The IX International Symposium on Thysanoptera and Tospoviruses, August 31 to September 4 2009, Gold Coast Queensland

Denis Persley International Symposium on Thysanoptera and Tospoviruses

Project Number: MT09052

MT09052

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PROJECT NUMBER MTO9052 (30 November 2009)

THE IX INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THYSANOPTERA AND TOSPOVIRUSES, 31 AUGUST TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2009, GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

DENIS PERSLEY

Australian Plant Virology Group

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Media Summary

Thrips, which are small, slender insects with sucking mouth parts, are a common in most ecosystems. A relatively small number of the known species are common and serious pests of fruit, vegetable, field and ornamental crops worldwide. Examples include the western flower thrips, onion thrips and tomato thrips. In addition to direct damage to crops, thrips are the specific vector or carrier of viruses in the tomato spotted wilt or tospovirus group of plant viruses. Viruses within this group are among the most widespread and damaging viruses worldwide. Tomato spotted wilt virus, for example, is ranked as one of the ten most economically important viruses of plants worldwide.

Thrips and tospoviruses are very difficult to effectively manage due to the wide range of hosts of both thrips and tospoviruses, the complex virus transmission process, the rapid development of insecticide resistance among pest species and the lack of resistant germplasm among many susceptible crop hosts.

Managing these formidable opponents requires a strong international effort from researchers and consultants. The major forum to discuss progress and plan future efforts is the International Symposium on Thrips and Tospoviruses. The ninth of these symposia was hosted by Australia and held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from August 31 to September 4 2009. There were 112 delegates from 20 countries, providing an excellent opportunity for Australian scientists and industry representatives to interact, share issues and solutions and foster future collaborations.

Highlights of the meeting included presentations on improved management of thrips and tospoviruses in vegetable and grain legume crops; the successful implementation of integrated pest management against western flower thrips in strawberries in Australia and the international program to unravel the genetic structure of thrips with the long term goal of providing more effective control through genetic manipulation.

New tospovirus species were reported and the list of known vector species expanded. Presentations from the USA indicated the increasing importance of Iris yellow spot virus in both seed and bulb onion crops. Presentations at the Symposium clearly emphasised that tospoviruses and thrips are biosecurity risks for Australian industries. The greatest diversity of tospovirus species occurs in Asia as do several recently recorded vector species. Delegates strongly supported continuation of the Symposia as the primary forum for those working in this diverse area with the next meeting to be held in Brazil in 2012.

Introduction

The IX International Symposium on Thysanoptera and Tospoviruses was held at the SeaWorld Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland from August 31 to September 4 2009. There were 112 delegates from 20 countries, providing an excellent opportunity to interact, share issues and solutions and foster future collaborations.

Symposium objectives

The objectives of the Symposium were to review and discuss current work and progress on all aspects of the biology and management of thrips and the viruses which they transmit.

Background

Thrips pests in Australia, particularly western flower thrips, tomato thrips, onion thrips and melon thrips cause serious direct damage to fruit crops including apples, stone fruit, strawberry and vegetable crops including onion, capsicum, cucurbits and tomato. Of at least equal importance is their role as specific vectors of tospovirus, the collective name for virus species within the tomato spotted wilt virus or tospovirus group. This group of plant viruses are among the most economically important viruses worldwide, causing estimated losses of some Aus \$ 2 billion worldwide. Tospoviruses are members of the family Bunyaviridae which contains five genera and the tospovirus genus contains plant infecting viruses; viruses in the four other genera infect vertebrates and are spread primarily by ticks and mosquitoes Tospoviruses are very difficult to manage because of the complex transmission process, the wide host ranges of many tospoviruses and their thrips vectors, the lack of resistant germplasm among many susceptible crop hosts and the rapid development of insecticide resistance in thrips populations.

In Australia, tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) causes severe damage to vegetable crops in all States with particular problems in the Sydney basin, the north Adelaide plain and the Perth metropolitan area.

Capsicum chlorosis virus is a problem in capsicum and tomato crops in coastal Queensland. Iris yellow spot virus is present in Australia and is an emerging problem in onion production worldwide.

There is also a significant biosecurity risk to Australian horticulture industries from thrips species and tospoviruses present in south- east Asia and currently absent from Australia. The economic importance of thrips and TSWV is reflected in the number of HAL-funded projects in these areas over at least a 10 year period, as well as their priority with special interest groups such as the vegetable IPM and thrips management task forces addressing virus/ thrips problems in the Sydney basin and the north Adelaide Plain.

