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# TRI-OLOGY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY, BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY, NEMATOLOGY, AND PLANT PATHOLOGY  
Division Director, Trevor R. Smith, Ph.D.



## BOTANY

Providing information about plants:  
native, exotic, protected and weedy



## ENTOMOLOGY

Identifying arthropods, taxonomic  
research and curating collections



## NEMATOLOGY

Providing certification programs and  
diagnoses of plant problems



## PLANT PATHOLOGY

Offering plant disease diagnoses  
and information



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services • Division of Plant Industry



*Canavalia rosea*, baybean or seaside jackbean  
Photo by Marcia Stefani, wikimedia

## ABOUT TRI-OLGY

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services-Division of Plant Industry's (FDACS-DPI) Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology (ENPP), including the Botany Section, produces TRI-OLGY four times a year, covering three months of activity in each issue.

The report includes detection activities from nursery plant inspections, routine and emergency program surveys, and requests for identification of plants and pests from the public. Samples are also occasionally sent from other states or countries for identification or diagnosis.

## HOW TO CITE TRI-OLGY

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Copies of TRI-OLGY are kept on the FDACS website for two years. To obtain older copies, contact the FDACS-DPI Library at (352) 395-4722 or [PlantIndustry@FDACS.gov](mailto:PlantIndustry@FDACS.gov).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We welcome your suggestions for improvement of TRI-OLGY. Please feel free to contact the [helpline](#) with your comments at 1-888-397-1517.

Thank you,

Gregory Hodges, Ph.D.  
Editor  
Assistant Director, Division of Plant Industry

Patti J. Anderson, Ph.D.  
Managing Editor  
Botanist, Division of Plant Industry

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Cover Photo

*Leucoptera coffeella*, coffee leafminer moth.  
Photo by James Hayden, FDACS-DPI





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## HIGHLIGHTS

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**1** *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (Lam.) Britton & Rusby (**camphorweed**) is native to Mexico and across the United States from California to New York and Florida, where it grows in coastal dunes, roadsides and disturbed areas. Although this species is native, it is often encountered in weedy areas with non-native species growing nearby. In Florida, it has been documented in most counties throughout the state, but this is a **new County record** for Santa Rosa.



1 - *Heterotheca subaxillaris*, camphorweed.  
Photo by Frank Soltes, Atlas of Florida Plants

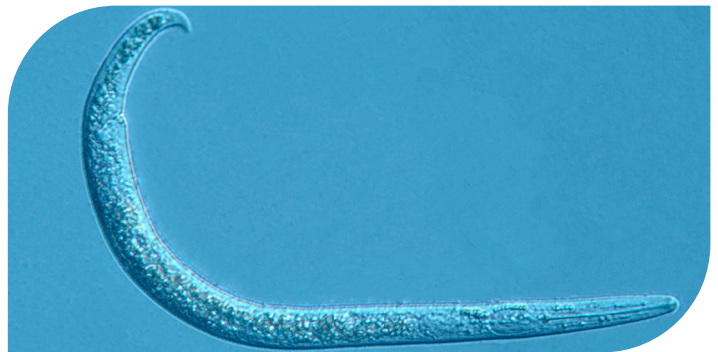
**2** *Leucoptera coffeella* (Guérin-Ménéville & Perrottet), **coffee leafminer**, a **new Continental USA record**. *Leucoptera coffeella* has been deemed one of the worst pests of coffee in the New World. The larvae make large blotch mines in leaves of *Coffea* species, impeding photosynthesis, causing defoliation and depleting the plant's energy resources, resulting in lower berry production.



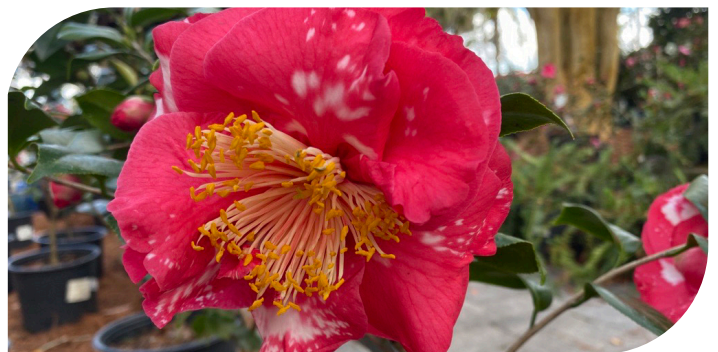
2 - *Leucoptera coffeella*, coffee leafminer moth.  
Photo by James Hayden, FDACS-DPI

**3** The pin nematode, *Paratylenchus straeleni* (De Coninck, 1931) Oostenbrink, 1960, was detected in the rhizosphere of live oak trees (*Quercus virginiana* Mill.), a **new County record**, in Ocala, Florida. Molecular and phylogenetic analyses, still in progress, have shown the Florida population clusters in the same phylogenetic clade as other *P. straeleni* populations from Belgium and California.

**4** **Apple fruit crinkle viroid, a new Host record; Camellia ringspot associated viruses 1, 2 and 3, and Camellia associated Badnavirus, new State records; and Camellia japonica associated Emaravirus 1 and 2, and Camellia yellow ringspot virus, new Continental USA records**, were all found on a *Camellia japonica* 'Dixie Knight Supreme' plant collected from a garden center in Alachua County. *Camellia* ringspot associated virus 2 and 3 and *Camellia* yellow ringspot virus were also found on a *Camellia hiemalis* 'Shi Shi Gashura' plant collected from the same garden center. The discovery of biodiverse viromes occurring naturally in horticultural hosts is becoming the new norm in plant virology through the use of next generation sequencing.



