

# 2017 SUSTAINABLE AG EXPO

## Best Management Practices for the Monitoring and Control of Mealybug Vectors of Grape Leafroll Virus



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November 13-15, 2017 | San Luis Obispo, CA

[www.sustainableagexpo.org](http://www.sustainableagexpo.org)

Grape vine leafroll associate virus:  
We will discuss insecticides for control of the 'epidemic' leafroll  
scenario that growers were initially worried about.



photo courtesy of Deborah Golino



# Vectors of Viral Pathogens in Vineyards



## 1. GLRaV Factors that Impact Control

- a) mealybug and leafroll species
- b) facts about mealybug-leafroll epidemiology



## 2. Vector (Mealybug) Controls

- a) insecticides for mealybug: which are best
- b) pheromones for monitoring and control
- c) biological controls



## 3. Areawide Control Programs?

- a) monitoring
- b) insecticide resistance
- c) mating disruption in Napa





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# GLRaV Insect Vectors

- >700 plant viruses
- ca. 70% have insect, mite, nematode or fungal vectors



# GLRaV Insect Vectors

- >700 plant viruses
- ca. 70% have insect, mite, nematode or fungal vectors
- most GLRaVs are closterovirids...  
and most closterovirids are vectored by whiteflies, aphids, soft scales and mealybugs

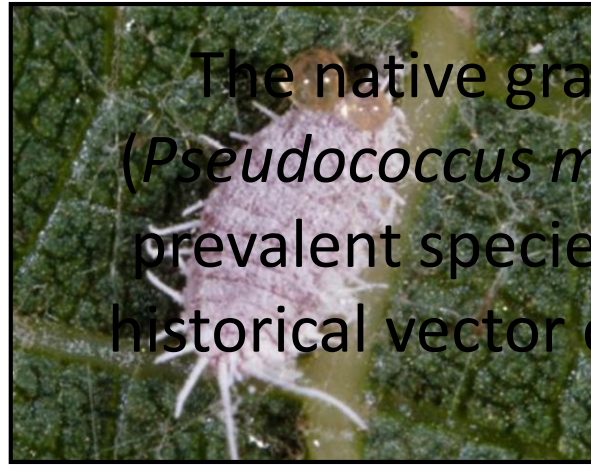


# GLRaV-3 Mealybug Vectors in California

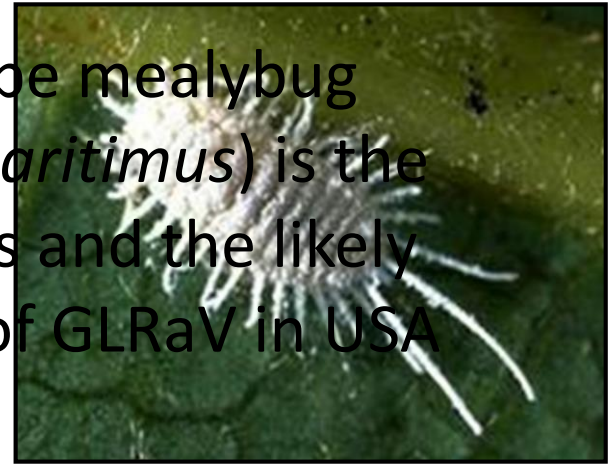
Grape mealybug



Obscure mealybug



Longtailed mealybug

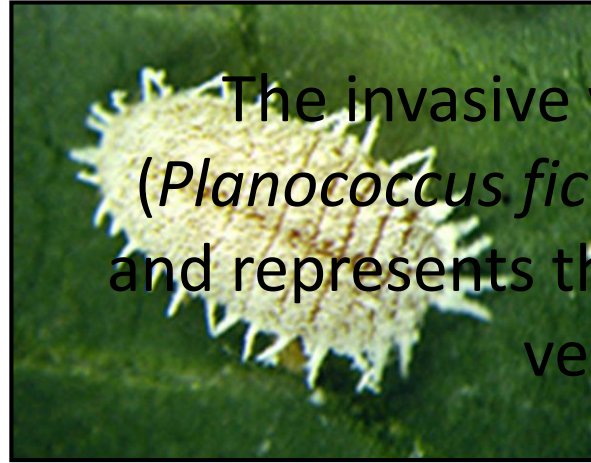


The native grape mealybug (*Pseudococcus maritimus*) is the prevalent species and the likely historical vector of GLRaV in USA

