



# Mealybugs and Vine Leafroll Virus, a Dangerous Mix

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**Oregon State**  
University

# Grapevine leafroll disease:



**Most important virus disease of grapevines in South Africa where it occurs at high incidences.**



**Oregon State**  
University



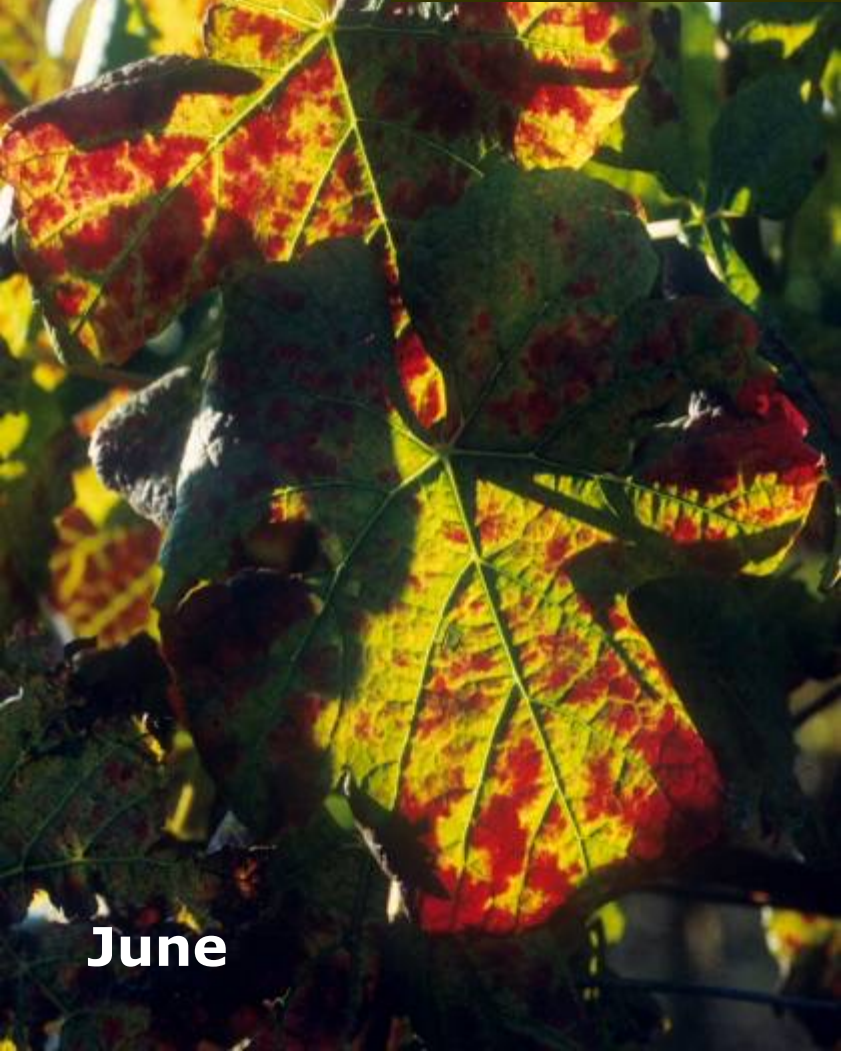
***Vitis* free period: Remove infected vineyard thoroughly (all roots and root pieces), lay fallow, remove all volunteer *Vitis* plants.**



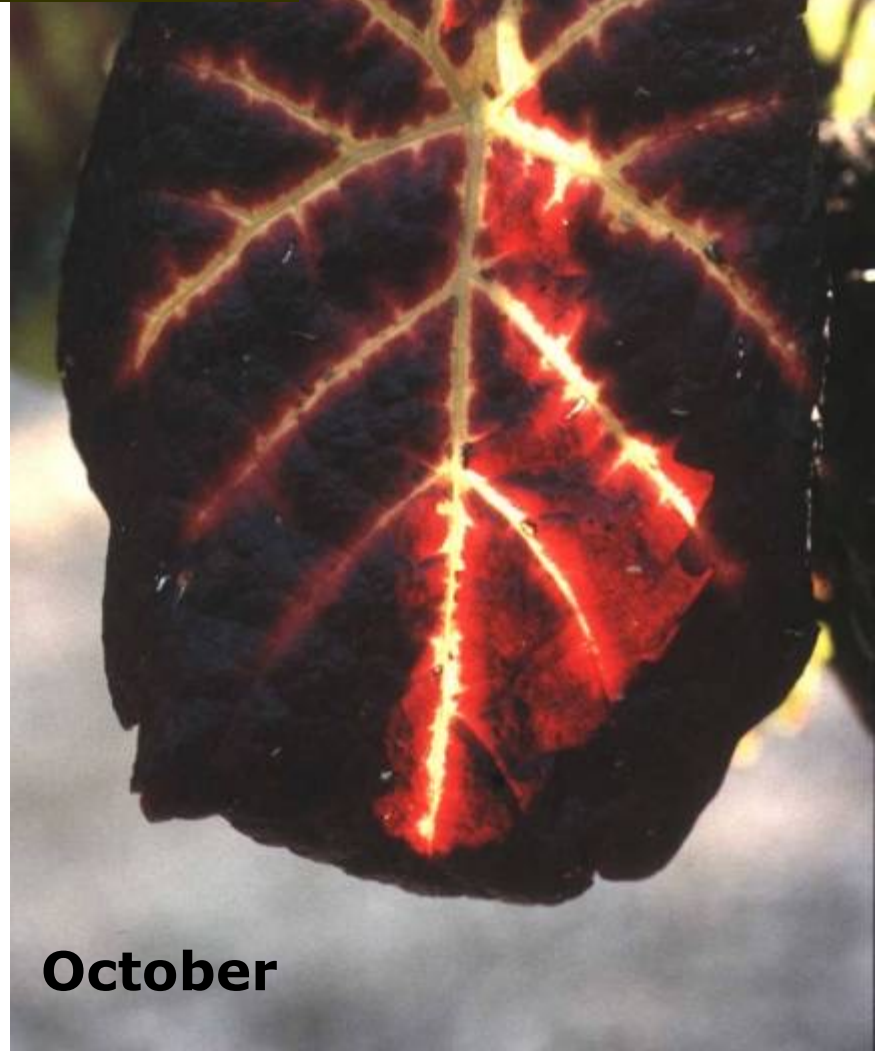
Photo G. Pietersen

✓ first symptoms may start on basal leaves in early summer (June)

