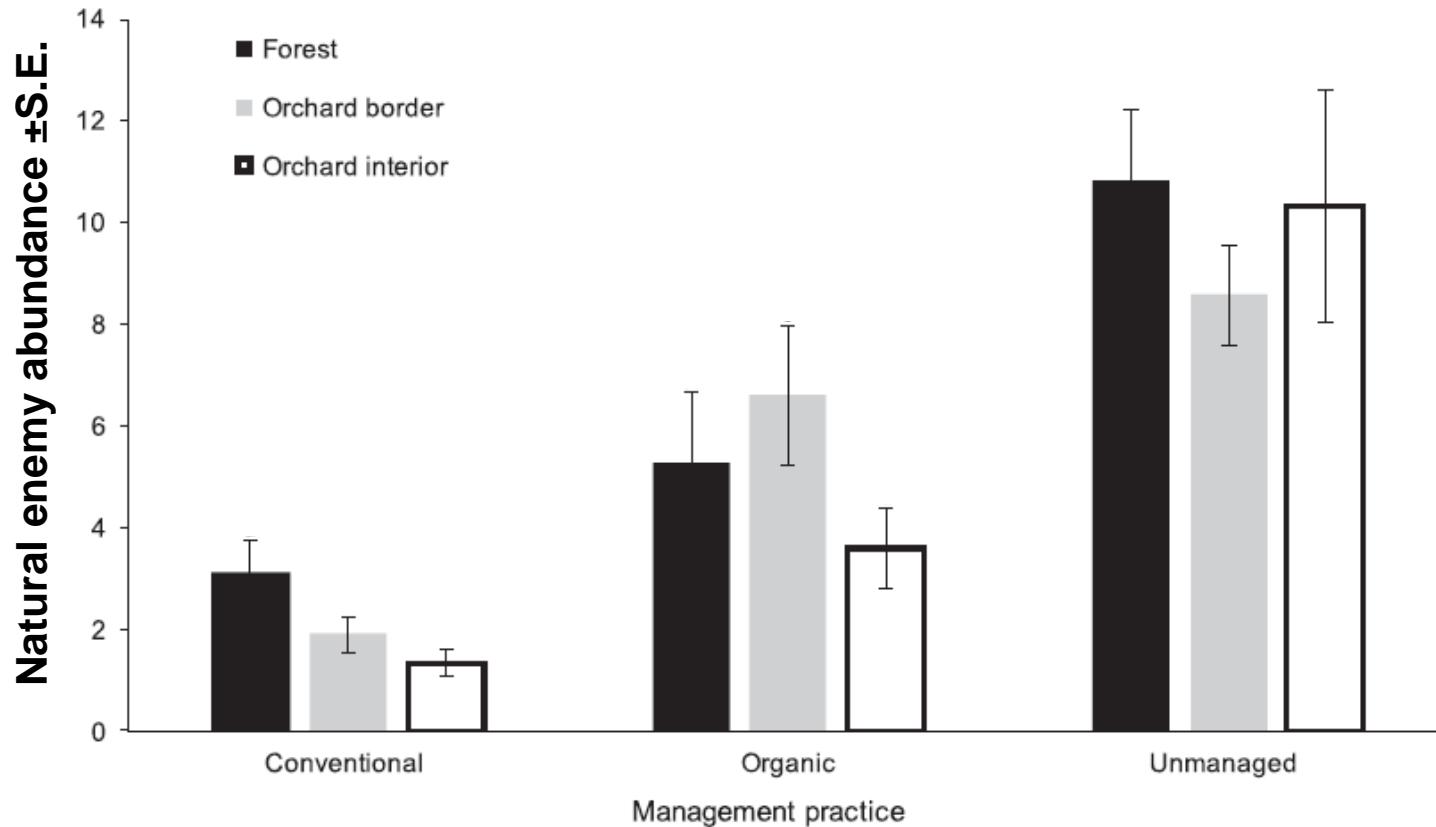


Data provided by H. Leach & R. Isaacs, Michigan State University

# High-input systems have lower numbers of natural enemies



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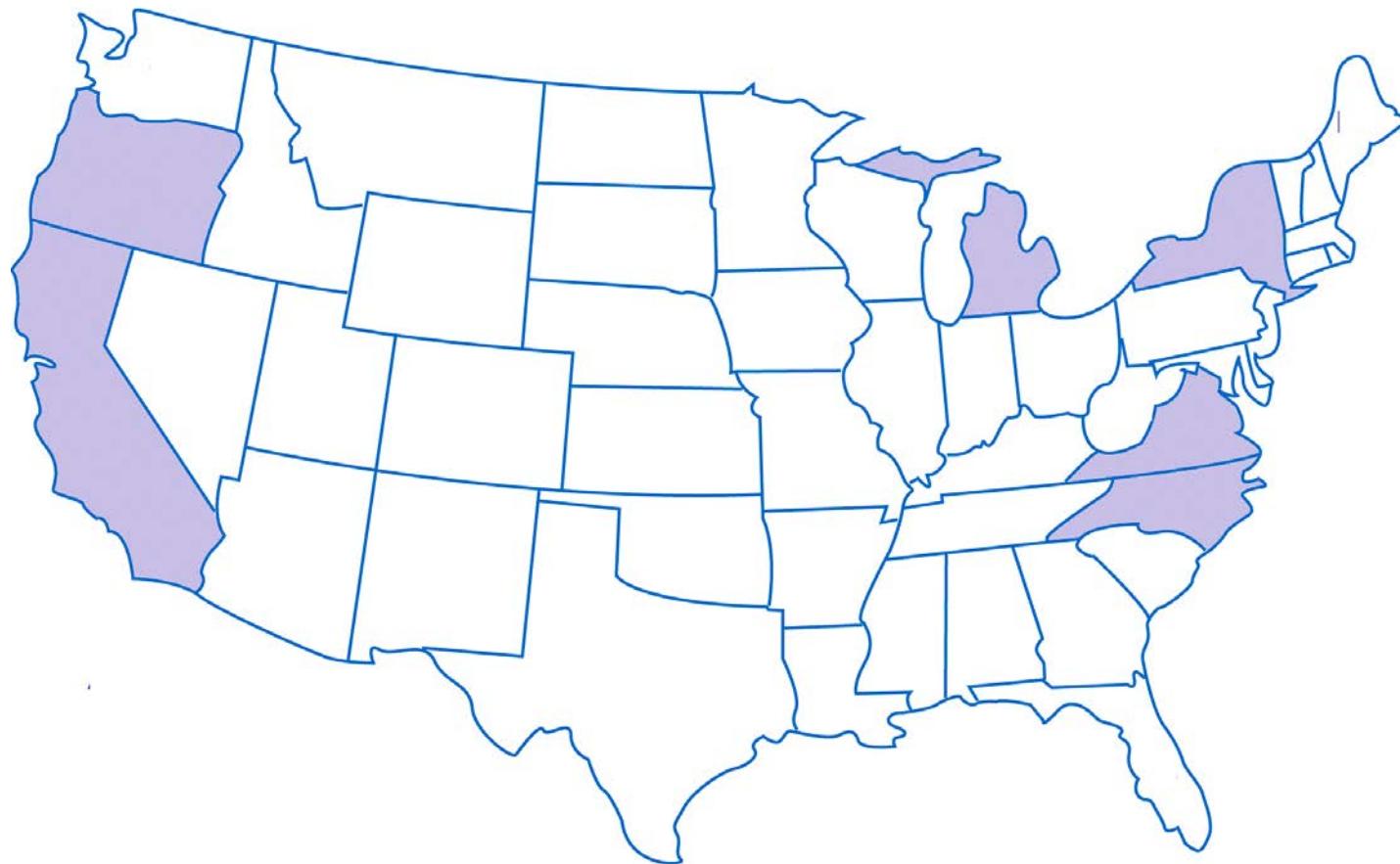