Vine mealybug



Citrus mealybug



The invasive vine mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*) and represents the second most prevalent vector

Gill's mealybug



Rosciglione and Gugerli, 1987, Engelbrecht and Kasdorf 1990, Golino et al. 2002, Charles et al. 2006, Tsai et al. 2011

# Key Transmission Facts – Acquisition

- Crawlers acquired virus w/in 1 hr
- Peak at 24 hr

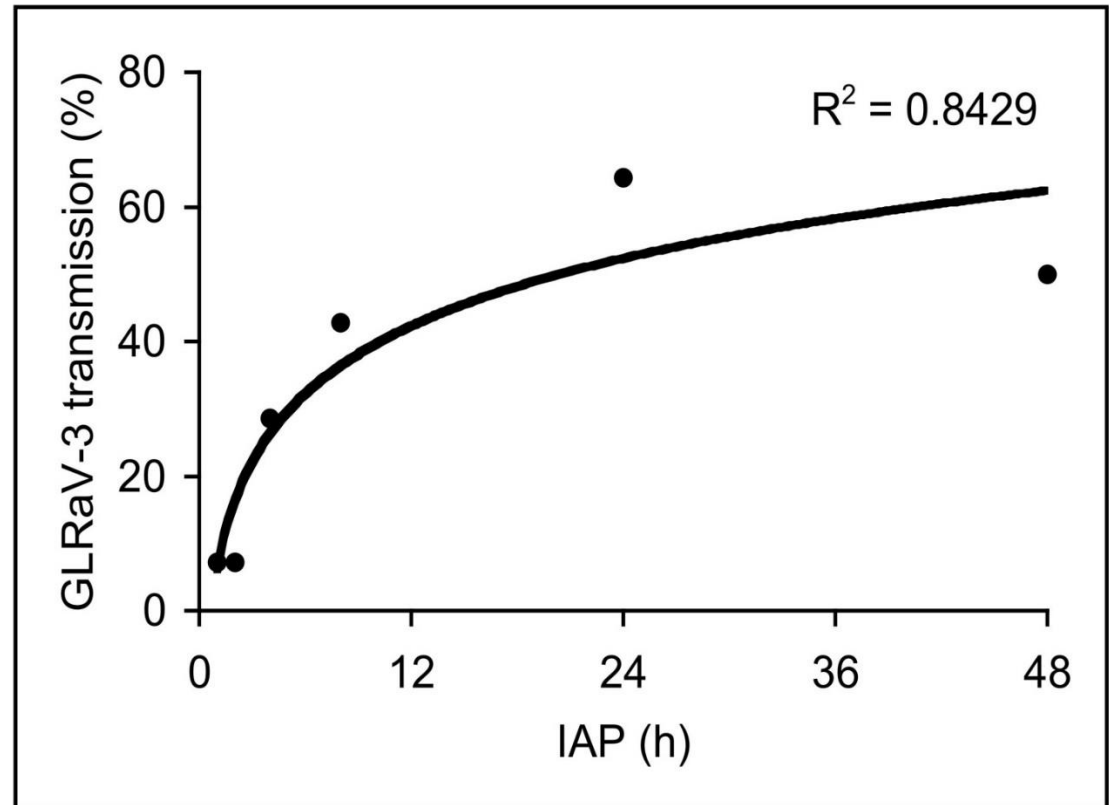


Tsai, Almeida et al. *Phytopath.* (2008)