✓ in late season, necrotic areas on leaves may occur



**June**



**October**

**Disease also affects green-berried cultivars.  
Generally symptoms are not obvious  
(exceptions eg. Chardonnay & Sauvignon blanc)**



Photo:R. Carstens

Leaf curling

# Grape Leafroll-associated Virus

<u>LR strain</u>	<u>Vector</u>
GLRaV-1	<i>Heliococcus adenostomae</i> <i>Parthenolecanium corni</i> <i>Phenacoccus aceris</i> <i>Planococcus ficus</i>
GLRaV-3	<i>H. adenostomae</i> <i>Pa. corni</i> <i>Ph. aceris</i> <i>Pl. citri</i> <i>Pl. ficus</i> <i>Pseudococcus calceolariae</i> <i>Ps. longispinus</i> <i>Ps. maritimus</i> <i>Ps. viburni</i>
GLRaV-4	<i>Pl. ficus</i>
GLRaV-5	<i>Pl. ficus</i> <i>Ps. longispinus</i>
GLRaV-9	<i>Pl. ficus</i> <i>Ps. longispinus</i>

## Transmission:

- Infected propagation material
- Wind transfer of vectors
- Migration of vectors
- Mixed infection synergism

## Symptoms:

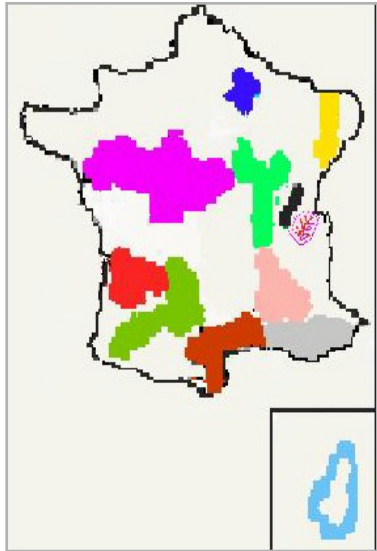
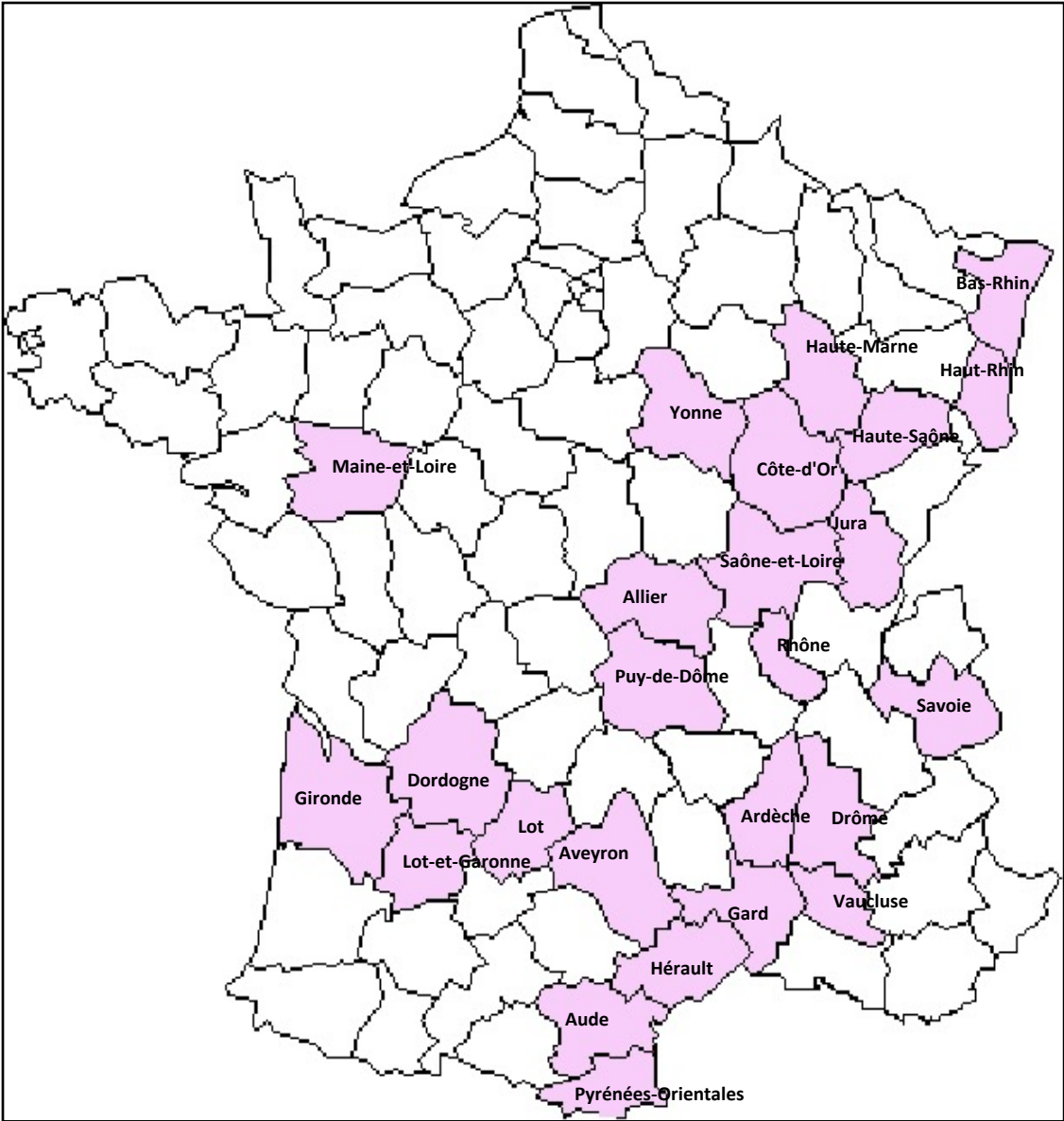
- Reduced leaf area
- Decreased yield
- Delayed maturity
- Compromised berry quality