The need to protect crops against this formidable combination of insect and virus and the recognition that entomologists, virologists and other specialists needed to pool resources led to a workshop in the USA in 1987 from which the international symposia developed.

The VIII International Symposium was held in California in 2005 and Australia was asked to host the IX Symposium in 2009. Queensland was selected as the venue and an organizing committee formed.

Organising Committee

Denis Persley (Chair, Organising Committee), Principal Plant Pathologist, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, DEEDI, Indooroopilly, QLD.

Associate Professor Calum Wilson (Chair, Program Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee), Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, University of Tasmania, Hobart. DesleyTree, Collections manager, thrips taxonomist, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Dr John Thomas, Senior Principal Plant Virologist, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, Indooroopilly, QLD.

Murray Sharman, Plant Pathologist, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, Indooroopilly, QLD.

Sally Brown, Sally Brown Conference Connections, PO Box 108, Kenmore QLD

Symposium program

The program was designed around keynote sessions and concurrent sessions. There were two keynote speakers on each of three days and a keynote address to close the Symposium. There were two concurrent at most other times, designed to prevent, so far as possible, similar topics being presented at the same time.

A copy of the program is included in the proceedings.

Evaluation of the Symposium

Delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form on the final day of the Symposium.

A copy of this form is included in the report

Fifty- one completed forms were returned.

Forty nine of 51 respondents ranked the keynote and concurrent sessions as excellent to very good (32@5 and17@4). Of these, 32 ranked the keynote addresses @5 and 17 @4. Forty- four of 51 respondents ranked the concurrent sessions as very good to excellent (14@ 5 and 30@ 4).

There were 38 poster presentations which were ranked as 5 (excellent) by 8 respondents, 4 (very good) by 30 and appropriate by 11 respondents.

These figures confirm comments made by delegates during discussions with organizing team members during and after the meeting. There were very positive comments about the quality, relevance and appropriate mix of topics in both the keynote and concurrent sessions. The 15 minute discussion period allocated at the end of each concurrent session was very successful, allowing good discussion on all talks presented.

The aims of the symposium were achieved in presenting a very broad range of topics with lively discussion over a diverse range of topics.

All delegates responding to the survey ranked conference organization as very good to excellent and the majority (41 of 50) ranked the venue, catering and social events as very good to excellent.

Key outcomes/ issues addressed

- New tospovirus species continue to emerge as do the number of thrips species known to transmit these viruses. Nine species of thrips in three genera were known to be vector species in 2002 while 14 species across five genera are now known to be vectors. One new vector species and several new tospovirus species were reported at the Symposium. This situation will continue, and very likely increase in frequency, as all vector species seem capable of cosmopolitan distribution, are polyphagous and have broad host ranges that allow species to overlap and share infected plant hosts. Tospoviruses are among the most variable of virus groups with new species likely to arise frequently through mutation with recombination and reassortment events adding to the pool of genetic diversity. Several speakers considered that increased climate variability will favour the continued expansion of the geographic range of thrips vector species and are likely to enhance the conditions for tospovirus survival.
- With this background there was a strong Symposium theme on the epidemiology studies and the application of this knowledge to virus and vector management. This theme was particularly evident in contributions from the USA and Australia with virus management in vegetable crops and peanut being important components.

Topics included management of western flower thrips in lettuce, deployment of resistant cultivars, cultural management of Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV), detection of virus in thrips and predictive systems in virus management.

Several speakers, e.g. Burfield, McDougall, reported results from HAL-funded projects on TSWV/ thrips management in protected cropping and TSWV management in lettuce. Information from these sessions has been applied to current project work on tospoviruses in vegetable crops in Australia and assisted in developing new areas of research in new project applications.