Whitehouse TS, AA Sial, and JM Schmidt. 2017. Natural enemy abundance in southeastern blueberry agroecosystems: distance to edge and impact of management practices. *Environ Entomol*, doi: 10.1093/ee/nvx188

# Naturally occurring SWD parasitoids have been assessed throughout the US



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# Five naturally occurring parasitoids found in U.S.



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*Leptopilina boulardi* [L]



*Leptopilina heterotoma* [L]



*Asobara tabida* [L]



*Pachycrepoideus vindemiae* [P]



*Trichopria drosophilae* [P]



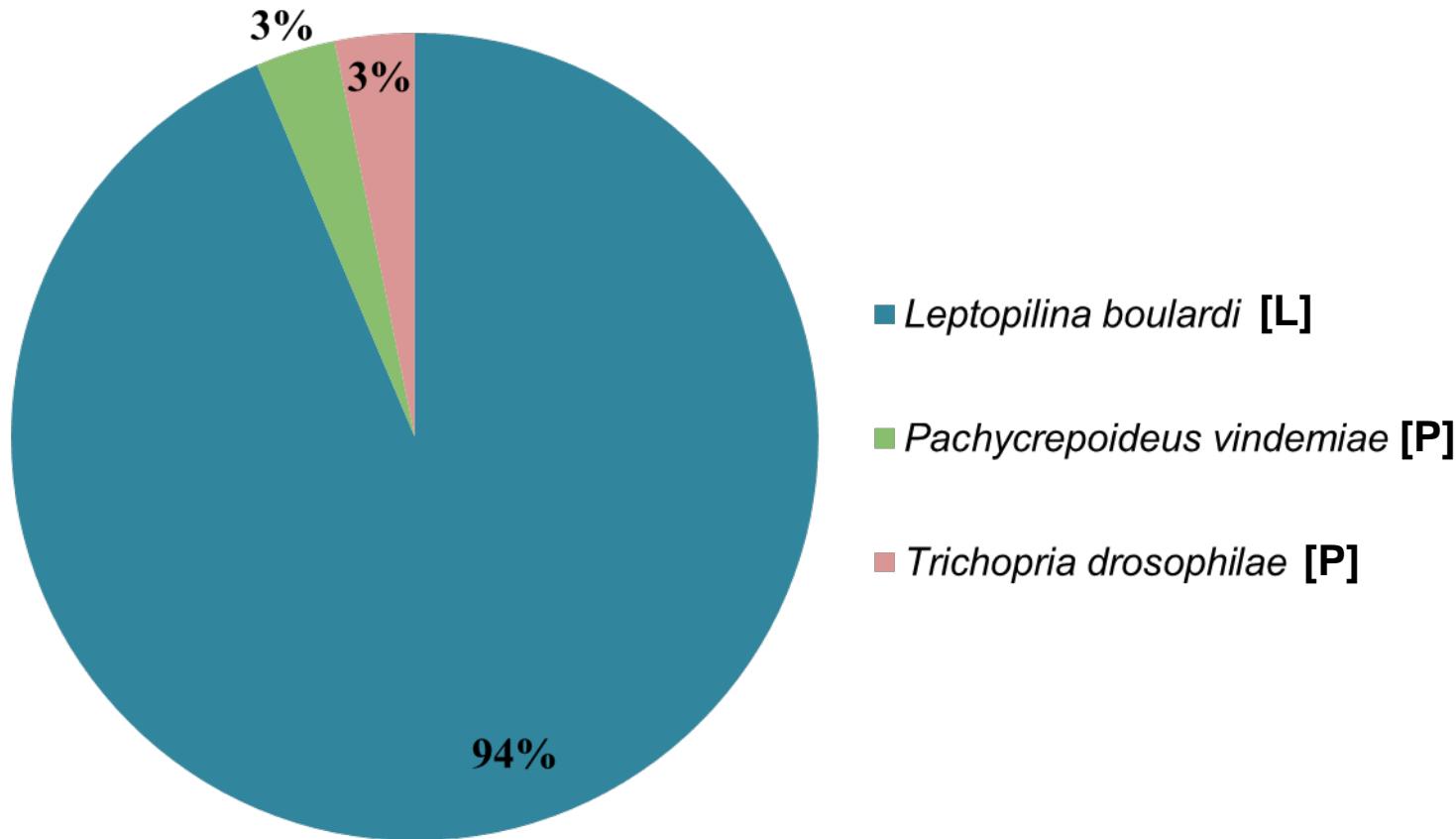
[L] = Larval parasitoid

[P] = Pupal parasitoid

# Naturally occurring parasitoid community in North Carolina



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Data provided by Y. Zheng and H. Burrack, North Carolina State University

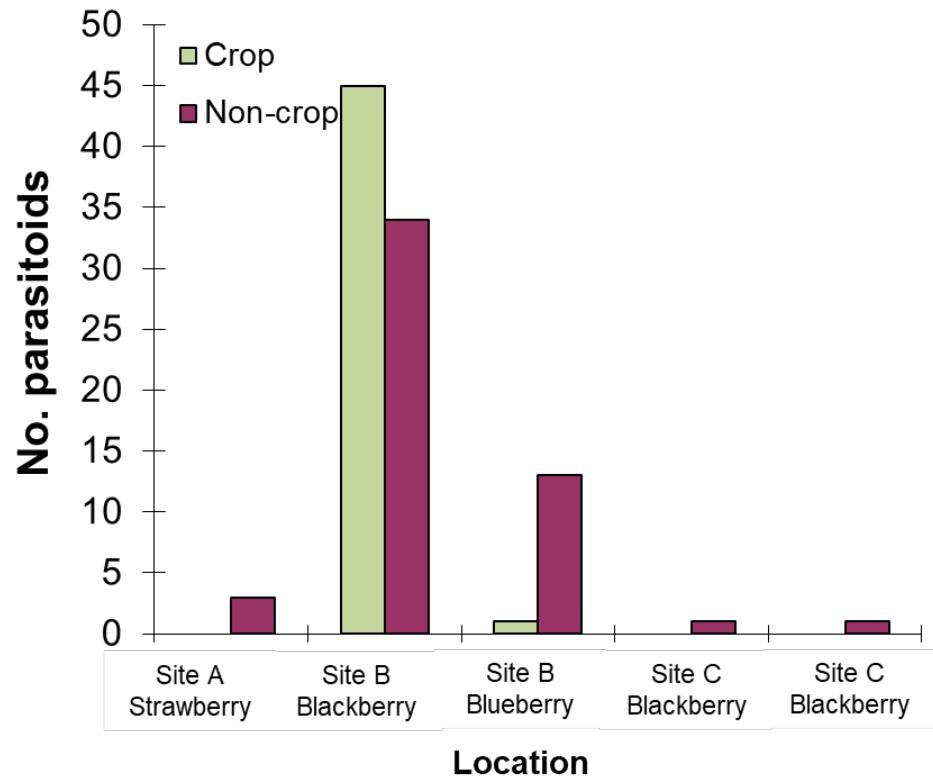
# Abundance of parasitoids dependent on location