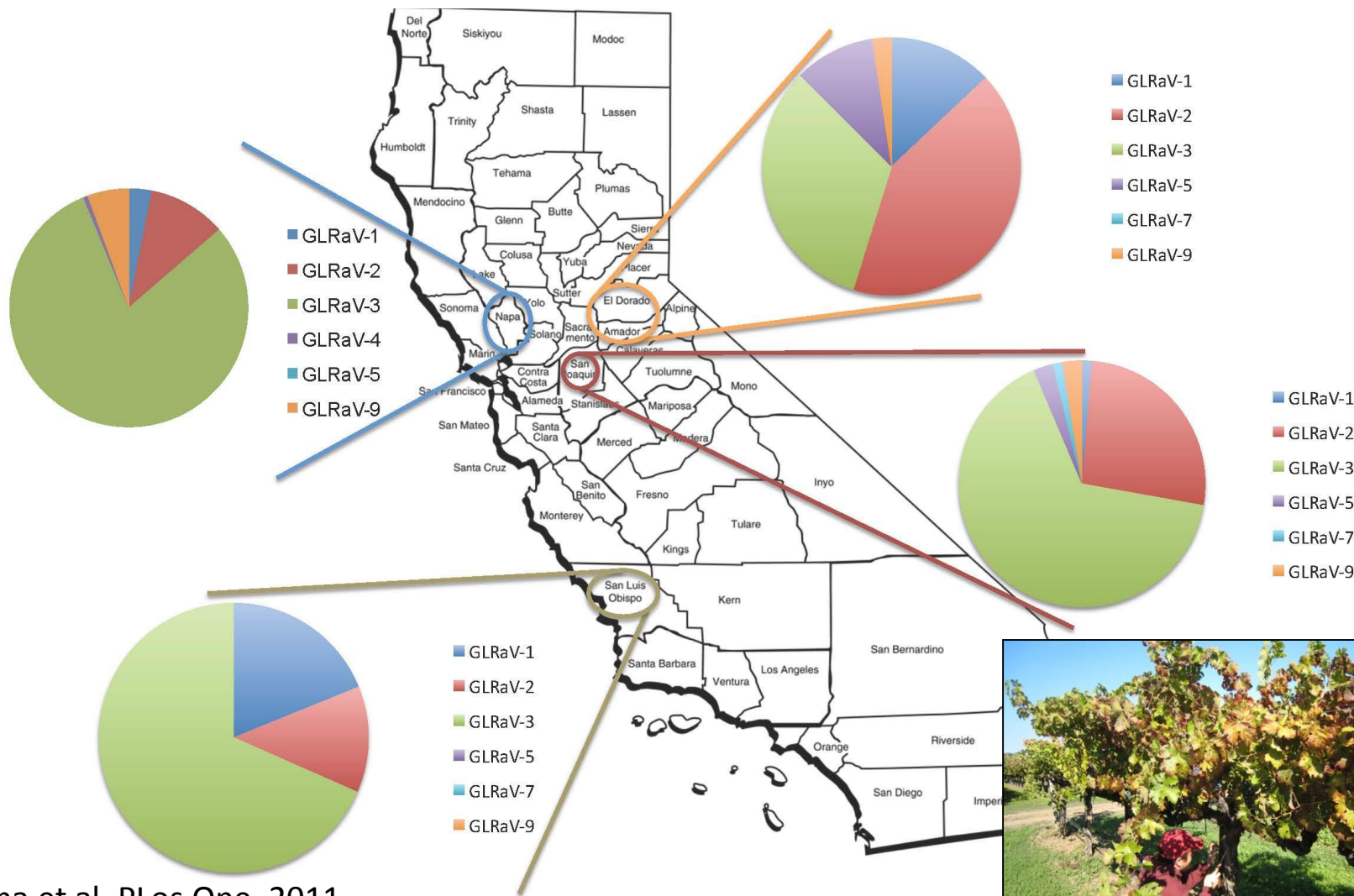
# Key Transmission Facts – Inoculation

- Crawlers **inoculated** virus w/in 1 hr
- Peak at 24 hr



Tsai, Almeida et al. *Phytopath.* (2008)