Table adapted from Tsai et al. 2010 and Rayapati et al. 2008

Vines showing symptoms of GLRaV, Willamette Valley, Oregon

# Distribution of Leafroll in France



Sforza 2001

# GLAV- 3 on Pinotage on mother blocks in Stellenbosch, South Africa



## Hand-lens Comparison

### Grape Mealybug “Complex”

- long “tail” or caudal wax filament
- 1-3 generations per year (Oregon)
- development stages are synchronized
- moderate honeydew production  
(except for obscure mealybug)



*Ps. maritimus*

### *P. ficus*:

- waxy filaments same length (no “tail”)
- 2-5 generations per year (Oregon)
- stages overlap throughout year
- excessive honeydew production
- feeds on roots and outside of canes





# Vine mealybug

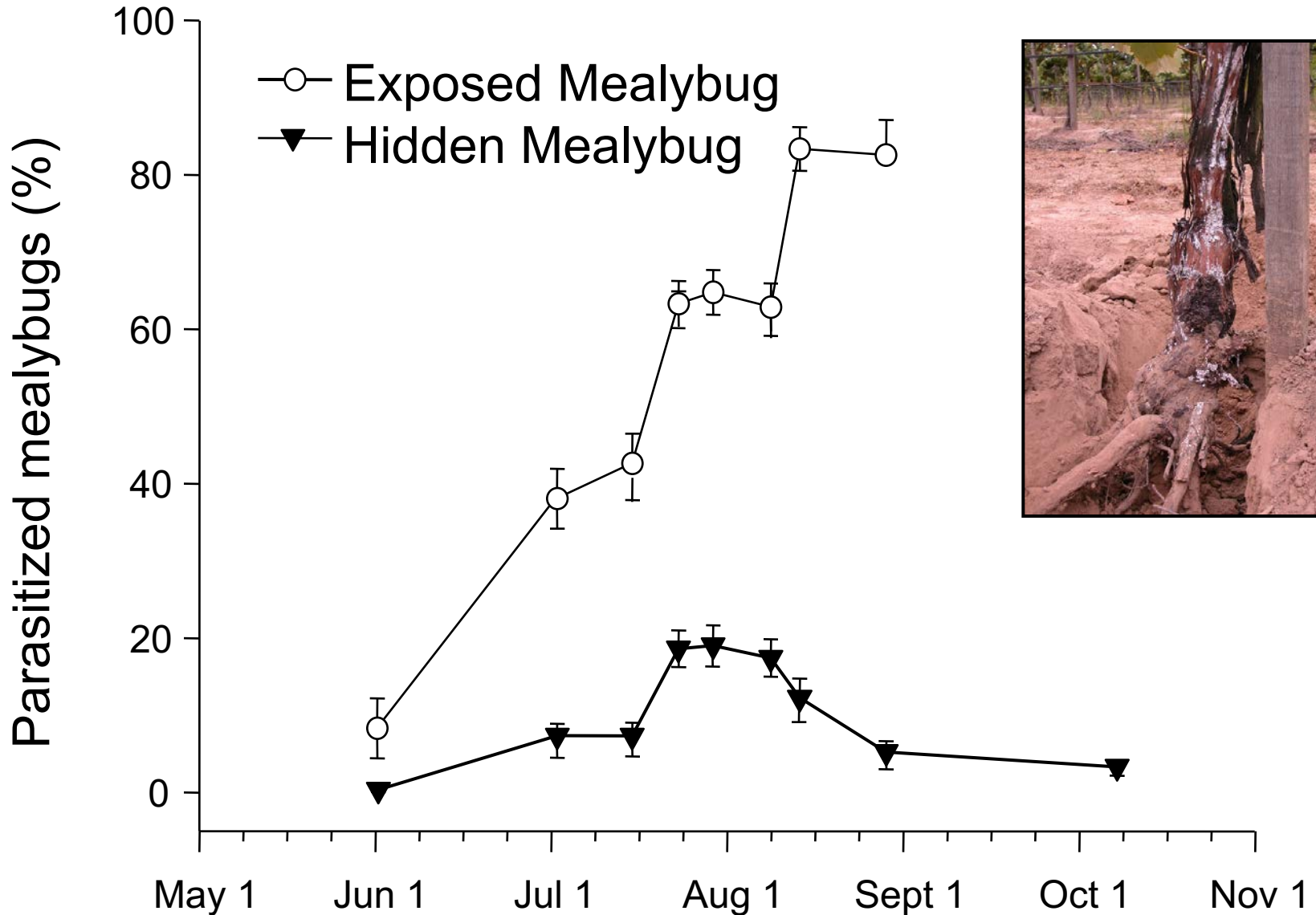
- a) native to the Mediterranean region
- b) spread throughout CA vineyards,  
now in S. Oregon



**Ants tending**

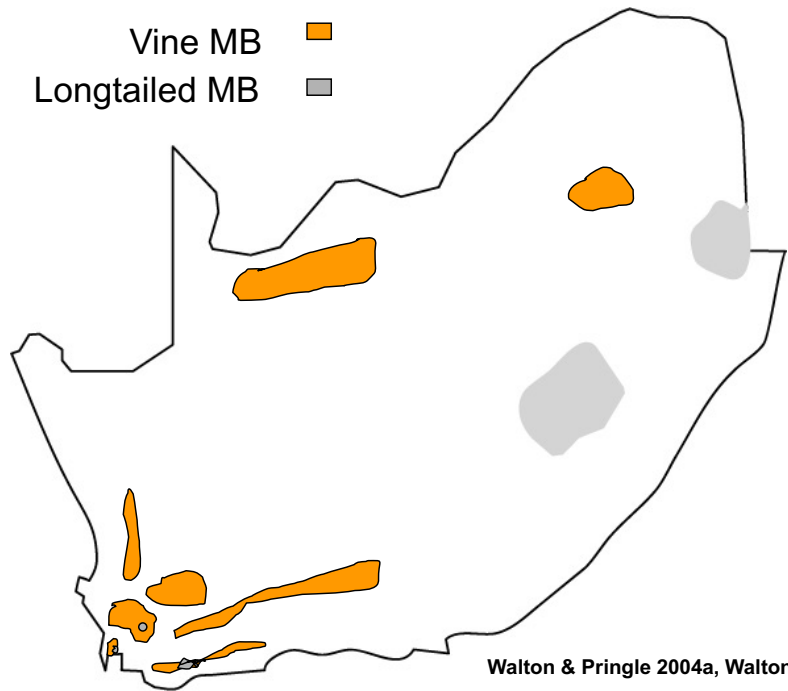


# Problem: mealybug location





- ★ Capital City
- ★ Regional Capital City
- Significant City
- Important City - Town
- Attraction - Landmark
- River
- ▲ Highest Point