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More sites with parasitoids  
found in **non-crop**  
habitats

Highest field parasitism  
levels only at **2.5%**



Data provided by Y. Zheng and H. Burrack, North Carolina State University

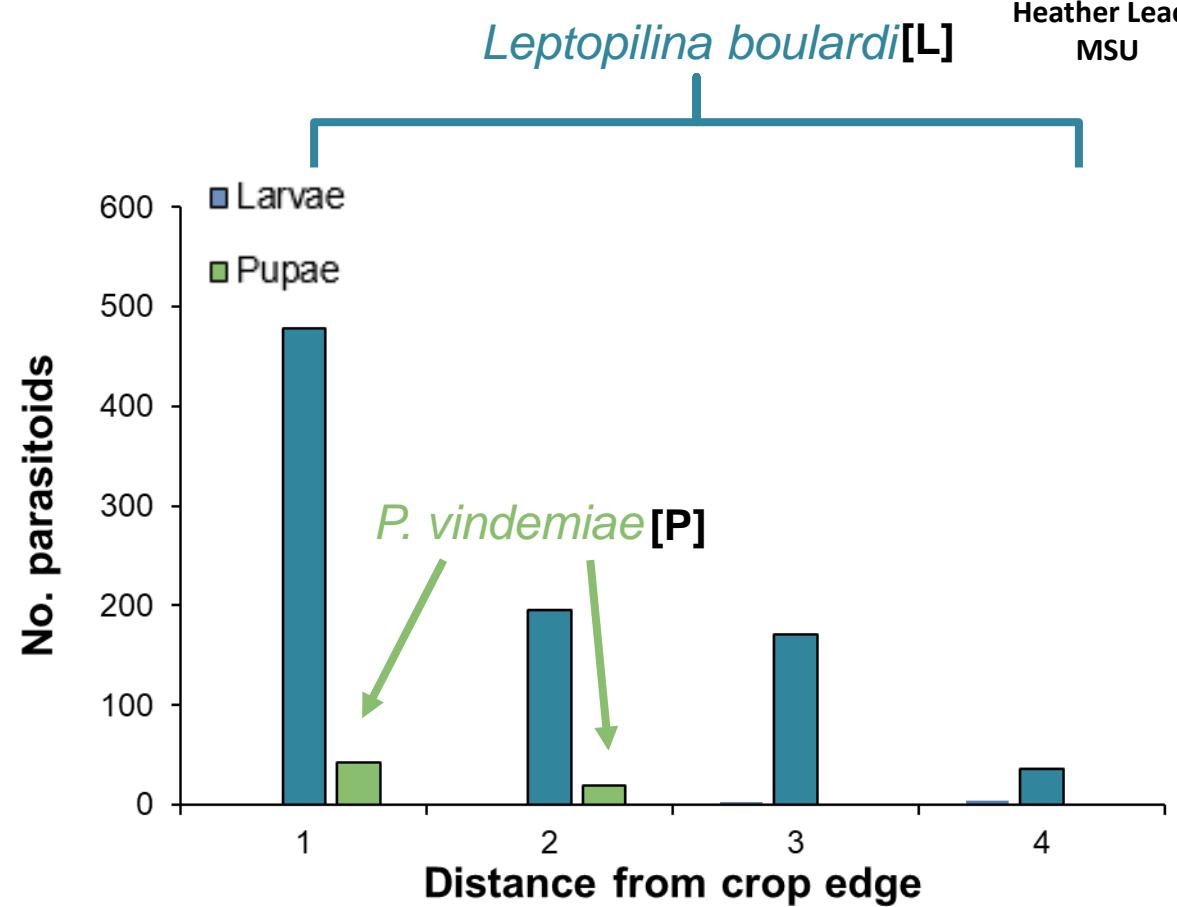
# Naturally occurring parasitoid community in Virginia