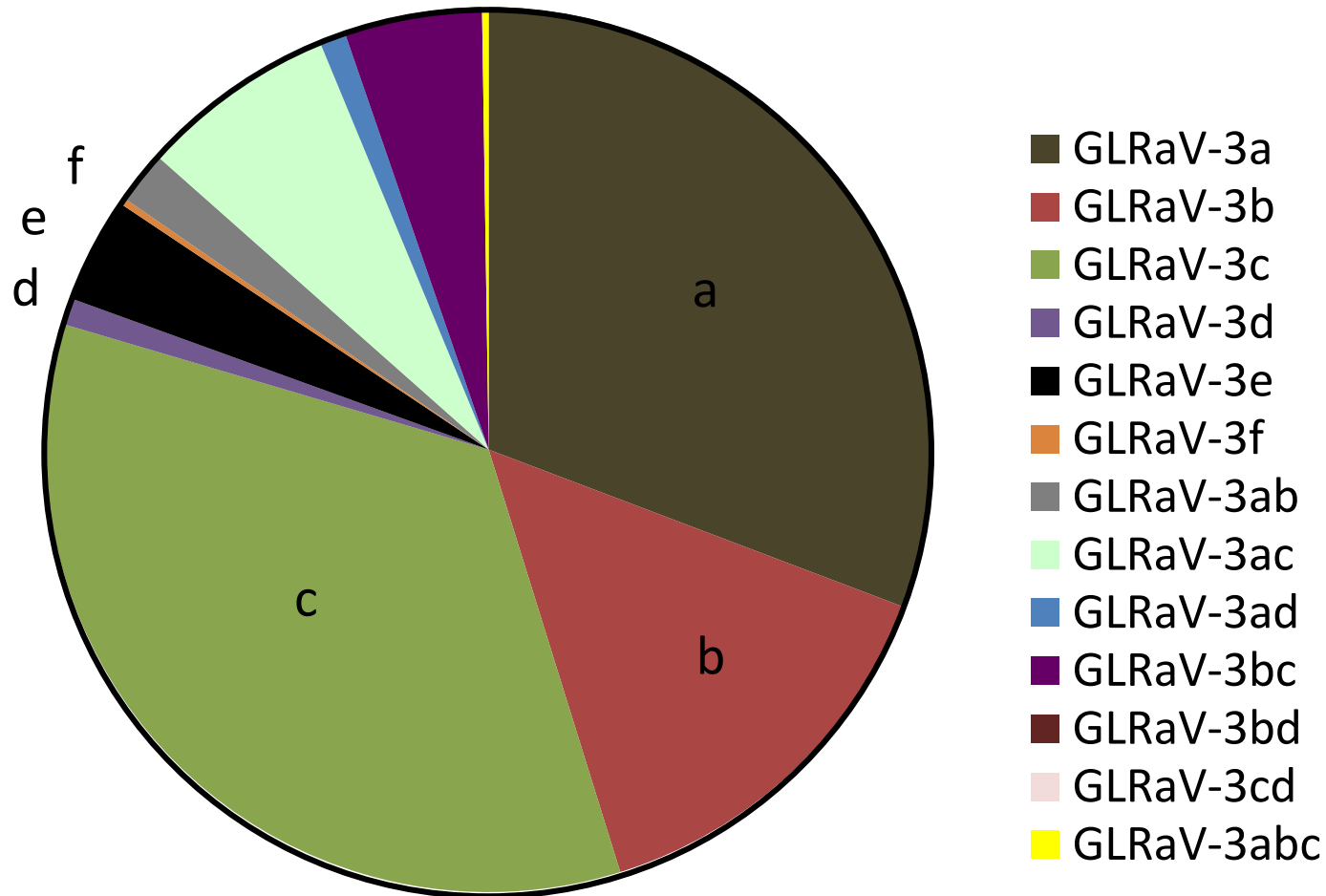
# Which leafroll species (or strain) do you have?