- Presentations at the meeting reinforced the increased importance of Iris yellow spot virus (IYSV) worldwide as a pathogen of both onion bulb and seed crops. Although present in several Australian States, the importance of the virus in the Australian industry is uncertain. Considerable new information on IYSV detection, transmission and management was presented which will enhance the capacity of industry to assess the impact of this emerging problem for the Australian onion industry. Information from the Symposium has been used as a basis to develop future project work on IYSV in Australia.
- Presentations at the Symposium clearly emphasised that tospoviruses and thrips are biosecurity risks for the Australian vegetable, field crop and nursery industries. The greatest diversity and the majority of new virus species occur in Asia as do several recently recorded vector species. Capsicum chlorosis virus, first found in Australia in 1999, has now been found in several countries in south east Asia and almost certainly entered Australia in recent years. Presentations at the Symposium provided valuable new information on the detection, hosts and importance of these viruses and vectors in Asia which will enhance our biosecurity prepareadness.
- Dr Dorith Rotenberg (USA) described a new and significant international project to map the genome of the western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) with the long term goal of using this data to design biologically based strategies to manage thrips populations and prevent virus spread. The new sequences identified will be used in gene expression studies and functional assays to determine their role in virus/vector relationships. This detailed, long term work has the potential to provide novel, sustainable management systems for thrips and tospoviruses.
- A keynote address and several presentations discussed current and future use of semiochemicals (pheromones and alleochemicals) to develop new tools for thrips management. The most common current use is through improved monitoring with significant potential for improved management in both field and protected cropping through mass trapping and lure and kill systems which bring thrips to areas with high populations of introduced predators.
- A workshop presented by the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity demonstrated the value and versatility of distance diagnostics using remote imaging and on line databases. These tools allow national and international access to taxonomists and other specialists.

Other highlights:

A keynote address by Dr Peter Waterhouse on virus defence and signalling pathways
in plants-a clear and captivating address on a defence mechanism common to many
living organisms and with profound consequences for the development of control
strategies for virus diseases of plants.

- The closing address by Professor Anna Whitfield (USA) who presented a strategy to reduce the spread of tospoviruses through the inhibition of thrips transmission using modified viral proteins.
- The award of the inaugural Mound Fellowship to Mr Kambiz Minaei, Shiraz University, Iran.
- A post conference visit to the Bundaberg vegetable production area by Dr Scott Adkins (USDA, Florida), Dr Pissawan Chiemsombat (Kasetsart University, Thailand, Dr John Thomas, Denis Persley, Dr Cherie Gambley and Murray Sharman (all Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries) to inspect and discuss vegetable virus disease management.
- Visits by several Symposium delegates to Desley Tree, Thrips taxonomist, QPIF to discuss and undertake work on thrips collections and taxonomy.
- The opportunities taken by all Australian delegates, many of whom have HAL or GRDC –funded projects, to establish new contacts, reinforce existing relationships and develop future collaborations at both national and international levels.

Dissemination of Symposium information

The Symposium was well advertised both nationally and internationally. Registration was available to all sectors of Australian primary industries and to research and extension workers in all countries.

Abstracts of presentations are available as hard copy conference abstracts, on the Symposium website (www.istt09.org/) and on a memory stick supplied to each registrant.

The Symposium abstracts will be published in the Journal of Insect Science in 2010.

Copies of abstracts have been supplied to HAL, GRDC, CRC National Plant Biosecurity and central library, Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

A press release concerning the Symposium and its benefits to industry was released by the QPIF media unit in late August 2009.

Visits by delegates before and after the meeting to various regions allowed interactions with growers and industry technical staff.

Recommendations

The delegates saw the Symposia as the prime international meeting for those working on thrips, tospoviruses and heir interaction. The symposia are recognised as the primary means of facilitating and maintaining international collaborations in these areas of research. There was strong support to continue the meetings and Dr Renato Resende of Brazil has agreed to host the next Symposia in 2012.

Although there was good evidence from presentations that important recent advances have been made in the management of thrips pests and tospoviruses in crops, both the insects and viruses remain a major cause of crop losses in many countries. Delegates recommended that key areas of research should include:

- emphasis on identifying additional and/or more durable sources of resistance to tospoviruses across a broad range of crop species.
- further investigate the effects of climate variation on the distribution and importance of thrips and tospoviruses, particularly in relation to emerging issues in Asia.
- support new initiatives in the study of thrips genomics and the application of this research to pest management.

Acknowledgements

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Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL)

CRC for National Plant Biosecurity (CRCNPB)

Dow AgroSciences

Australasian Plant Pathology Society

Australian Potato Research Program

Syngenta Seeds

Bayer Crop Sciences

Tasag pathogen testing service (Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries)

Rijk Zwaan Australia

CSIRO Publishing

PCA (Peanut Company of Australia)

Plant Health Australia

Nikon

Queensland Government (Primary Industries and Fisheries).