3 - The pin nematode, *Paratylenchus straeleni*.  
Photo by Silvia Vau and Scott Burton, FDACS-DPI



4 - *Camellia hiemalis* 'Shi Shi Gashura' showing symptoms flower color breaking.  
Photo by Maria Velez-Climent, FDACS-DPI





## BOTANY

Compiled by Patti J. Anderson, Ph.D. and Alex de la Paz, B.S.

This section identifies plants for the Division of Plant Industry, as well as for other governmental agencies and private individuals. The Botany Section maintains a reference herbarium with over 15,000 dried plant specimens and 1,400 vials of seeds.

### QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

|   | OCTOBER-<br>DECEMBER | 2021 - YEAR<br>TO DATE |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Samples Submitted by Other DPI Sections             | 320                  | 5,205                  |
| Samples Submitted for Botanical Identification Only | 69                   | 636                    |
| Total Samples Submitted                             | 389                  | 5,841                  |
| Specimens Added to the Herbarium                    | 46                   | 775                    |



1 - *Canavalia rosea*, baybean or seaside jackbean, flowers and leaves.  
Photo from Shutterstock

Some of the samples submitted recently are described below.

**1 *Canavalia rosea* (Sw.) DC. (baybean; seaside jackbean),** from a genus of 60 mainly tropical species in the plant family Leguminosae (Fabaceae). The species is native to coastal areas from Florida to Texas in the United States and tropical and subtropical beaches and coastlines around the world. In Florida, this vine is found on beaches and strands in almost all of our coastal counties from Dixie County around the state to Volusia County, but this is a new record for Pasco County. This creeping or twining vine is perennial with a stem up to 10 m long. The leaves are alternate, tri-foliolate (having three leaflets), 4-12 cm long and 2.5-6 cm wide with entire (no teeth) margins. The petioles (leaf stalks) are 2-5.5 cm long. The flowers are papilionaceous (like sweet-peas), are held in a raceme-like inflorescence and have lavender to rosy-pink petals. The calyx has two unequal lips: one with two larger lobes and one with three smaller lobes. Each flower has 10 stamens fused into a single column. The woody fruit is an elongated legume,

10-15 cm long, with prominent ribs, containing four to eight seeds. Seeds are about 1.5 cm long, red to reddish brown, mottled with darker shades. The vine is sometimes used as an ornamental and for erosion control in beachfront landscapes, partly because it is quite salt-tolerant and produces flowers year-round. Although the flower is lovely and the leaves are interesting, the uncooked seeds and dry seed pods are thought to be toxic to humans. (Pasco County; 20211207-3667; Shanelle Mulrooney; 7 December 2021.) (Acevedo-Rodríguez, 2005; Hammer, 2002; Mabberley, 2017; Perkins and Payne, 1978; Wunderlin and Hansen, 2011; Wunderlin and Hansen, 2016; [Canavalia rosea \(Sw.\) DC. GRIN-Global \(ars-grin.gov\)](#) [accessed 4 January 2022]; [Canavalia rosea - Species Page - ISB: Atlas of Florida Plants \(usf.edu\)](#) [accessed 4 January 2022]; [IRC - Natives for Your Neighborhood \(regionalconservation.org\)](#) [accessed 4 January 2022].)





**2 *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (Lam.) Britton & Rusby** (**camphorweed**), from a genus of about 28 or 50 species native to North America (botanists disagree on the number), in the plant family Compositae (Asteraceae). This species is native across the United States from California to New York and Florida and south into Mexico, where it grows in coastal dunes, roadsides and disturbed areas. Although this species is native, it is often encountered in weedy areas with non-native species growing nearby. In Florida, it has been documented throughout the state, with only Baker, Bradford, Dixie, Monroe and Union counties without vouchers documenting its presence. The sample submitted for identification this reporting period is a new county record for Santa Rosa County. Plants are annual or biennial (rarely perennial) herbs with erect to sprawling stems. The leaves begin as a basal rosette with stem leaves becoming gradually smaller as the plant grows upward with age. The basal and lower leaves often wither before or during flowering, from July through January. The leaves are ovate to elliptic or lanceolate with coarsely serrate to entire margins and scabrous, often glandular-pubescent, surfaces. The flowers are of two types, disc and ray florets, grouped together in a compact head subtended by an involucre of bracts (called a capitulum). The disc florets are tubular, yellow and found in the center of the head. The ray florets are also yellow, but strap-shaped, and found along the outer edge of the head. The fruit (cypsela) is dry, single-seeded and indehiscent, with an adnate calyx (pappus) on top. The pappus of the disc florets consists of an outer ring of scales and an inner ring of bristles while the ray florets lack a pappus entirely. The cypselas of the disc and ray florets are also different, hence the name *Heterotheca*, from the Greek *heteros*, different, and *thece*, container, alluding to the dimorphic cypselas. Plants often have a camphor-like odor when fresh. (Santa Rosa County; B2021-562; Ethan Kelly; 16 November 2021). (Semple, 2006; Weakley, 2020; Wunderlin and Hansen, 2011).