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MSU

More parasitoids  
closer to the **crop**  
edge

Larval parasitoids  
**more common**  
than pupal parasitoids

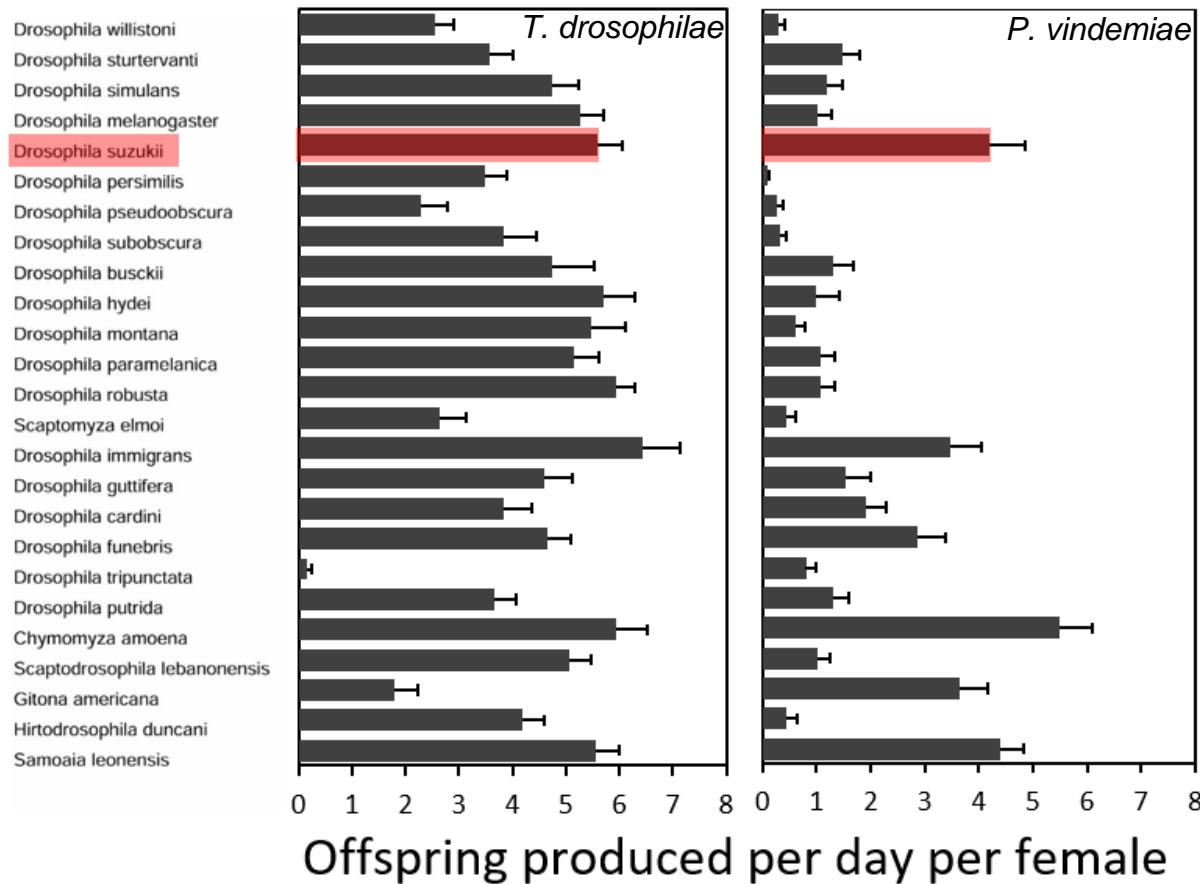


Data provided by J. Wahls and D. Pfeiffer, Virginia Tech

# Host-specificity of *T. drosophilae* and *P. vindemiae*



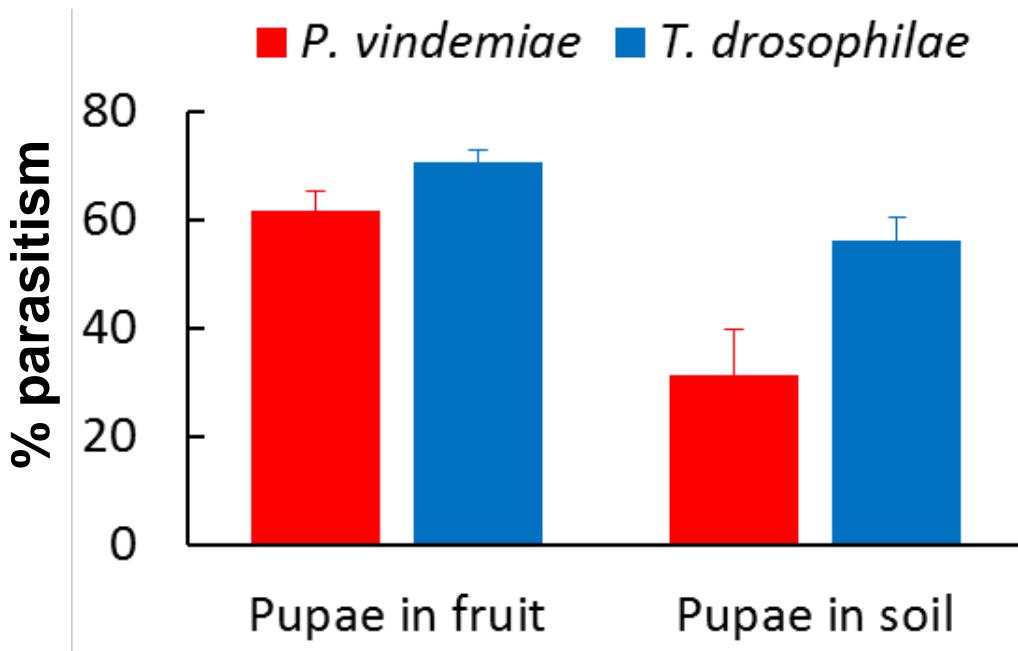
Heather Leach  
MSU



Data provided by X. Wang and K. Daane, UC-Berkeley



Heather Leach  
MSU



Both parasitoids can lay 6-7 eggs per day

Females decrease in egg production as they age

*T. drosophilae* is more efficient than *P. vindemiae*

Data provided by X. Wang and K. Daane, UC-Berkeley

# Collected parasitoids in South Korea and China



Larval parasitoids

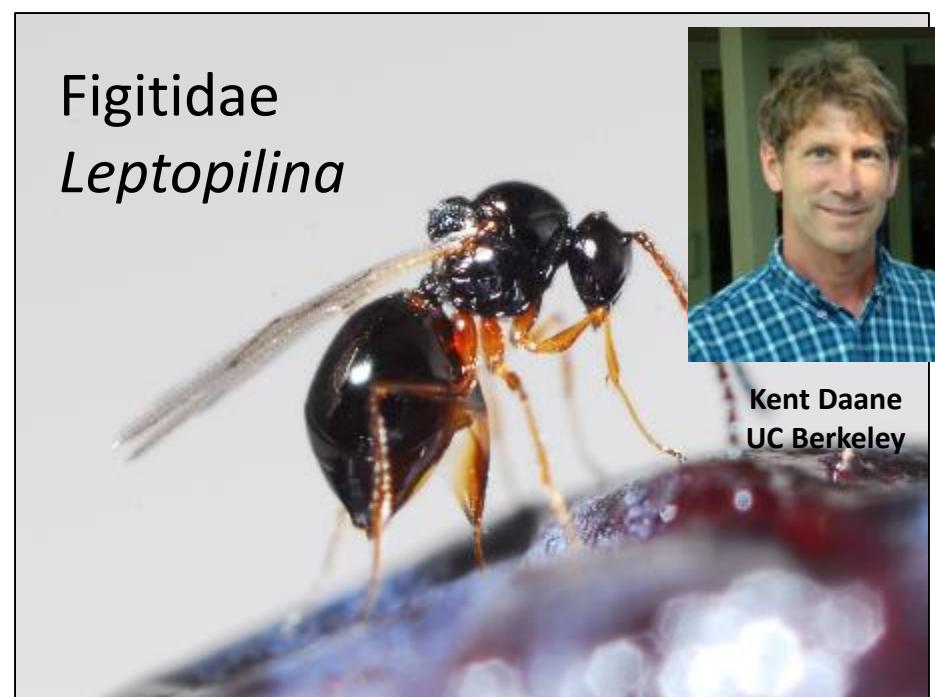
Pupal parasitoids

Family	Parasitoid species	Host	Country
Braconidae	<i>Asobara japonica</i>	SWD, other drosophilids	SK, CHN
	<i>Asobara leveri</i>	SWD, other drosophilids	SK, CHN
	<i>Asobara brevicauda</i>	SWD	SK
	<i>Asobara triangulata</i>	SWD	SK
	<i>Asobara mesocauda</i>	SWD	SK, CHN
	<i>Asobara unicolorata</i>	SWD	CHN
	<i>Asobara</i> spp.	SWD	CHN
Figitidae	<i>Ganaspis brasiliensis</i>	SWD	SK, CHN
	<i>Leptopilina japonica</i>	SWD	SK, CHN
	<i>Leptopilina formosana</i>	SWD, other drosophilids	SK
	<i>Leptopilina boulardi</i>	Other drosophilids	SK
	<i>Leptopilina</i> spp.	SWD	CHN
Pteromalidae	<i>Pachycrepoideus vindemiae</i>	Other drosophilids	SK
Diapriidae	<i>Trichopria drosophilae</i>	SWD, other drosophilids	SK, CHN