Symposium budget

Conference	International S	ymposlu	m on Thysano	ptera :	and Tospoviruses	ISTT 09				
Location Run Dates	Sea World Re 31 August - 4 S						+			
Updated: 1 December 2008	31 August - 4	Premo	1 2009			1	\vdash			
Income	1			_	Anticipat	ed Surplus	1	Actual :	Surplus	10,968.58
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Early Reg (before 30 June 2009) Full Reg (after 30 June 2009)	25%	57.75 28.25	\$ 550.00		\$ 14,437.50	\$ 16,500.00			\$ 550.00	\$8,050.00
Day Registration(suggest on application)			\$ 250.00		\$ -	\$.	9	\$ 2,045.45	\$ 204,55	\$2,250.00
Students (before 30 June 2009)	10%	10.5	\$ 250.00		\$ 2,625.00	\$ 3,000.00	8	\$ 1,818.18	\$ 181.82	\$2,000.00
Students (after 30 June 2009)	5%	5.25	\$ 300.00	\vdash	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 272.73 \$ 359.09	\$ 27.27 \$ 35,91	\$300.00 \$395.00
Discounted Registration	5%	5.25		-			18		\$ 30,81	\$393.00
Complimentary reg. (Inv. Spks. & others) Total delegate fees	100%	105			\$ 47,223.75	\$53,970.0			\$ 4,329.55	\$47,625.00
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Additional Dunner tickets		-					4	\$ 280.00	\$ 28,00	\$309.00
Australian Outback Speciacular Tickets Additional Welcome Reception tickets	_		_	\vdash			32	\$ 2,880.00 \$ 180.00	\$ 288.00 \$ 18.00	\$3,158.00
Accommodation deposits received	_		-	-				\$ 8,752.73	\$ 875.27	\$9,628.00
Trade Displays	_	1			\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 50.00	\$550.00
Sponsorship including satchel inserts					\$ 35,442.00	\$ 35,442.00	=	\$ 32,220.00	\$ 3,222.00	\$35,442.00
Interest received from Bank	-	-		-	\$ 83,215.75	\$89,962.0	^	\$ 88,108.18	\$ 8,810.82	96,919.00
Total Income		-		_	\$ 63,215.75	309,802.0	· · · ·	3 80,100.18	\$ 8,010.02	96,919.00
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Promotion and Printing	Fixed Co	sts	Variable Co	sts						
									1.0	
Advertising & Publicity	\$ 500.00 \$ 150.00	-	_	-	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 138,36	\$ 13.64	150.00
Graphic Artist Web site set up and maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	1	-	-			-	\$ 1,363.64	\$ 136,36	1,500,00
Conference Handbook / Program / Abstracts	\$ 13.00				\$ 1,365.00	\$ 1,560.00		\$ 1,653.47	\$ 185.35	1,818.82
Preparation of Abstracts for Handbook estimate	\$ 550.00 \$ 9.00				\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00		\$ 530,00	\$ 53.00	583,00
Proceedings production on USB	\$ 9.00	-	-	-	\$ 945.00	\$ 1,080.00		\$ 948.75	\$ 94.88	1,043.63
Miscellaneous	-	-	_	\vdash			_			
Contingency	\$ 1,000.00	_		\vdash	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1	\$ -	\$.	
Insurance	\$ 1,700.00				\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00		\$ 1,003.74	\$ 100.37	1,104.11
Managament Fee	\$ 5,000.00		-		\$ 5,000.00			\$ 4,545.45		5,000.00
Flooring for Conference Dinner	\$ 500.00	-	-	\vdash	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 140.00 \$ 272.73		300.00
Band for Conference Dinner Accommodation deposits paid to SWR		-	_	1						8,840.00
HAL sponsorship deposit from ISTT	1	-	1					\$ 8,038.38 \$ 7,231.84		7,955.02
200104	-							-		
Keynotes Speakers & Sponsored delegates		-		2	\$ 2,000,00	\$ 2,000.00	_	\$ 711.82	\$ 71.18	783.00
Travel	\$ 1,000.00			2	\$ 2,000.00 \$ 1,400.00			\$ 1,272,73		1,400.00
Accommodation 2 Spk x 4 nights Registration expenses for Keynote	3 175.00	-	'	-	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,500.00	_	\$.	\$.	POCHES PROPERTY AND
Gifts	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$.	