Sharma et al. PLoS One. 2011



Eight GLRaV-3 strains found (to date) in Napa vineyards,  
with multiple stains in some vineyards.



Sharma et al. PLoS One. 2011



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# The Grape Mealybug

**a dormant season parathion spray  
reduced infestation to 1% at harvest**

**Fred Jensen, F. M. Stafford, and R. A. Break**

**Parathion sprays** applied to field plots—in Tulare and Fresno counties—during the dormant season controlled grape mealybug in 1953 better than any other material tested, and confirmed results of trials in 1952.

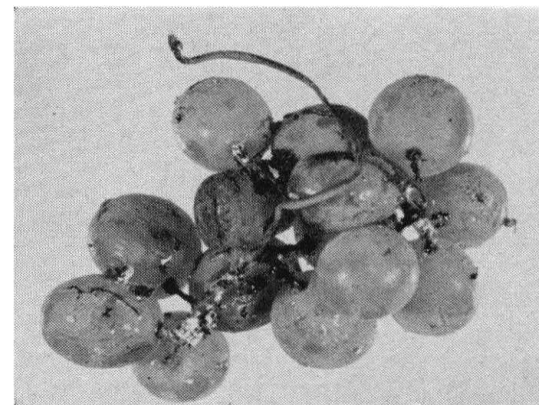
The sprays proved so effective that less than 1% of the fruit was infested at harvest. During the last thirty years many materials and methods were tried for control of the mealybug but no satisfactory treatment was found.

Grape mealybugs cause occasional heavy losses in table grape vineyards. The honeydew they exude makes the grapes sticky and the presence of the whitish waxy mealybugs in the fruit clusters is unsightly. Often the honeydew drips onto the cluster from a mealybug feeding on a petiole or leaf. A black sooty mold usually grows on this honeydew, contributing to the general unattractive appearance. The fruit clusters with a recognizable infestation are either rejected in the field or culled out at the packing house.

The mealybug populations vary con-

In 1952-53, in a Tulare Co. table grape vineyard with a history of grape mealybug infestation, excellent control (<1%) was achieved with low rates of parathion

dormant spraying, trials were made with parathion, malathion, EPN, lime-sulfur, and sodium arsenite. All gave some degree of control. The parathion sprays gave a higher degree of control than did



materials. One low gallonage dormant parathion spray was applied using a little less than one half gallon per vine. Some benefit was evident but the result was decidedly inferior to the heavier applications. Because one pint of the emulsi-



# Chemicals losing effect against grape mealybug

Donald L. Flaherty  
William L. Peacock  
Larry Bettiga  
George M. Leavitt

**G**rape mealybug, a pest of table grapes in California's San Joaquin Valley, can be particularly damaging to Ribier and Emperor table grapes, especially in bunches that contact the bark. Before the 1940s, occasional losses occurred, but infestations were mostly spotty and frequently disappeared the following year.

Increasing and more persistent grape mealybug populations developed in the late 1940s, starting in the southern San Joaquin Valley's Delano-Earlimart table grape district and spreading to other grape areas. Extensive use of DDT and other synthetic insecticides to control grape leafhoppers in table grapes apparently had disrupted natural controls of grape mealybug. Populations of the mealybug are seldom high in raisin and wine grapes where pesticides are used considerably less.

(Nesbitt), in early spring. We were particularly interested in the possibilities of the dinoseb-containing materials, Premerge 3 and Dow General, the latter an oil-soluble and water-emulsifiable formulation.

The grape mealybug control trials were conducted during 1978-81 in an Emperor table grape vineyard in Terra Bella (Tulare County) with a history of intensive treatments for grape mealybug and other grape pests. In the trials we applied parathion in each of the four years. Other insecticides varied from year to year and included dinoseb (Premerge 3, Dow General), permethrin (Ambush), chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E), and methidathion (Supracide 2E). An untreated check was also included.