Figitidae  
*Ganaspis*



Figitidae  
*Leptopilina*



Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley

Braconidae  
*Asobara*



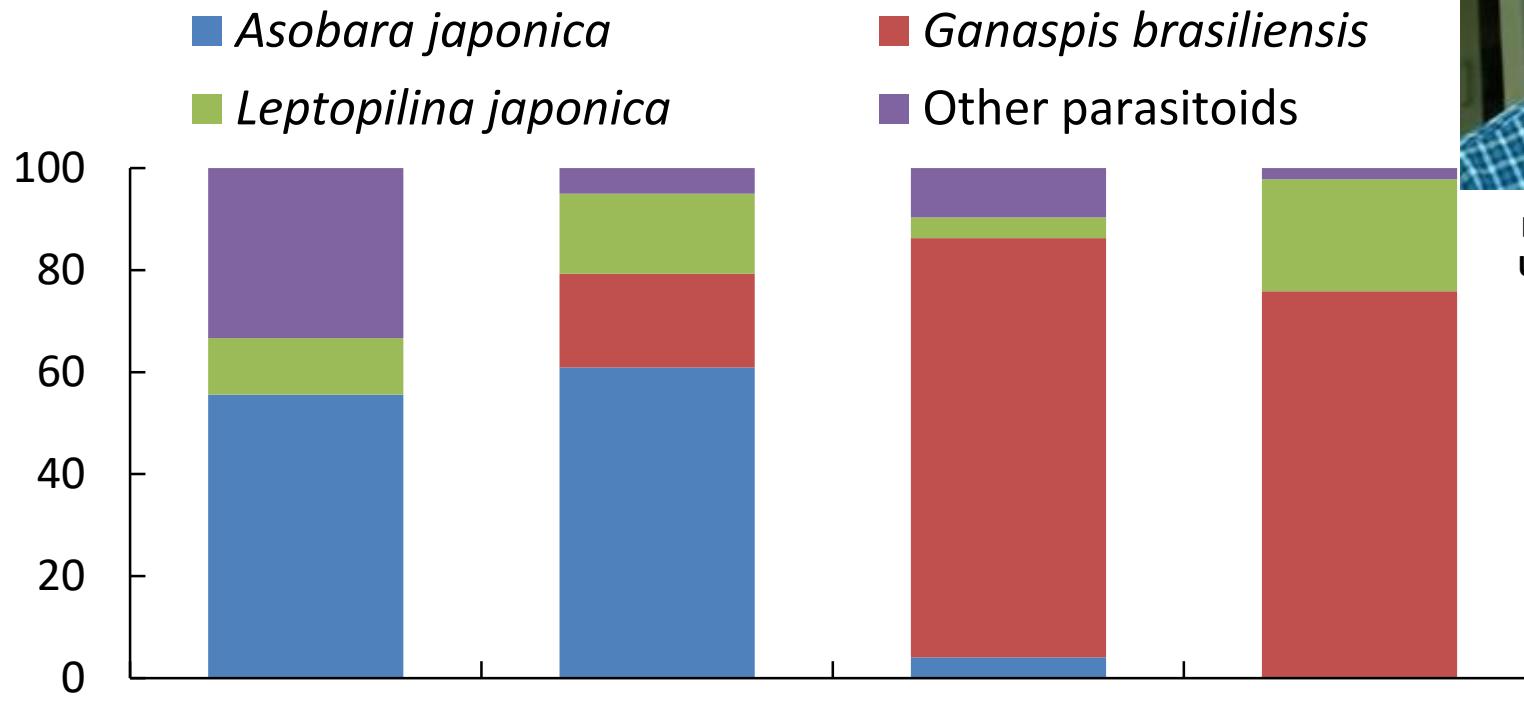
Asobara photo Tim Haye CABI

In both China and South Korea three important larval parasitoids attacked SWD: the 'figitids' were more common in early fruit and the 'braconid' was more common later in the season.