# World Distribution

*Ps. viburni*, *Ps. maritimus* and *Ps. longispinus*

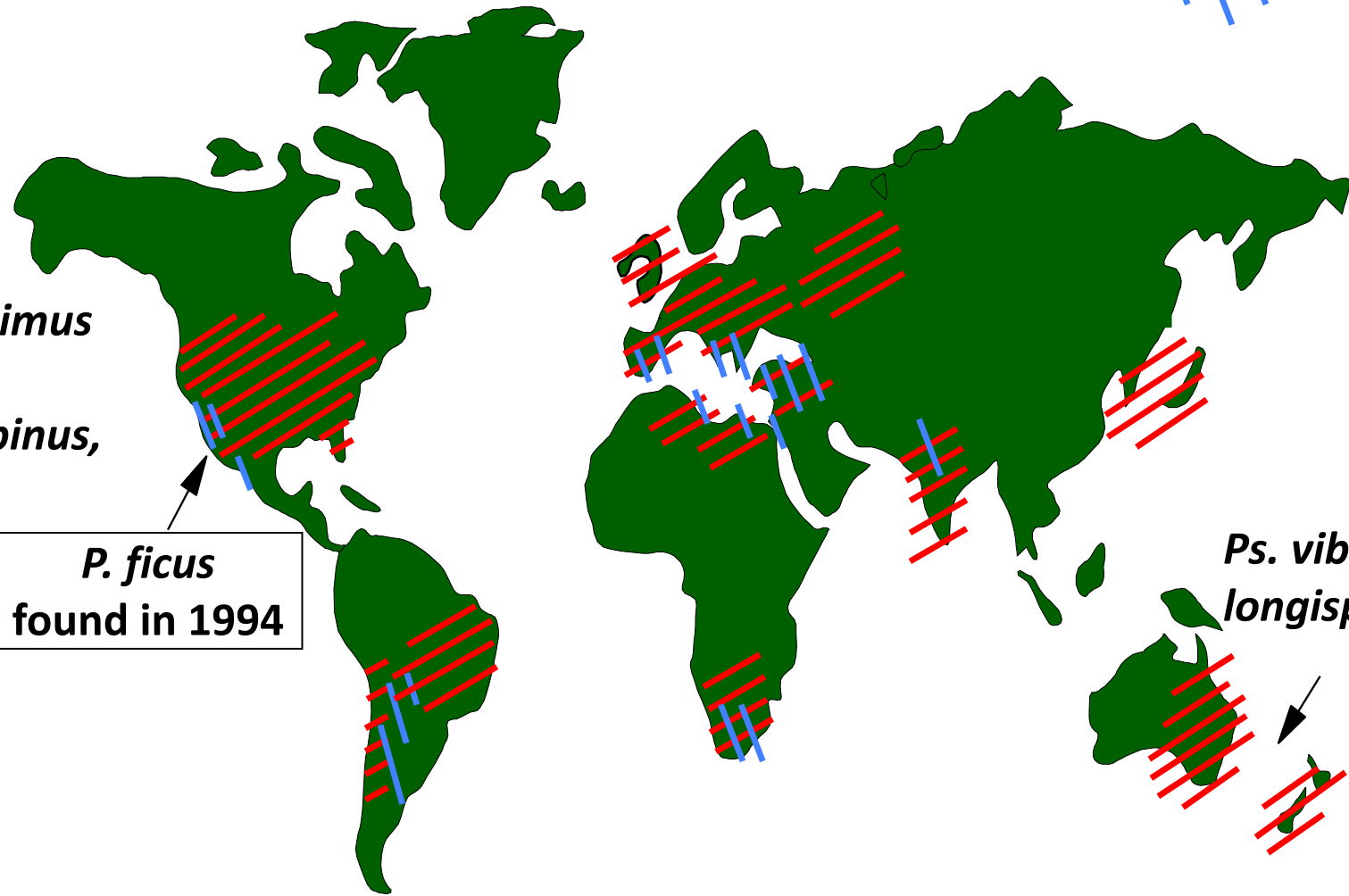
*P. ficus*



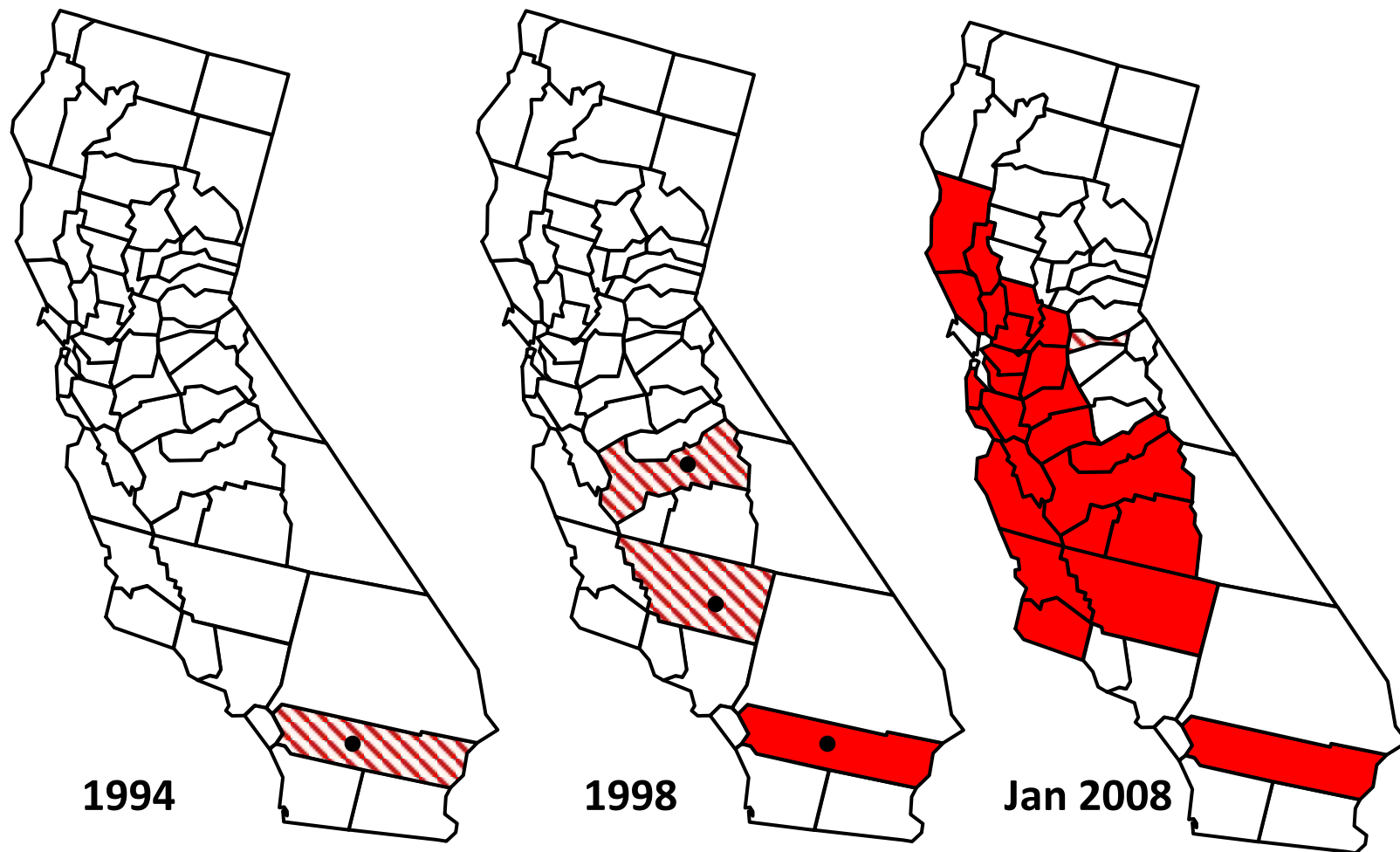
*Ps. maritimus*  
*viburni*  
& *longispinus*,