2 - *Heterotheca subaxillaris*, camphorweed.  
Photo by Allen Boatman, Atlas of Florida Plants

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## 🔍 BOTANY IDENTIFICATION TABLE

The following table provides information about **new county** records submitted in the current volume's time period. The table is organized by collector name. The full version with more complete data is downloadable as a [PDF](#) or an [Excel](#) spreadsheet organized by collector name, except new county records are listed first.

| NEW RECORD | COLLECTOR NAME     | COUNTY       | SAMPLE NUMBER | COLLECTION DATE | PLANT NAME                      |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 🔍          | Alex Tasi          | Indian River | 2780          | 2021-10-25      | <i>Ipomoea imperati</i>         |
| 🔍          | David Brown        | Putnam       | 8008          | 2021-12-15      | <i>Commelina diffusa</i>        |
| 🔍          | David Brown        | Putnam       | 3532          | 2021-12-20      | <i>Phragmites berlandieri</i>   |
| 🔍          | David Brown        | Flagler      | 8875          | 2021-12-14      | <i>Richardia grandiflora</i>    |
| 🔍          | David Brown        | Flagler      | 4818          | 2021-12-14      | <i>Spermacoce verticillata</i>  |
| 🔍          | Deann Hansen       | Volusia      | 3810          | 2021-09-30      | <i>Atalantia buxifolia</i>      |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Santa Rosa   | 7442          | 2021-11-17      | <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>  |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Escambia     | 3476          | 2021-12-27      | <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>     |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Santa Rosa   | 9169          | 2021-11-17      | <i>Helianthus floridanus</i>    |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Santa Rosa   | 6156          | 2021-11-23      | <i>Heterotheca subaxillaris</i> |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Okaloosa     | 6747          | 2021-12-14      | <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>      |
| 🔍          | Ethan Kelly        | Okaloosa     | 2180          | 2021-12-14      | <i>Sonchus asper</i>            |
| 🔍          | Lisa Tyler         | Nassau       | 8252          | 2021-12-14      | <i>Indigofera spicata</i>       |
| 🔍          | Mark Laurint       | Clay         | 3214          | 2021-12-03      | <i>Ardisia crenata</i>          |
| 🔍          | Mark Laurint       | St. Johns    | 9227          | 2021-10-27      | <i>Crinum americanum</i>        |
| 🔍          | Ray Jarrett        | Volusia      | 3339          | 2021-12-21      | <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>      |
| 🔍          | Shanelle Mulrooney | Pasco        | 3667          | 2021-12-07      | <i>Canavalia rosea</i>          |
| 🔍          | Shanelle Mulrooney | Pasco        | 3796          | 2021-12-07      | <i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>       |



# ENTOMOLOGY

Compiled by Susan E. Halbert, Ph.D.

This section provides the division's plant protection specialists and other customers with accurate identifications of arthropods. The entomology section also builds and maintains the arthropod reference and research collection (the Florida State Collection of Arthropods with over 10 million specimens) and investigates the biology, biological control and taxonomy of arthropods.

|   | OCTOBER-<br>DECEMBER | 2021 - YEAR<br>TO DATE |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Samples submitted by other DPI sections             | 320                  | 5,205                  |
| Samples submitted for botanical identification only | 69                   | 636                    |
| Total samples submitted                             | 389                  | 5,841                  |
| Specimens added to the herbarium                    | 46                   | 775                    |



1 - *Leucoptera coffeella*, coffee leafminer moth.  
Photo by James E Hayden, FDACS-DPI

## 1 *Leucoptera coffeella* (Guérin-Méneville & Perrottet), coffee leafminer, a new Continental USA record.

*Leucoptera coffeella* is deemed to be one of the worst pests of coffee in the New World. The larvae make large blotch mines in leaves of *Coffea* species, impeding photosynthesis, causing defoliation and depleting resources, resulting in lower berry production. This species has been established in the Caribbean Region since at least the 19th century, so it is surprising that it has not been detected previously in Florida. Infestations of *Coffea arabica* L. have been found thus far on four properties in Broward County. The moths were identified by the damage, DNA barcoding of mitochondrial COI (cytochrome oxidase subunit 1) and adult moths reared in containment. (Broward County; E1253-02-12022021-6783; Pattanjilidal Bissoondial, USDA; 1 December 2021.) (Dr. James E. Hayden and Matthew R. Moore.)

## 2 *Podothrips lucasseni* (Kruger), 1890, a new Continental USA record.

Members of the genus *Podothrips* are predators of scales feeding on grasses (Poaceae/Gramineae). Most species of *Podothrips* are restricted to Asia and Australia, but *P. lucasseni* has colonized a wide geographic area ranging from Pakistan to Hawaii (Ritchie, 1974). In Asia, *P. lucasseni* often is found in association with scales feeding on rice or sugarcane (Mound and Minaei, 2007). Only one other member of *Podothrips*, *P. semiflavus*, has been reported previously from Florida (Diffie, et al., 2008). *Podothrips lucasseni* is easy to distinguish from *P. semiflavus* by having the body evenly dark brown, the pelta divided into three sclerites and having a large seta mounted on a tubercle, basal to the protarsal tooth. (Lake County; E0005-01-09272021-4210; Abby Bartlett and Jimmy Hernández, DPI; 23 September 2021.) (Dr. Felipe N. Soto-Adames.)



2 - *Podothrips lucasseni*, predatory thrips.  
Photo by Felipe Soto-Adames, FDACS-DPI





**3** *Iccius cylindricus* Champion, a tenebrionid beetle, a new Florida State record. One specimen of this species was recovered from a Lindgren funnel trap placed at Port Tampa Bay. The species is known from Guatemala as well as Arizona, Louisiana and Texas in the United States. The only life history notes indicate adults are found in hollow stems of morning glory (*Ipomoea*). This species does not appear to be a pest. (Hillsborough County; E1614-01-12212021-03404; Douglas Restom Gaskill, USDA; 12 December 2021.) (Kyle E. Schnepf.)

**4** *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders), peach fruit fly, a regulatory incident. A single male specimen was captured in a Jackson trap baited with methyl eugenol in North Miami. Increased trap densities in a 66-square-mile area around the detection site are being maintained, and traps will be monitored closely for an estimated two life cycles. If no additional flies are found, the delimitation program will end about 30 March 2022. (Miami-Dade County; 12142021-7907; Stephanie Paz, DPI; 13 December 2022.) (Gary J. Steck.)

#### REFERENCES

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Thysanoptera of southeastern U.S.A.: A checklist for Florida and Georgia. *Zootaxa* 1787: 45–62.