During the four years, replications varied from five to seven for each treatment in a complete randomized block with six to nine vines per plot. Treatments were applied in early March and evaluated each year just before harvest in September. All bunches in each plot were thoroughly inspected for signs of mealybug infestation—including honeydew, mealybugs, and egg masses—and the percentage of infested bunches recorded. We considered that economic losses would occur above 2 percent infestation.

In April 1978 and 1979, 50 leaves (10 leaves from each block) were sampled to determine effects of the various treatments on spider mites and predaceous mites. Previous published studies had shown that early-season predation is important for effective control of spider mites in vineyards. Willamette mite was the only spider mite species present in

Data from 1978 and 1981 grape mealybug control trials (table 1) validate reports that

Parathion  
Dinoseb  
Permethrin  
Chlorpyrifos  
Methidathion

Dow General, an oil-soluble formulation of dinoseb, was somewhat better with a 4.6 percent infestation. Ambush, a pyrethroid, was very poor, resulting in 16 percent infestation.

Results from 1980 were not recorded in table 1, because the grower inadvertently treated the vineyard, including the trial area, in July with parathion dust, an ineffective attempt at mealybug control. We were able to observe that Lorsban 4E at 1 pound a.i. per acre plus oil was more effective than Supracide 2E at 1.25 pounds a.i. per acre plus oil. However, in the 1981 trial Lorsban was no better than parathion at 2.5 pounds a.i. per acre.

It is disturbing that control with even 5 pounds a.i. of parathion in 1981 was approaching 2 percent infestation. Perhaps grape mealybug is developing even greater resistance to parathion. As mentioned, this

**TABLE 1. Effects of dormant treatments on grape mealybug, Emperor table grapes, Terra Bella, California, 1978, 1979, 1981**

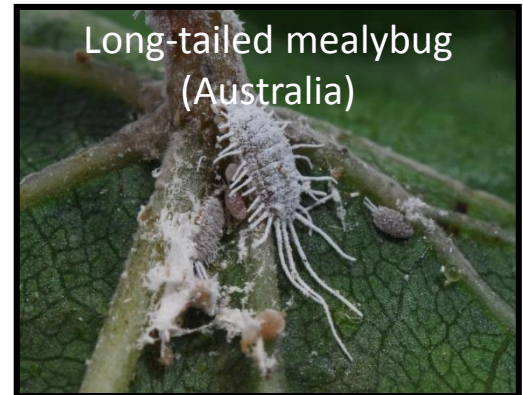
Infested bunches†

# Vine MB causes more damage

- 1) more eggs, more generations
- 2) feeds on leaves
- 3) more honeydew excretion



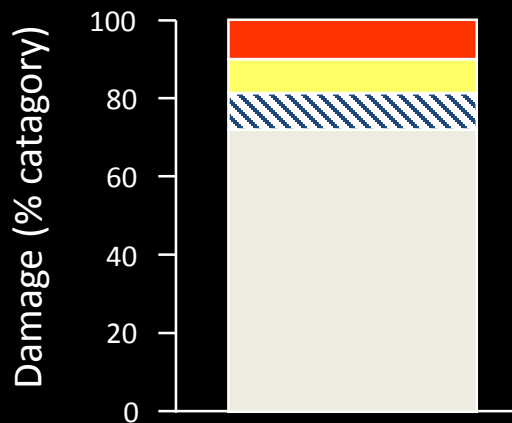
Long-tailed mealybug  
(Australia)



Grape mealybug  
(native)