*P. ficus*  
found in 1994

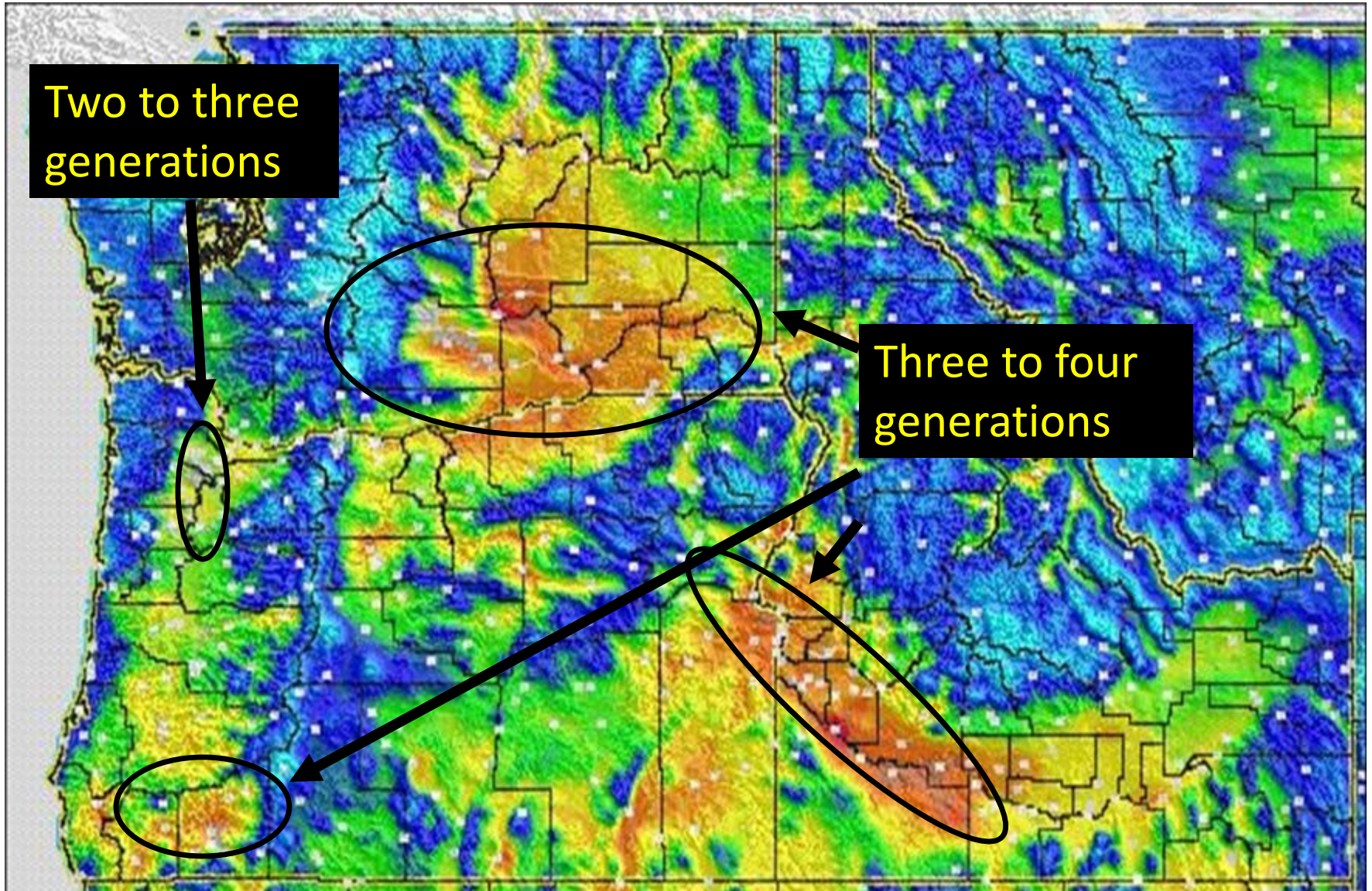
*Ps. viburni* &  
*longispinus*,



## *P. ficus* as an Invasive Pest: Rapid California Spread