**Mound, L.A. and Minaei, K. (2007).** Australian thrips of the *Haplothrips* lineage. *Journal of Natural History* 41: 2919–2978.

**Ritchie, J.M. (1974).** A revision of the grass-living genus *Podothrips* (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae). *Journal of Entomology B* 43:261–282.



3 - *Iccius cylindricus*, darkling beetle. Adult male, dorsal view.  
Photo by Kyle Schnepf, FDACS-DPI



4 - *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders) collected in North Miami.  
Photo by Gary J. Steck, FDACS-DPI



## 🔍 ENTOMOLOGY SPECIMEN REPORT

Following are tables with entries for records of new hosts or new geographical areas for samples identified in the current volume's time period as well as samples of special interest. An abbreviated table, with all the new records, but less detail about them, is presented in the body of this web page and another version with more complete data is downloadable as a [PDF](#) or an [Excel spreadsheet](#).

The tables are organized alphabetically by plant host if the specimen has a plant host. Some arthropod specimens are not collected on plants and are not necessarily plant pests. In the table below, those entries that have no plant information included are organized by arthropod name.

| PLANT SPECIES              | PLANT COMMON NAME      | ARTHROPOD GENUS AND SPECIES        | ARTHROPOD COMMON NAME  | COLLECTOR                    | RECORD                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Alexander Tasi               | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Chase Groninger              | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Clarence Parkes              | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Jeanie Frechette             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Jeanie Frechette             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Jeanie Frechette             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Jeanie Frechette             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Keith Zugar                  | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Kelsey Pitchford             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Lisa Tyler                   | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Logan Cutts, Dyrana Russell  | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Logan Cutts, Dyrana Russell  | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Victoria Benjamin            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Abies fraseri              | Fraser fir             | <i>Fiorinia externa</i>            | elongate hemlock scale | Victoria Benjamin            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Aesculus pavia             | red buckeye            | <i>Saissetia miranda</i>           | Mexican black scale    | Lyle Buss                    | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD   |
| Allium sativum             | garlic                 | <i>Aceria tulipae</i>              | dry bulb mite          | Susan Halbert                | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Annona squamosa            | sugar apple            | <i>Andaspis punicae</i>            | litchi scale           | Arabia Barroso               | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD   |
| Annona squamosa            | sugar apple            | <i>Fiorinia phantasma</i>          | phantasma scale        | Sallie Simmons               | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD   |
| Bidens alba                | beggarticks; romerillo | <i>Phenacoccus sisymbriifolium</i> | mealybug               | Nora Marquez                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Blighia sapida             | ackee                  | <i>Bactrocera zonata</i>           | peach fruit fly        | Stephanie Paz                | QUARANTINABLE PEST        |
| Brahea armata              | Mexican blue palm      | <i>Fiorinia phantasma</i>          | phantasma scale        | Liliana Jerez                | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD   |
| Brassica rapa              | Napa cabbage           | <i>Bactericera cockerelli</i>      | potato psyllid         | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Calamintha coccinea        | scarlet calamint       | <i>Sinea spinipes</i>              | spiny assassin bug     | Ethan Kelly                  | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Capsicum annum             | poblano pepper         | <i>Bactericera cockerelli</i>      | potato psyllid         | Jimmy Hernandez              | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Citrus sinensis            | sweet orange           | <i>Samea druchachalis</i>          | crambid moth           | Adriana Diaz                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Citrus sp.                 | citrus                 | <i>Nipaecoccus viridis</i>         | lebbeck mealybug       | Prem Kumar, Claire Franklin  | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Cnidioscolus aconitifolius | chaya; tree spinach    | <i>Tetraleurodes fici</i>          | whitefly               | Emily Safran                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Coffea arabica             | coffee                 | <i>Leucoptera coffeella</i>        | coffee leafminer       | Pattanjalidal Bissoondial    | NEW US CONTINENTAL RECORD |
| Crataegus michauxii        | Michaux's hawthorn     | <i>Schizoneurata tissoti</i>       | wooly aphid            | Ethan Kelly                  | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Cucumis melo               | cantaloupe             | <i>Scolopocerus uhleri</i>         | coreid                 | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Dianthus sp.               | pink                   | <i>Seira steinmetzi</i>            | springtail             | Farmer                       | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Ixora sp.                  | ixora; jungle flame    | <i>Asiothrix antidesmae</i>        | ixora whitefly         | Lyle Buss                    | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
| Lactuca sativa             | romaine Lettuce        | <i>Acyrtosiphon lactucae</i>       | lettuce aphid          | Ryan Brown                   | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |
| Lactuca sativa             | Boston Lettuce         | <i>Acyrtosiphon lactucae</i>       | lettuce aphid          | Ryan Brown                   | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT    |