Taxis/ mileage / parking	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00 \$ 100.00	_	\$ -	\$.	
Freight/couriers	\$ 100.00	-		⊢	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	_	\$ -	\$ -	
Facilities / Equipment hire	1	+	1	-				s -	s -	
Audio visual TBC when venue decided	\$ 7,340.00	-	1	-	\$ 7,340.00	\$ 7,340.00		\$ 2,988.64	\$ 298.88	3,287.50
Miscellaneous equipment from SW						s 650.0	_	\$ 618,18	\$ 61.82	790.00
Hire of poster boards	\$ 55		10	1	\$ 550,00 \$ 150,00			\$ 160.75		176.83
Signage / banners (PR3) Room Hire 2 days	\$ 500.00				\$ 1,500,00			\$ 727.27	\$ 72.73	800.00
Melrosa Room for posters & trade	\$.		1					\$.	\$.	
EFTPOS facility will be less as used SBCC	\$ 350.00)			\$ 350,00	\$ 350.0	0	\$.	\$ -	
Registration of business								\$ 212.73	\$ 21.27	234.00
VARIABLE	-	1		-	5		-	1		
Participant Costs	-		1	-						
Welcome Reception & BBQ Monday 31 Aug	1 hour		\$63,00		\$ 6,615.00	\$ 7,580.0		\$ 4,795.45		5,275.00
Nibble and drinks Tuesday 1 September	1/2 hour	-	\$ 22.00		\$ 2,310.00	\$ 2,640.0 \$ 8,600.0		\$ 2,000.00		2,200.00
Conference Dinner Thursday 3 September Beverage for ONE hour		-	\$ 18.00	-	\$ 5,775.00			\$ 1,963.64		
Balance - various		-	0 10.00		0 1,000.00	2,100.0	_	\$ 1,448.95		1,591.65
Australian Outback Spectacular (additional)					\$ 3,168,00			\$ 2,880.00		3,168,00
Package (m/a tea & lunch)			\$ 55.00		\$ 17,325.00			\$ 18,000.00		17,600,00
Half day package (cannot break down)		-	\$ 50.00		\$ 5,250.00 \$ 52.50		<u> </u>	\$ 4,772.73 \$ 54.55	\$ 477.27 5 \$ 5,45	5,250,00 60.00
Postage Telephone & Fax, EMAIL			\$ 5.00		\$ 525.00	\$ 600.0	0	\$ 545.45	\$ 54.55	600.00
Stationery name hadges etc etc		~	\$ 8.00		\$ 840.00		0	\$ 872.73		960.00
Satchels (CRC lap top gloves)			\$ 12.00		- 3 93933			\$.	\$.	-
Bank Charges - estimate	+	1	\$ 1.00	5	\$ 105.00 \$ 165.00	\$ 120.0 \$ 165.0	0	\$ 109.00	9 \$ 10.91 0 \$ 15.00	\$ 185.00
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Sally Brown Conference Connections PCO			\$ 25.00		\$ 2,625.00			\$ 2,727.2		3,000.00
		-							_	
(Total variable costs)	-		\$ 347.50	-	\$ 73.625.53	\$80.240.	17	\$ 76,349.6	7,634.96	84,774.66
Sub-Total Expenditure 2% cpi contingency	+	+	+	-	\$ 1,472.5			Income less Exp		12,144.44
	_	1			\$ 75,098.03			gst on income	1	8,810.82
10% GST included in all costs								Total less gst to	ATO	3,333.62
Expenditure Inclu gst & cpl					\$ 75,098.03			Approx gst credit	t I	7,634.90
Plus GST payable to ATO on income		+		-	\$ 7,565.07			Approx surplus	rioss	10,968.5
Total expenditure				1	\$ 7,509.84		0	+		-
Less Approx. credit from ATO TOTAL		1			\$ 75,153.30	\$ 81,838.8	4			
Surplus / Loss					\$ 8,052.45	5 \$ 8,123.1	6			
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ISTT09 DELEGATE SURVEY

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Ple	ase rate the following co	omponents of the Con-		_		value)	
1.	Quality of the Plena	ry Session:	1	3	3	4	5
2.	Quality of the Concu	irrent Sessions:	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Quality of the Poster	·s:	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Pre-conference Orga	nnisation:	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Organisation at Con	ference:	1	2	3	4	5
	Venue:		1	2	3	4	5
6.				•	2	4	5
	Social Functions:		1	2	3	4	3
7.	Social Functions: Catering:		1	2	3	4	5
6. 7. 8. 9.							

Thank you

IX International Symposium on Thysantoptera and Tospoviruses Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia 31 August -4 September 2009

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