# Potential spread in the Pacific Northwest



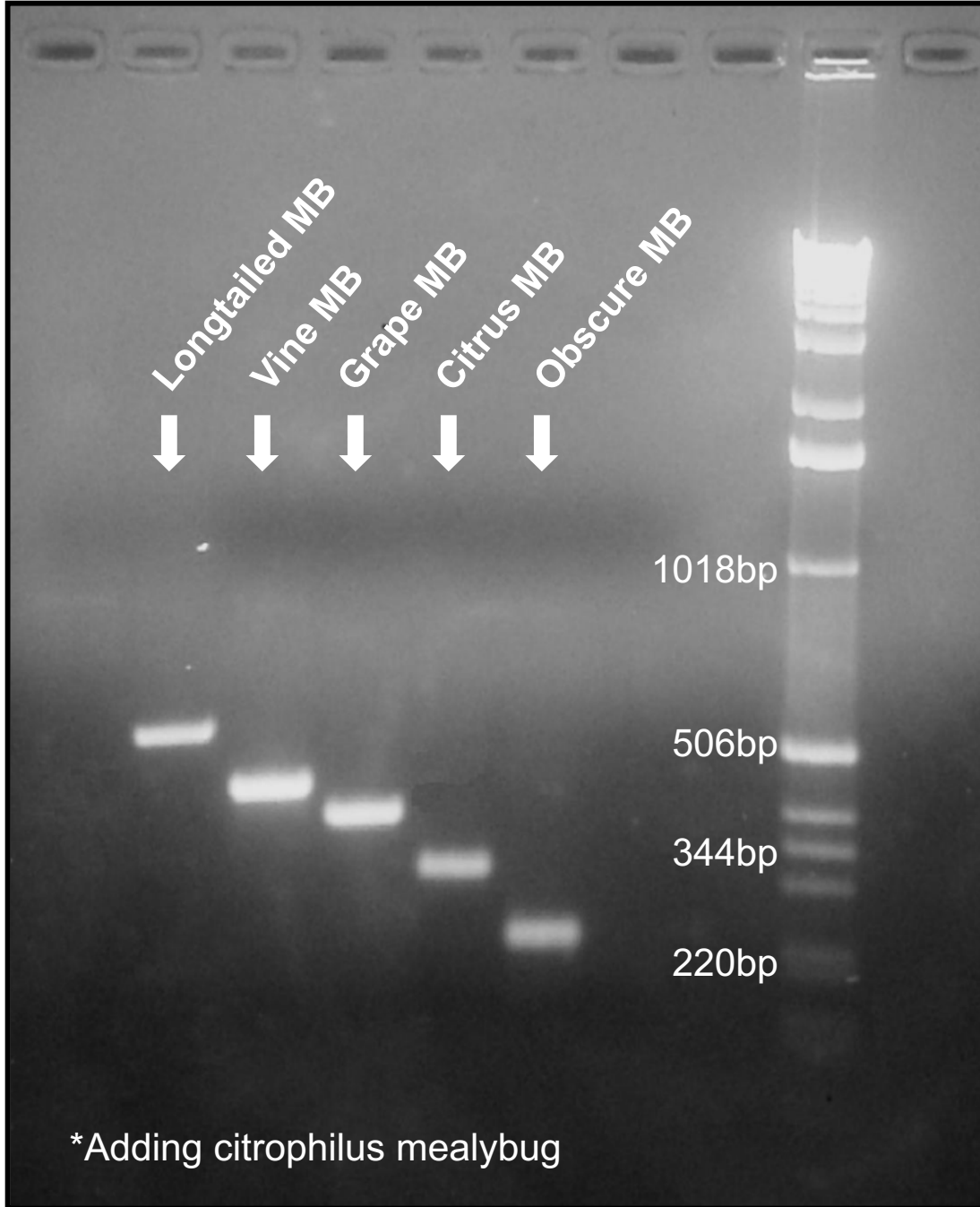
Adapted from Walton and Pringle 2005

# Sampling follows mealybug colonization