| PLANT SPECIES                | PLANT COMMON NAME                   | ARTHROPOD GENUS AND SPECIES        | ARTHROPOD COMMON NAME      | COLLECTOR                               | RECORD   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Lactuca sativa               | Tuscan lettuce                      | <i>Cavariella aegopodii</i>        | carrot-willow aphid        | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lactuca sativa               | red leaf lettuce                    | <i>Nasonovia ribisnigri</i>        | currant-lettuce aphid      | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lactuca sativa               | romaine Lettuce                     | <i>Nasonovia ribisnigri</i>        | currant-lettuce aphid      | Janie Echols                            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lactuca sativa               | romaine Lettuce                     | <i>Nasonovia ribisnigri</i>        | currant-lettuce aphid      | Logan Cutts, Dyrana Russell             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lactuca sativa               | romaine Lettuce                     | <i>Nasonovia ribisnigri</i>        | currant-lettuce aphid      | Logan Cutts, Dyrana Russell             | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lactuca sativa               | romaine Lettuce                     | <i>Nasonovia ribisnigri</i>        | currant-lettuce aphid      | Ryan Brown                              | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Lagerstroemia indica         | crape myrtle                        | <i>Ceroplastes ceriferus</i>       | Indian wax scale           | Sam Hart                                | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Mangifera indica             | mango                               | <i>Epicorsia oedipodalis</i>       | fiddlewood leafroller moth | Jeanie Frechette                        | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Mangifera indica             | mango                               | <i>Fiorinia phantasma</i>          | phantasma scale            | Lane Smith                              | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Manilkara zapota             | sapodilla                           | <i>Sobarocephala cruciger</i>      | clusiid fly                | David Petendree                         | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Melinis repens               | rose natalgrass                     | <i>Antonina graminis</i>           | Rhodesgrass mealybug       | Kyle Schnepf                            | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Palmae                       | palm                                | <i>Palmicultor palmarum</i>        | Ehrhorn's palm mealybug    | Muhammed Ahmed                          | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Parkinsonia aculeata         | Mexican palo verde; Jerusalem thorn | <i>Rhinacloa callicrates</i>       | Parkinsonia bug            | Sam Hart                                | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Plectranthus sp.             | coleus                              | <i>Phenacoccus sisymbriifolium</i> | mealybug                   | Clarence Parkes                         | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD; NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD |
| Poinsettia pulcherrima       | poinsettia                          | <i>Phenacoccus multiceraii</i>     | mealybug                   | Chantelle Vioria                        | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Pseudotsuga menziesii        | Douglas fir                         | <i>Chionaspis pinifoliae</i>       | pine needle scale          | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Pueraria montana var. lobata | kudzu                               | <i>Bemisia tabaci</i>              | silverleaf whitefly        | Patti Anderson                          | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Pyracantha koidzumii         | Formosa firethorn                   | <i>Aphis eugeniae</i>              | aphid                      | Susan Halbert                           | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Quercus sp.                  | oak                                 | <i>Acrolophus waisinghami</i>      | tribble moth               | Kelsey Pitchford                        | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Rhododendron sp.             | azalea                              | <i>Matsucoccus krystalae</i>       | pine bast scale            | Lily Deeter                             | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Rubus sp.                    | blackberry                          | <i>Amphophora sp.</i>              | aphid                      | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Rubus sp.                    | blackberry                          | <i>Aphis ruborum</i>               | permanent blackberry aphid | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Rubus sp.                    | raspberry                           | <i>Lygus sp.</i>                   | western lygus bug          | Jakira Davis, Eric Dougherty            | REGULATORY SIGNIFICANT                             |
| Schefflera arboricola        | dwarf schefflera                    | <i>Aphis hederiae</i>              | English ivy aphid          | Diane Mccoll                            | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Sporobolus indicus           | smutgrass                           | <i>Antonina graminis</i>           | Rhodesgrass mealybug       | Kyle Schnepf                            | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Tridens flavus               | purpletop tridens                   | <i>Antonina graminis</i>           | Rhodesgrass mealybug       | Kyle Schnepf                            | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
| Tripsacum dactyloides        | Fakahatchee grass                   | <i>Podothrips lucasseni</i>        | predatory thrips           | Abby Bartlett, Jimmy Hernandez          | NEW US CONTINENTAL RECORD                          |
| Vitis rotundifolia           | grape                               | <i>Omolicna joi</i>                | derbid planthopper         | Rachel Conklin, Connor Kuppe            | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Wodyetia bifurcata           | foxtail palm                        | <i>Fiorinia phantasma</i>          | phantasma scale            | Jeanie Frechette                        | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Wodyetia bifurcata           | foxtail palm                        | <i>Fiorinia phantasma</i>          | phantasma scale            | Scott Weihman, Erin Powell, Nelson Levy | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |
| Zamia sp.                    | coontie                             | <i>Saissetia miranda</i>           | Mexican black scale        | Liliana Jerez                           | NEW FLORIDA HOST RECORD                            |
|                              |                                     | <i>Aedes bahamensis</i>            | mosquito                   | Lawrence Hribar                         | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD                          |





| PLANT SPECIES | PLANT COMMON NAME | ARTHROPOD GENUS AND SPECIES         | ARTHROPOD COMMON NAME  | COLLECTOR                                    | RECORD                    |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|               |                   | <i>Agallia deleta</i>               | leafhopper             | Scott Weihman, Alexander Tasi                | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Bolacothrips striatopennatus</i> | thrips                 | Krystal Ashman                               | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Chionomus quadrispinosus</i>     | delphacid planthopper  | Robert Leahy                                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Chionomus quadrispinosus</i>     | delphacid planthopper  | Scott Weihman, Alexander Tasi                | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Delphacodes truncata</i>         | delphacid planthopper  | James Bouie, Joseph Hanus                    | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Delphacodes truncata</i>         | delphacid planthopper  | Robert Leahy                                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Dysimia pseudomaculata</i>       | derbid planthopper     | James Bouie, Joseph Hanus                    | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Gonoporumiris mirificus</i>      | plant bug              | Maximilian Carfagno                          | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Iccius cylindricus</i>           | darkling beetle        | Douglas Restom-Gaskill                       | NEW FLORIDA STATE RECORD  |
|               |                   | <i>Macrochlamys indica</i>          | horntail snail         | Daniel Merced, Shanelle Mulrooney, Gary Webb | QUARANTINABLE PEST        |
|               |                   | <i>Micronecta sp.</i>               | corixid                | James Bouie, Joseph Hanus                    | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Mitropsylla cubana</i>           | psyllid                | Ben Rosson                                   | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Omoligna joi</i>                 | derbid planthopper     | Logan Cutts, Dyrana Russell                  | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Phytocoris tillandsiae</i>       | mirid plant bug        | Joan Paravassini                             | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Sixeonotus albicornis</i>        | mirid plant bug        | Robert Leahy                                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Sophonia orientalis</i>          | two-spotted leafhopper | Ben Rosson                                   | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Typhlocybella minima</i>         | leafhopper             | Scott Weihman, Alexander Tasi                | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Xystrologa grenadella</i>        | bark-boring moth       | James Hayden                                 | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |
|               |                   | <i>Zyginama tripunctata</i>         | leafhopper             | Alejandro Montoya                            | NEW FLORIDA COUNTY RECORD |