# Composition of larval SWD parasitoid species

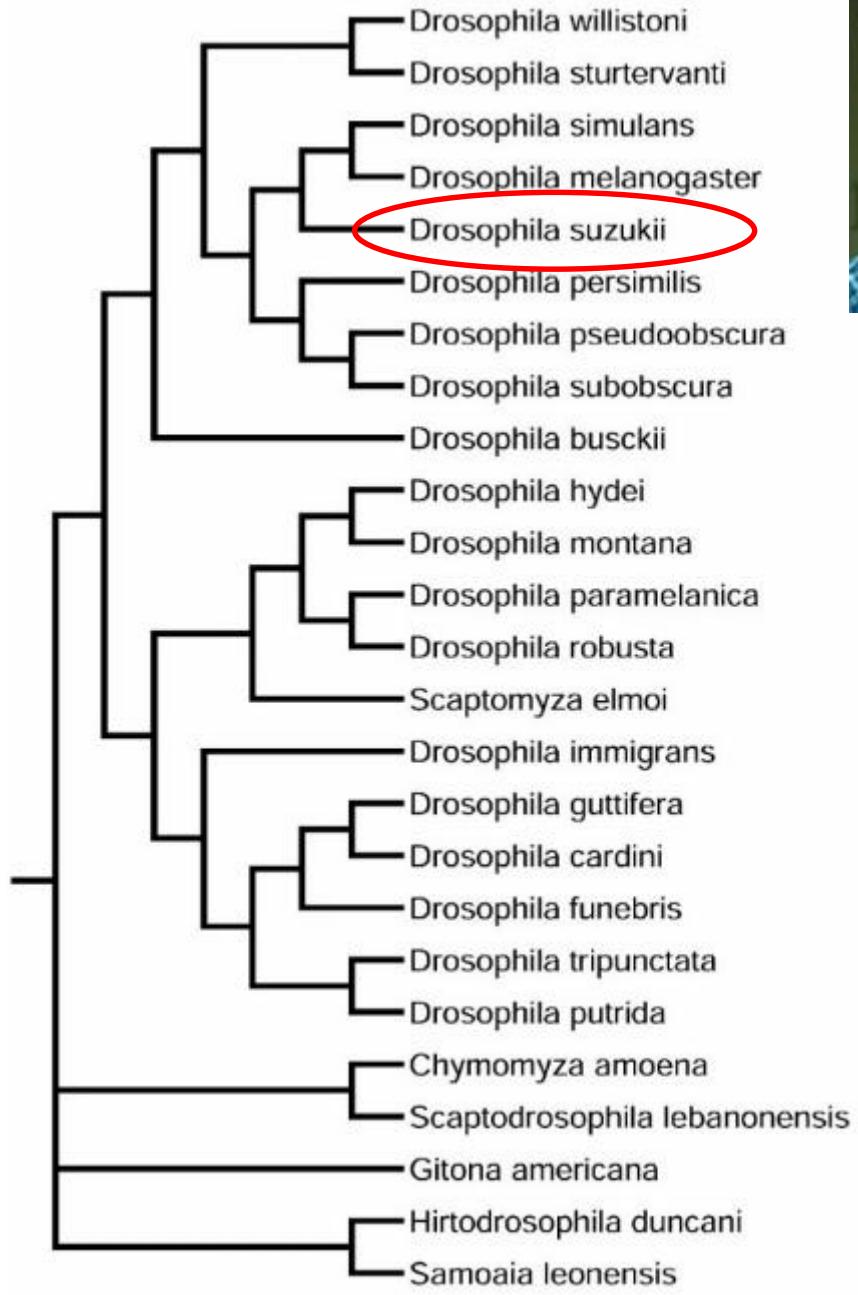


Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley



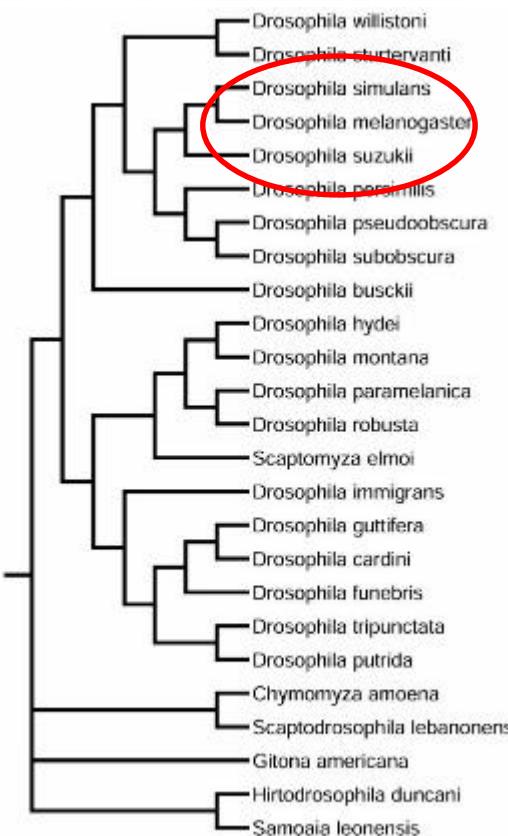
# Host specificity test

- Phylogenetically related species
- 24 species (two subfamilies, 7 genera, 20 species groups)
- Breeding on fruits, mushrooms, woods, flowers or cactus

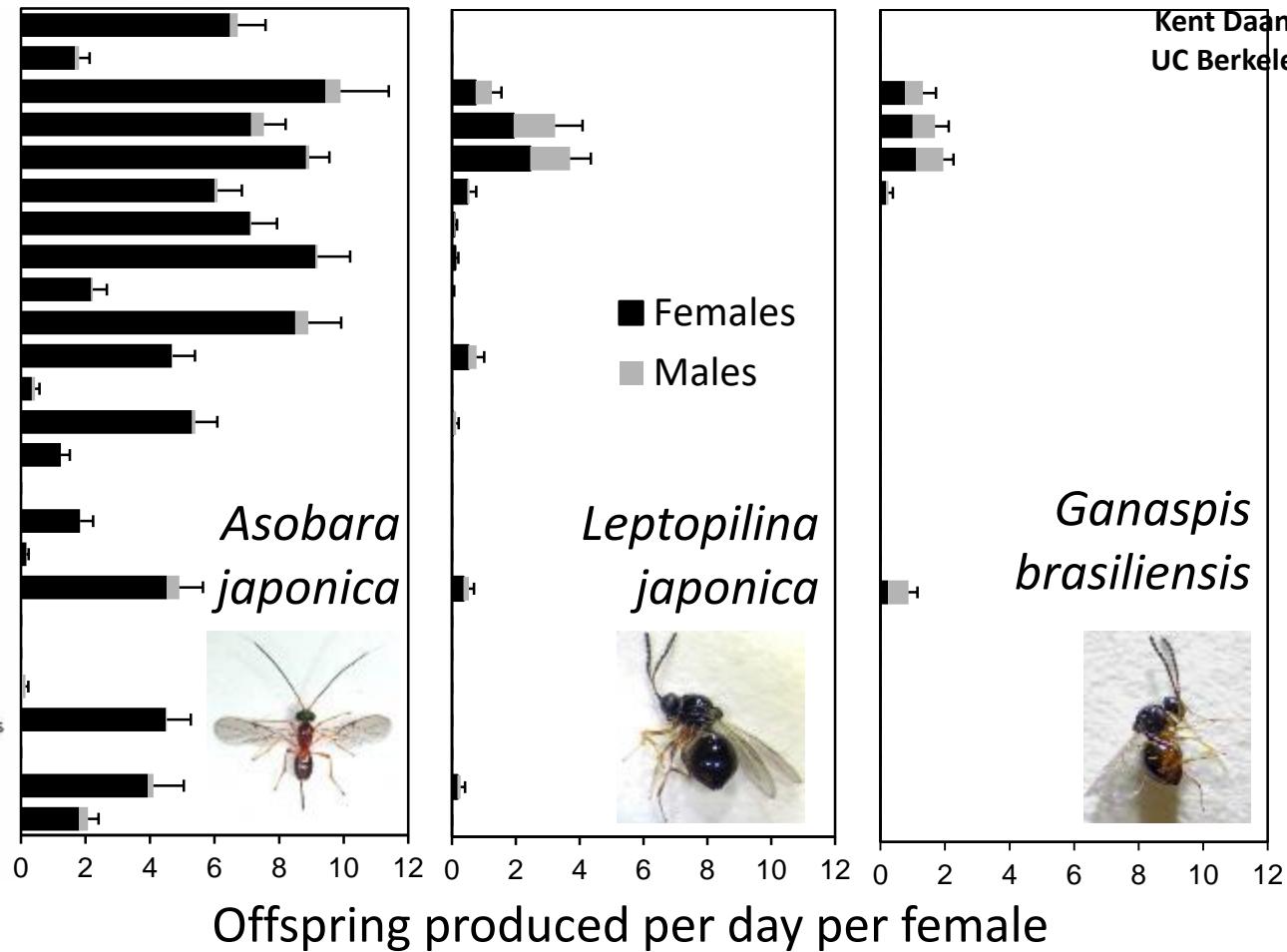


Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley

# Braconid is a “generalist” but Figitids are more like “Specialists”



Host species



# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



SWD found in California

Insecticides are correctly the first control tools studied



Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley



2008

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



Started looking at  
SWD bio-control  
in the USA

Walton (OSU)  
Hoelmer (USDA)  
Daane (UCB)  
Burrack (NCSU)  
Lee (USDA)  
Isaacs (MSU)



Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley



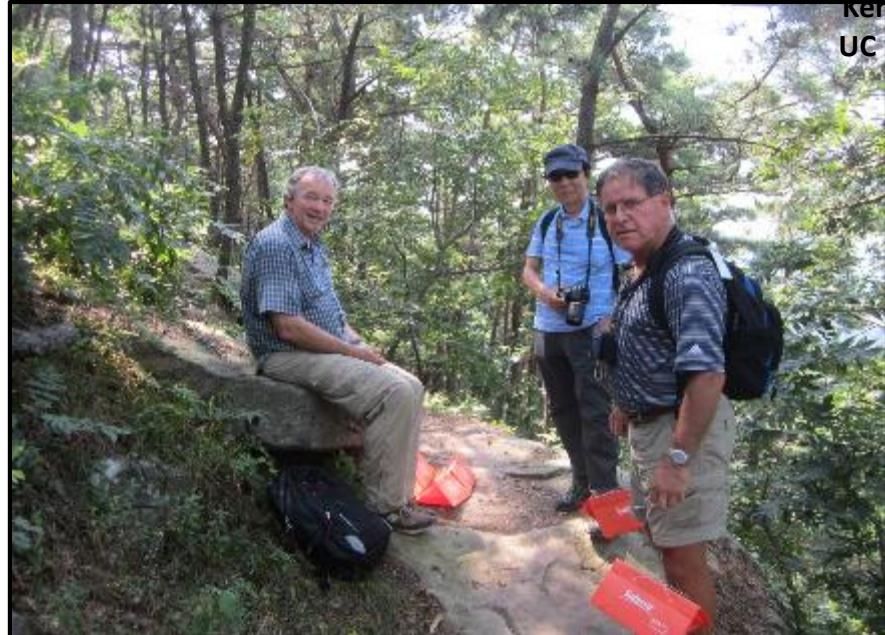
2011 (2010-2014)

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



First exploration  
in So. Korea  
for novel  
parasitoids.

Few parasitoids  
found and no  
parasitoids  
brought to USA.



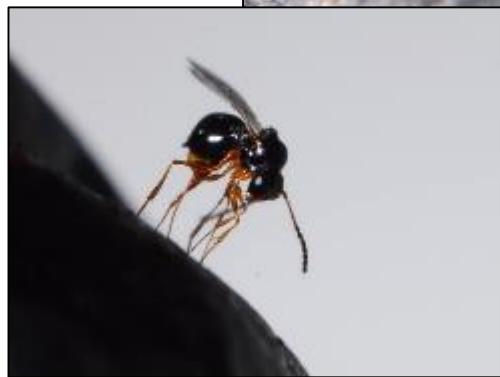
Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley



2011

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?

Asobara photo Tim Haye CABI



Third exploration in  
So. Korea; first in  
China.

About 180  
parasitoids brought  
to USA; including  
“specialized” Figitids



2014



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UC Berkeley

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



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UC Berkeley



Quarantine work begins to obtain USDA APHIS permits for three imported species:

*Asobara japonica*  
*Ganaspis brasiliensis*  
*Leptopilina japonica*



2015

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



Forth exploration in  
So. Korea; second in  
China.

More than 1,200  
parasitoids brought to  
USA; including the  
more “specialized”  
Figitids and “new”  
species for taxonomists



2016

# When will Imported Parasitoids be Released?



Kent Daane  
UC Berkeley



USDA APHIS permit submitted in 2017  
for *Ganaspis brasiliensis* and  
*Leptopilina japonica*

5 of 8 reviewers approved, requested  
additional information (climate  
matching, host specificity, parasitoid  
taxonomy)

Plan to resubmit in July 2018



June 2017 July 2018

# Objective 3.4: Optimize post harvest practices

**Lead:** Hannah Burrack

**Progress to date:** Cold storage recommendations. Preliminary experiments with blueberry optical sorting indicate that fruit infested with second instar larvae are preferentially removed.

**Future directions:** Analyze optical characteristics of infested fruit to identify new means of detection.

**Significant outputs:** Aly et al. 2017 Journal of Economic Entomology

# Post harvest cold storage

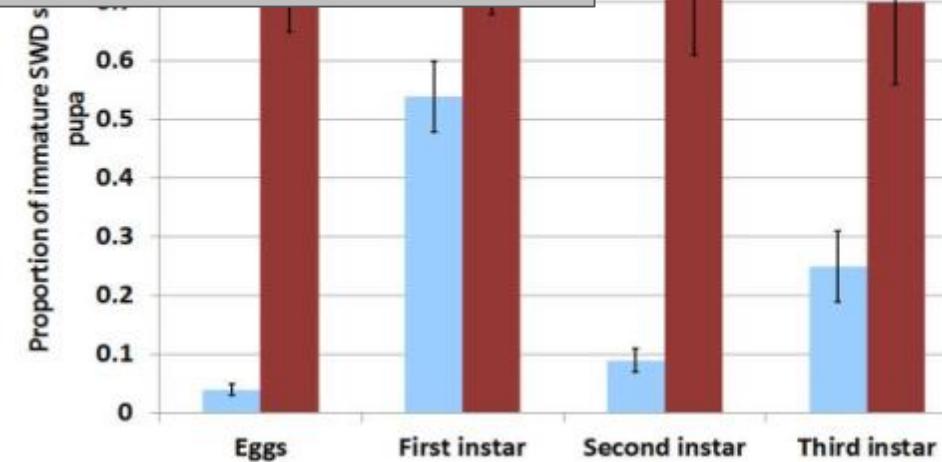
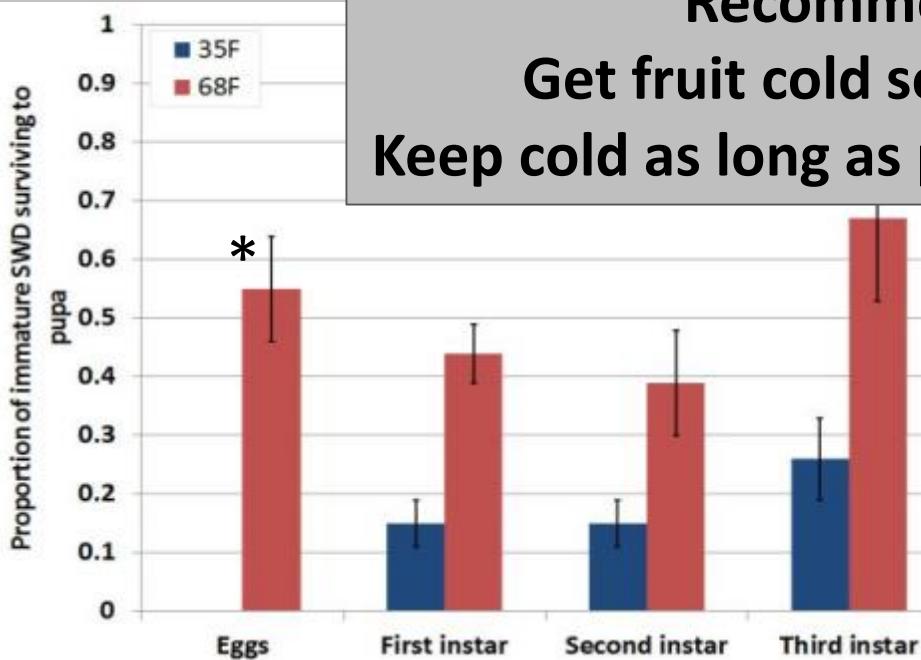
## Cold Storage