patterns

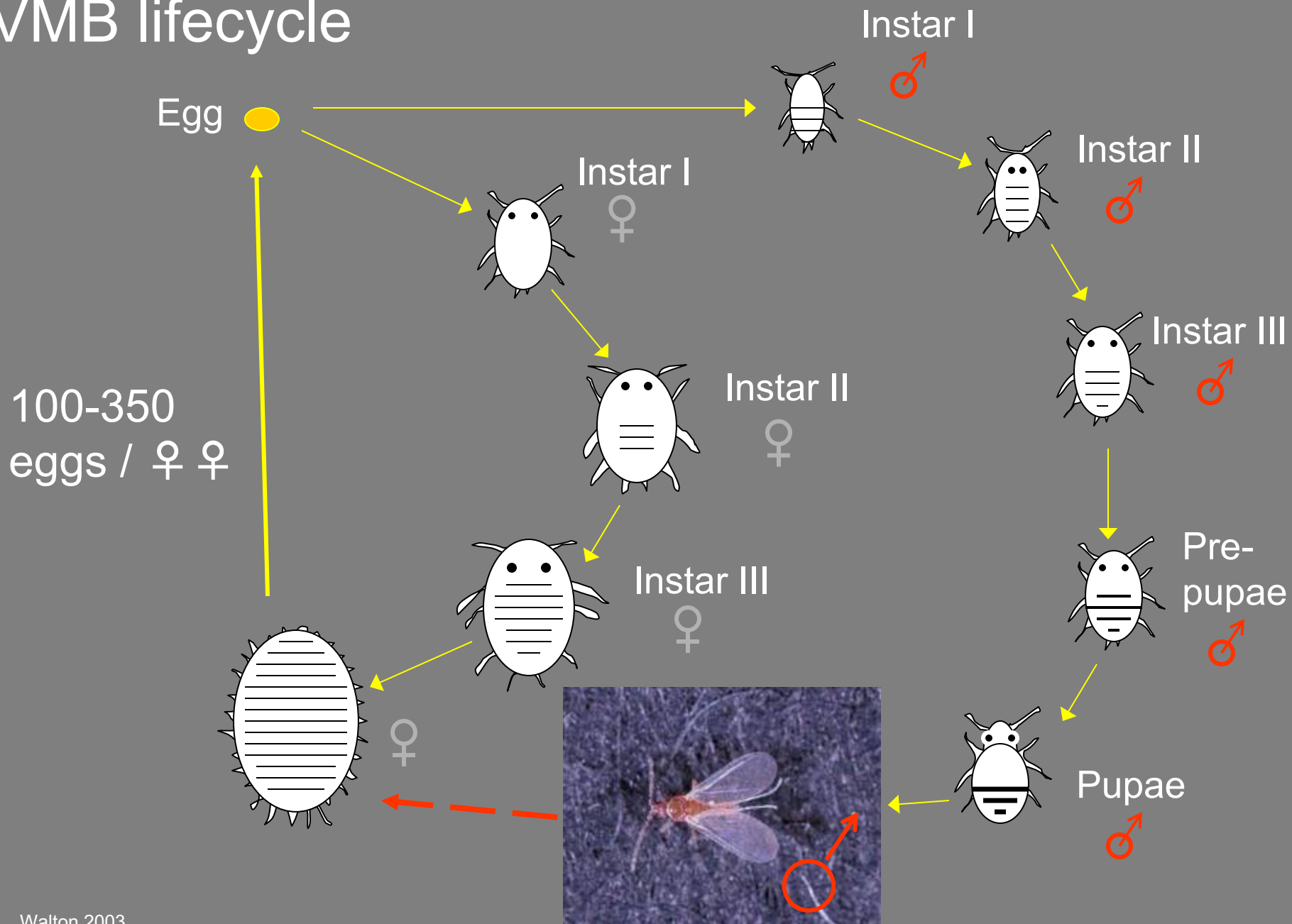


# “Multiplex” PCR for Mealybug ID

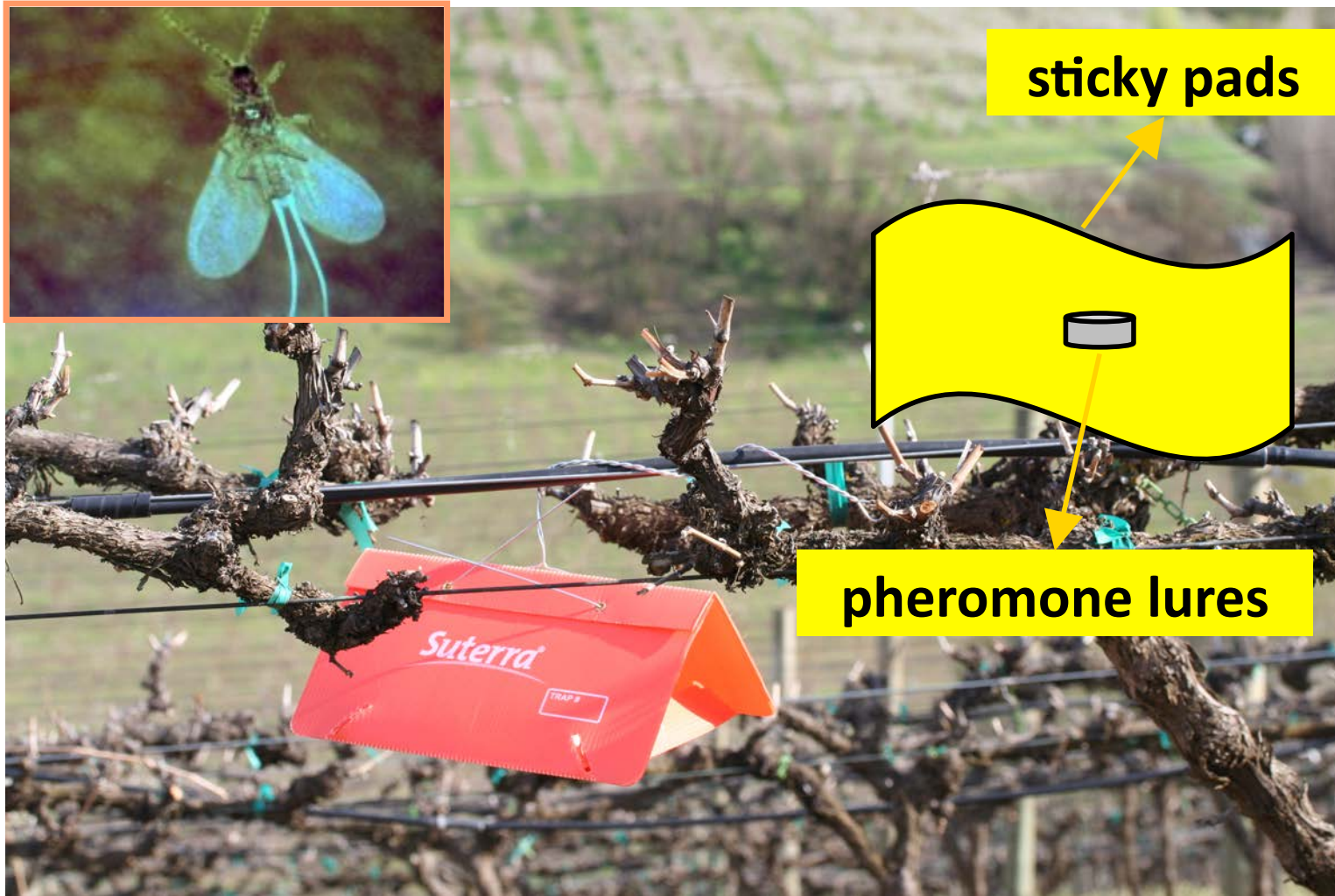
5 species\*  
crawlers-adults  
1-day ID