## NEMATODOLOGY

Compiled by Renato N. Inserra, Ph.D.; Sergei. A. Subbotin, Ph.D.; Silvia Vau, Ph.D.;  
Brian Alford, B.S. and Janete A. Brito, Ph.D.

This section analyzes soil and plant samples for nematodes, conducts pest detection surveys and provides diagnoses of plant problems, in addition to completing identification of plant parasitic nematodes involved in regulatory and certification programs. State of Florida statutes and rules mandate the predominant regulatory activities of the section. Analyses of plant and soil samples include those from in-state programs, plant shipments originating in Florida destined for other states and countries, as well as samples intercepted in Florida from outside the United States.

### QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

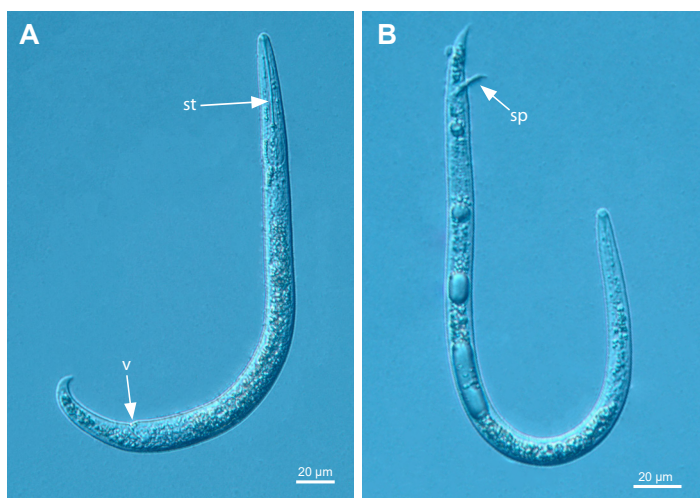
|                                  | OCTOBER-<br>DECEMBER | 2021 - YEAR<br>TO DATE |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Morphological<br>Identifications | 3,182                | 13,774                 |
| Molecular<br>Identifications *   | 98                   | 847                    |
| Total Identifications            | 3,280                | 14,621                 |

\* The majority of these analyses involved root-knot nematode species.

### Nematode of Special Interest

**1** The pin nematode, *Paratylenchus straeleni* (De Coninck, 1931) Oostenbrink, 1960, was detected in the rhizosphere of live oak (*Quercus virginiana* Mill.) trees, a **new County record**, in Ocala, Florida. (Marion County; 12092021-3226-3-1; Brian Alford; 9 December 2021.)

The pin nematode, *Paratylenchus straeleni*, was found by De Coninck (1931) on moss in Liege, Belgium, and described with the name *Procriconema straeleni*. Subsequently, this species was transferred to the genus *Paratylenchus* Micoletzky, 1922 by Oostenbrink, 1960. This pin nematode has a wide geographical distribution and has been reported in many countries other than those in Europe, including Canada, Iran, South Africa, Turkey and the United States. A morphologically similar species was found by Tarjan (1960) in Lake Alfred, Florida, and described under the name of *P. sarissus*, considered a junior synonym of *P. straeleni* by Geraert (1965). Subsequently, phylogenetic studies have been conducted to elucidate the taxonomic status of pin nematode populations identified as *P. straeleni* from different localities. A study conducted by Sing, et al. (2021) indicated DNA sequences of topotype Belgian populations of *P. straeleni* matched those of populations from California and other distant geographical areas. Recently, regulatory nematode samples collected from live oaks in a tree farm were found infested with a pin nematode morphologically similar to *P. straeleni*, associated with the tylenchulid nematode, *Trophotylenchulus floridensis* Raski, 1957. Molecular and phylogenetic analyses, still in progress, have shown the Florida population clusters in the same phylogenetic clade as other *P. straeleni* populations from Belgium and California. In addition



1 - Photomicrographs of *Paratylenchus straeleni* from Florida. Female (A) and male (B) entire body. (Sp = spicule; St = stylet; V = vulva).  
Photo by Silvia Vau and Scott Burton, FDACS-DPI

to the report of this species as *P. sarissus* by Tarjan (1960), Lehman (2002) lists a *P. straeleni* population from Taylor County, Florida, in association with *Sabal palmetto*. However, this report cannot be confirmed because no morphological data on the population are available. The *P. straeleni* populations from both California and Florida were associated with plant species of the genus *Quercus*. The economic importance of *P. straeleni* in agriculture has not been assessed.

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## PLANT PATHOLOGY

Compiled by Hector Urbina, Ph.D.; Jodi Hansen, M.S.; Taylor Smith, B.S.; Kishore Dey, Ph.D.; Melanie Fryman, B.S. and Maria Velez-Climent, M.S.

The Plant Pathology section provides plant disease diagnostic services for the department. The agency-wide goal of protecting the flora of Florida very often begins with accurate diagnoses of plant problems. Management recommendations are offered where appropriate and available. Our plant pathologists are dedicated to keeping informed about endemic plant diseases along with those diseases and disorders active outside Florida to be prepared for potential introductions of new pathogens to our area.