35° F (1.7° C) slows larval development by at least 3 days

Blueberry: No eggs survive after 72 h, some larvae survived

Raspberry: 1<sup>st</sup> instars not impacted, survival of all other stages decreased

Recommendations:  
Get fruit cold soon after picking  
Keep cold as long as possible (at least 72 h)



# Objective 3.5: Genetic control tactics

**Lead:** Max Scott, Zack Brown

**Progress to date:** Both “traditional” lethal and CRISPR cas9 lines under development.

Risk assessment of genetic controls underway.

**Outputs:** Completed risk assessment and use to guide future research activities. Optimize and assess fitness of genetically modified strains.

# Gene drive work in CA cherries (MIT Technology Review)

Rewriting Life

## Farmers Seek to Deploy Powerful Gene Drive

A technology feared for its potential as a bioweapon is attracting interest from farmers as a way to control pests.

by Antonio Regalado · December 12, 2017

The fruit fly *Ornithomya sativa* is a major crop pest in the U.S. The two flies at bottom have been genetically modified as part of a plan to eradicate them.



COURTESY OF OMAR AKBARI

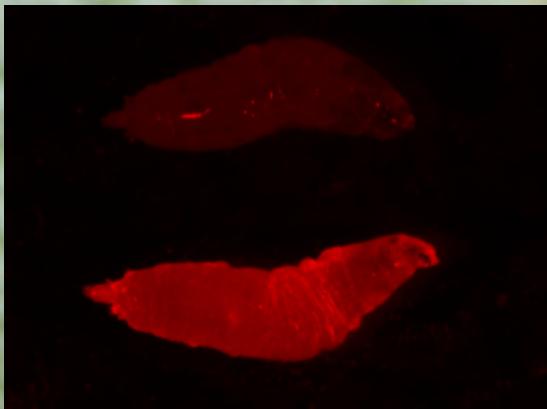


Image: Omar Akbari

-Collaboration of Bruce Hays (Cal Tech), Omar Akbari (UC- Riverside) and the CA Cherry Board

-NOT part of the SCRI program, but... we are talking with them!

-Works well in the lab, not field tested yet

# Acknowledgements

USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)  
Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) Award number 2015-51181-24252

*[www.SWDManagement.org](http://www.SWDManagement.org)*

North Carolina Blueberry Council, Inc.

Georgia Blueberry Growers Association

Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium

NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

Project GREEEN

MBG Marketing

Michigan Blueberry Advisory Council

Georgia Blueberry Commission

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Sustainable  
SWD  
Management

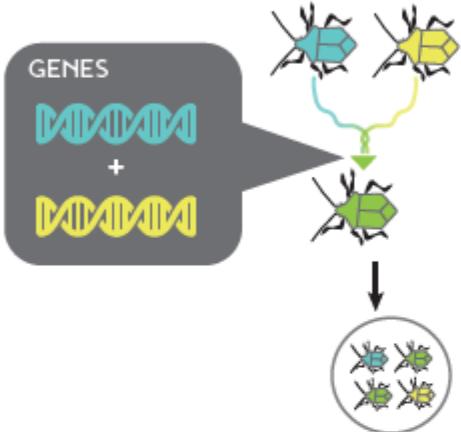


# WHAT IS GENE DRIVE?

Gene drive is a method that enhances the inheritance of a modified [or preferred] trait in a specific species. The goal of the genetic modification may be to replace or reduce a pest population or to increase the prevalence of desirable traits in a beneficial species like silkworms or honey bees.

● = 2 blue genes (modified)   ● = 2 yellow genes   ● = 1 yellow gene + 1 blue gene

## NORMAL INHERITANCE



Insects in Wild Population

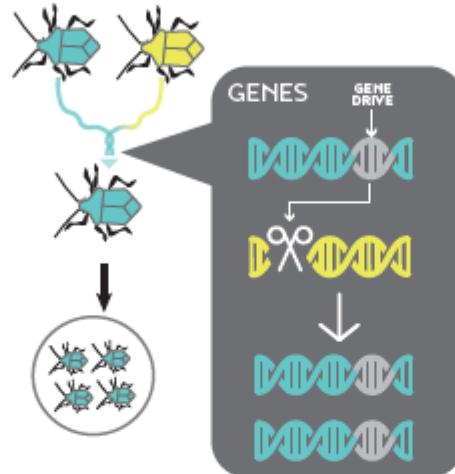


New Insects Introduced



Insect populations over

## GENE DRIVE INHERITANCE



Insects in Wild Population



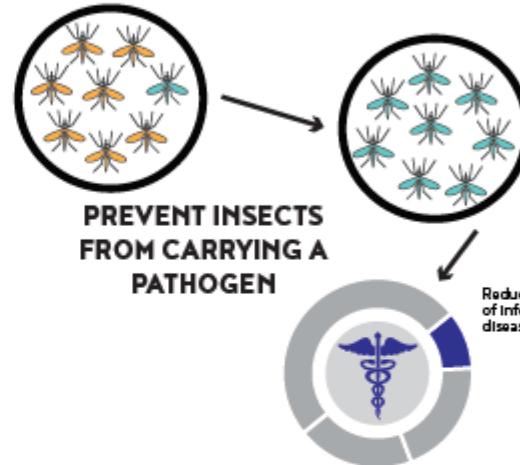
Gene Drive Insects Introduced



Insect populations over

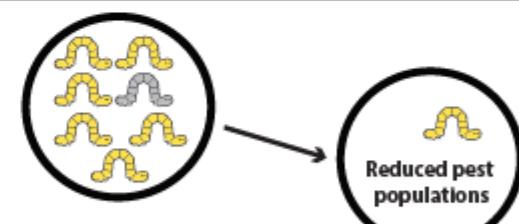
## APPLICATIONS

Gene drive could be used to:



PREVENT INSECTS  
FROM CARRYING A  
PATHOGEN

Reduced cases  
of infectious  
diseases



STOP PEST INSECTS  
FROM REPRODUCING