# VMB lifecycle



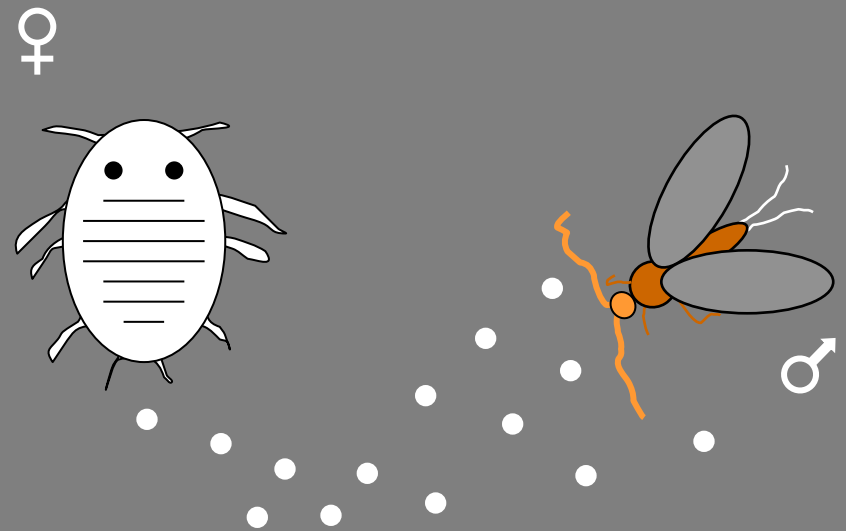
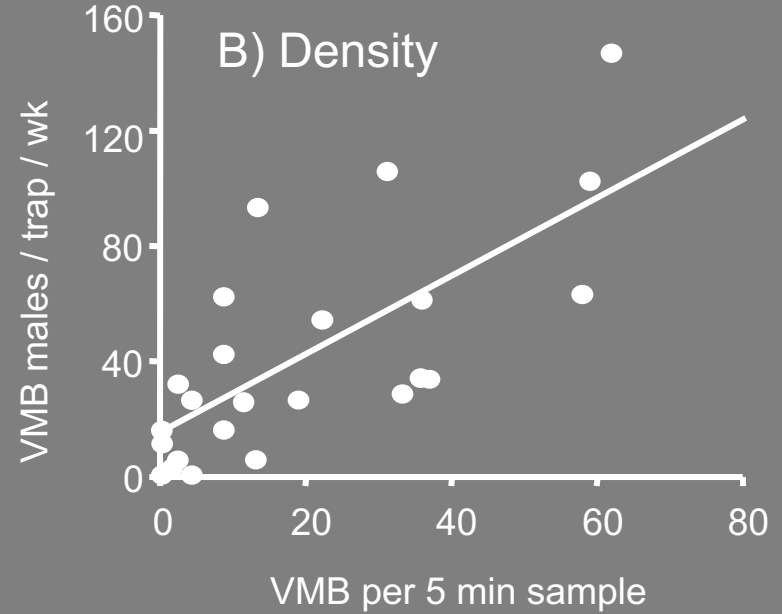
# Monitoring with pheromone traps



sticky pads

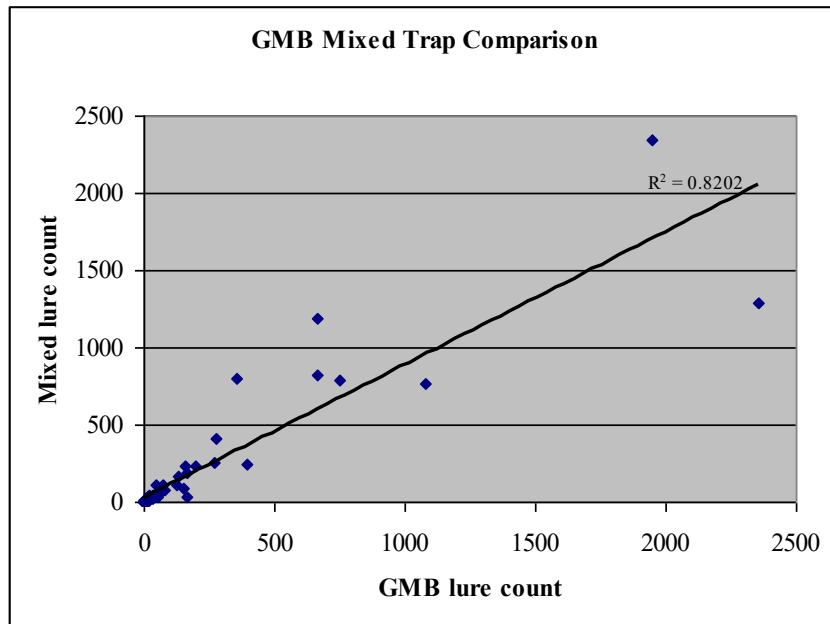
pheromone lures

# Pheromone Monitoring



# Traps and Lures

Pheromone	Pest Common Name	Latin Binomial
VMB	vine mealybug	<i>Pl. ficus</i>
OMB	obscure mealybug	<i>Ps. viburni</i>
Mixed*	* combination of four pheromones	
LTMB	long-tailed mealybug	<i>Ps. longispinus</i>
GMB	grape mealybug	<i>Ps. maritimus</i>



Walton et al. J Econ Entomol 2006,  
Walton et al Ann Ent Soc Am 2012

# Intensive Sites



Walla Walla

Walla Walla Valley

Columbia River Gorge



Willamette Valley

Eight sites within four regions:

Southern Oregon



See Rick Hilton slides

## Key points:

- Vine mealybug is a key pest in vineyards worldwide
- Significant costs to control (\$5---\$1,500 control costs/year)
- It spreads quickly
- VMB is in Oregon
- It is more suited to the environment than any other scale insect found in vineyards
- It can be found underground
- Chemical control difficult
- Is a vector of vine leafroll virus
- Quarantine may be key to manage spread (See Josh Vlach slides)



Thank you!