**1 Apple fruit crinkle viroid, a new Host record; Camellia ringspot associated viruses 1, 2 and 3, and Camellia associated Badnavirus, new State records; and Camellia japonica associated Emaravirus 1 and 2, and Camellia yellow ringspot virus, new Continental USA records,** were all found on a *Camellia japonica* 'Dixie Knight Supreme' plant collected from a garden center in Alachua County. Camellia ringspot associated virus 2 and 3 and Camellia yellow ringspot virus were also found on a *Camellia hiemalis* 'Shi Shi Gashura' plant collected from the same garden center. The *C. japonica* and *C. hiemalis* samples displayed yellow mottling, yellow line patterns and chlorotic ringspots on the leaves. Color breaking was also observed on flowers. All isolates were confirmed by sequencing and genetic analysis.

Apple fruit crinkle viroid (Genus *Apscaviroid*) has a narrow host range; previously reported to infect only apple, hops and persimmon (EPPO, 2021). Plant viroids are mainly transmitted by vegetative propagation but can also be transmitted mechanically or biologically by seed, pollen and aphids (Fauquet *et al.*, 2005). Tentative names for the Pruneviruses Camellia ringspot-associated virus 1 and 2 (Genus *Prunivirus*) have not yet been recognized by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), but these viruses and Camellia ringspot associated virus 3 (Genus *Capillovirus*) were previously isolated in Maryland where they are considered widespread. They are all graft and seed transmitted (Liu *et al.*, 2020). Camellia-associated Badnavirus (Genus *Badnavirus*), a tentative virus name also not yet recognized by the ICTV, was independently identified by two different researchers from Maryland and China. It was tentatively named Camellia Lemon Glow virus in the United States and Camellia-associated Badnavirus in China (Li *et al.*, 2020). Badnaviruses can be vectored by mealybugs and aphids (Bhat *et al.*, 2016). Camellia yellow ringspot virus (Genus *Idaeovirus*) was first reported in China in 2020 (Zhang *et al.*, 2020) and can be transmitted through vegetative propagation and pollen (Bulger *et al.*, 1990). *Camellia japonica* associated Emaravirus 1 and 2 (Genus *Emaravirus*), recently discovered in *Camellia* sp. in Italy (Peracchio *et al.*, 2020), can be transmitted by mechanical inoculation, grafting and arthropod vectors, such as mites (Mielke-Ehret *et al.*, 2012).

The discovery of biodiverse viromes occurring naturally in horticultural hosts through next generation sequencing is becoming the new norm in plant virology. Many viral diseases



1a - *Camellia japonica* 'Dixie Knight Supreme' showing symptoms of yellow mottling, line patterns and chlorotic ringspots on leaves of a single plant caused by a mixed viral infection including Apple fruit crinkle viroid, Camellia ringspot-associated virus 1, 2, and 3, Camellia-associated Badnavirus, Camellia yellow ringspot virus and Camellia japonica associated virus emaravirus 1 and 2.  
Photos by Maria Velez-Climent, FDACS-DPI

are found to be associated with multiple viruses, and the role of each member in the disease complex is difficult to discern, especially since virus and host genetic background, as well as environment, all play a role in symptom development. The manifestation of symptoms may be just one component of such complicated interactions. Camellias present a classic example of such mixed infection. Variegation in camellias has long been thought to be caused by Camellia yellow mottle virus, but when variegated plants were analyzed with deep sequencing technology, multiple viruses were discovered to be associated with the condition. Because camellias are extensively grafted and propagated to produce new cultivars, diverse virus populations tend to persist and evolve in the host. Since these symptoms have been reported wherever camellias are grown, it is likely the viruses we detected are widespread in the southeastern United States, where camellias are often planted for ornamental purposes (Bond, 1994). (Alachua County; P0528-1115-2021-2341; Maria Velez-Climent; 13 November 2021) (Alachua County; P0744-12092021-7931; Maria Velez-Climent; 8 December 2021).





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**1b - *Camellia hiemalis* 'Shi Shi Gashura' showing symptoms of yellow mottling on leaves and flower color breaking on a single plant, caused by a mixed viral infection including *Camellia ringspot-associated virus 2* and *3* and *Camellia yellow ringspot virus*.**  
Photos by Maria Velez-Climent, FDACS-DPI

## QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT

|   | OCTOBER-<br>DECEMBER | 2021 - YEAR<br>TO DATE |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Citrus black spot                           | 221                  | 328                    |
| Citrus canker                               | 282                  | 720                    |
| Citrus greening / HLB                       | 114                  | 846                    |
| HLB certification for out of state shipping | 4,553                | 9,336                  |
| Import inspections                          | 8                    | Not available          |
| Interdictions                               | 30                   | 178                    |
| Palm phytoplasma                            | 37                   | 52                     |
| Pathology, general                          | 130                  | 2,162                  |
| Soil  | 14                   | 188                    |
| Totals                                      | 5,389                | 13,810                 |

## 🔍 PLANT PATHOLOGY IDENTIFICATION TABLE

The following table provides information about samples identified between October-December 2021. The table is organized alphabetically by plant species, with new records listed on the right.

| PLANT SPECIES                | PLANT COMMON NAME | CAUSAL AGENT  | DISEASE NAME                               | LOCATION TYPE     | SPECIMEN NUMBER | COUNTY     | COLLECTOR                    | DATE       | NEW RECORDS            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <i>Camellia hiemalis</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Prunivirus Camellia ringspot associated virus 2</i>      | Camellia ringspot associated virus 2       | nursery           | 12092021-7931   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 12/8/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Camellia hiemalis</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Capillovirus Camellia ringspot associated virus 3</i>    | Camellia ringspot associated virus 3       | nursery           | 12092021-7931   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 12/8/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Camellia hiemalis</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Idaeovirus Camellia yellow ringspot virus</i>            | Camellia yellow ringspot virus             | nursery           | 12092021-7931   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 12/8/2021  | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Camellia japonica</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Apscaviroid Apple fruit crinkle viroid</i>               | Apple fruit crinkle viroid                 | nursery           | 11152021-2341   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 11/13/2021 | Host                   |
| <i>Camellia japonica</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Prunivirus Camellia ringspot associated virus 1</i>      | Camellia ringspot associated virus 1       | nursery           | 11152021-2341   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 11/13/2021 | State                  |
| <i>Camellia japonica</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Emaravirus Camellia japonica associated emaravirus 1</i> | Camellia japonica associated emaravirus 1  | nursery           | 11152021-2341   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 11/13/2021 | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Camellia japonica</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Emaravirus Camellia japonica associated emaravirus 2</i> | Camellia japonica associated emaravirus 2  | nursery           | 11152021-2341   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 11/13/2021 | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Camellia japonica</i>     | Camellia          | <i>Badnavirus Camellia-associated badnavirus</i>            | Camellia-associated badnavirus             | nursery           | 11152021-2341   | Alachua    | Maria Velez-Climent          | 11/13/2021 | State                  |
| <i>Citrullus lanatus</i>     | watermelon        | <i>Coguvirus Watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1</i> | Watermelon crinkle-leaf associated virus 1 | agricultural site | 10222021-2543   | Columbia   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/10/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Coffea arabica</i>        | coffee            | <i>Hemileia vasatrix</i>                                    | rust                                       | residence         | 11052021-9024   | Collier    | Scott Krueger                | 11/4/2021  | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Potyvirus Sweet potato feathery mottle virus</i>         | Sweet potato feathery mottle virus         | agricultural site | 10222021-3312   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/16/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Badnavirus Sweet potato pakakuy virus</i>                | Sweet potato pakakuy virus                 | agricultural site | 10222021-3312   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/16/2021  | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Potyvirus Sweet potato virus G</i>                       | Sweet potato virus G                       | agricultural site | 10222021-3312   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/16/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Potyvirus Sweet potato virus 2</i>                       | Sweet potato virus 2                       | agricultural site | 10222021-3312   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/16/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Mastrevirus Sweet potato symptomless virus 1</i>         | Sweet potato symptomless virus 1           | agricultural site | 10222021-9166   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/16/2021  | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Ipomoea batatas</i>       | sweet potato      | <i>Potyvirus Sweet potato virus C</i>                       | Sweet potato virus C                       | agricultural site | 10222021-9166   | Suwannee   | Nicholas Dufault             | 9/17/2021  | State                  |
| <i>Persea</i> sp.            | redbay            | <i>Avsunviroid Avocado sunblotch viroid</i>                 | Avocado sunblotch viroid                   | agricultural site | 09282021-4163   | Nassau     | Robert Leahy, Krystal Ashman | 9/28/2021  | Host                   |
| <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>  | tomato            | <i>Amalgavirus Southern tomato virus</i>                    | Southern tomato virus                      | nursery           | 12152021-2596   | Lee        | Walter Golden                | 12/14/2021 | State                  |
| <i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i> | tabebuia          | <i>Prosopodium tabebuiae</i>                                | rust                                       | residence         | 10082021-4322   | Miami-Dade | Cynthia Morales              | 10/1/2021  | Continental USA Record |
| <i>Zinnia elegans</i>        | zinnia            | <i>Potyvirus Bidens</i>                                     | Bidens                                     | community         | 108964          | Alachua    | Robert Leahy,                | 8/16/2021  | Host                   |





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## NOTES FROM A GUEST

By Patti J. Anderson

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### Astronauts and Agriculture: a match made in the heavens?

Fall gardens usually produce a welcome bounty in Florida backyards, but what about in space? In the fall of 2021, astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) enjoyed the rewards of gardening after harvesting peppers for tasty tacos. How is DPI involved?

DPI occasionally reviews permit applications to move seeds from other states to the NASA site in Florida for experiments in space. Agronomists are interested in the effects of microgravity on plants, and NASA is eager to find more sources of food for humans during extended stays away from earth. Although the permits seldom involve any plant species of concern to the state, the process reminds us astronauts and agriculture can have shared interests. Several permit applications have come to DPI for projects to test changes in seeds (such as lettuce and grapes) from exposure to space travel. This year, the fall garden was planted for food as well as research.

Seeds of the dwarf pepper cultivar *Capsicum annuum* 'NuMex Española Improved' were transported to the ISS and cultivated in a Plant Habitat-04 (a high-tech box) with the goal of producing at least one edible pepper. After 137 days (longer than the earthly average of 90 days for this early maturing cultivar), the first harvest took place in October 2021 and led to the tasty tacos. (The designation 'NuMex' indicates the pepper cultivar was developed at New Mexico State University.)

Since there were no space bees available, astronaut farmers used variable-speed fans to spread pollen and carried out some hand-pollination as well. A second harvest took place in November, providing enough peppers for more taste tests in space and for testing nutritional value and safety back in earth-bound laboratories. The tests will help determine any effects of growing the crop in microgravity.

What's next? NASA plans research experiments with growing dwarf tomatoes and several leafy greens. The ground-based team is also planning more harvests with microgreens, legumes and herbs to add variety to the astronaut diet. Cotton and algae are also subjects of future research now in the planning stages.

Will DPI plant inspectors soon be needed in space? Only if NASA decides to cash in on space crops and sell plants grown on the ISS.

[Amazing! NASA Astronauts Make Tacos With Chillies Grown In Space - NDTV Food](#)



*Capsicum annuum* 'NuMex Española Improved' in microgravity.  
Photo from NASA





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