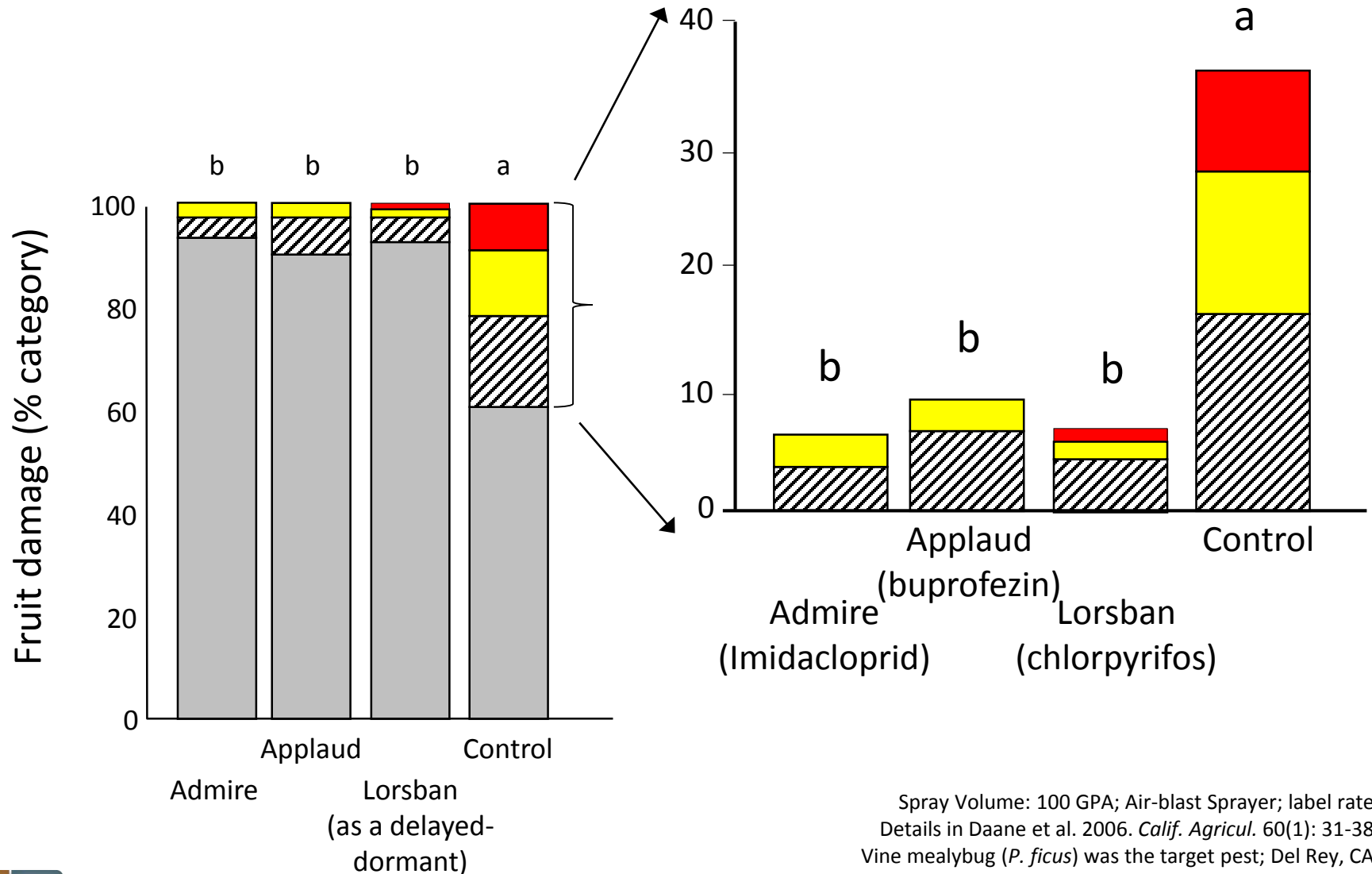
Vine mealybug  
(Mediterranean)



### Rating system for fruit damage

- "3" Severe damage / lost cluster
- "2" Partial damage
- "1" Minor damage
- "0" No damage

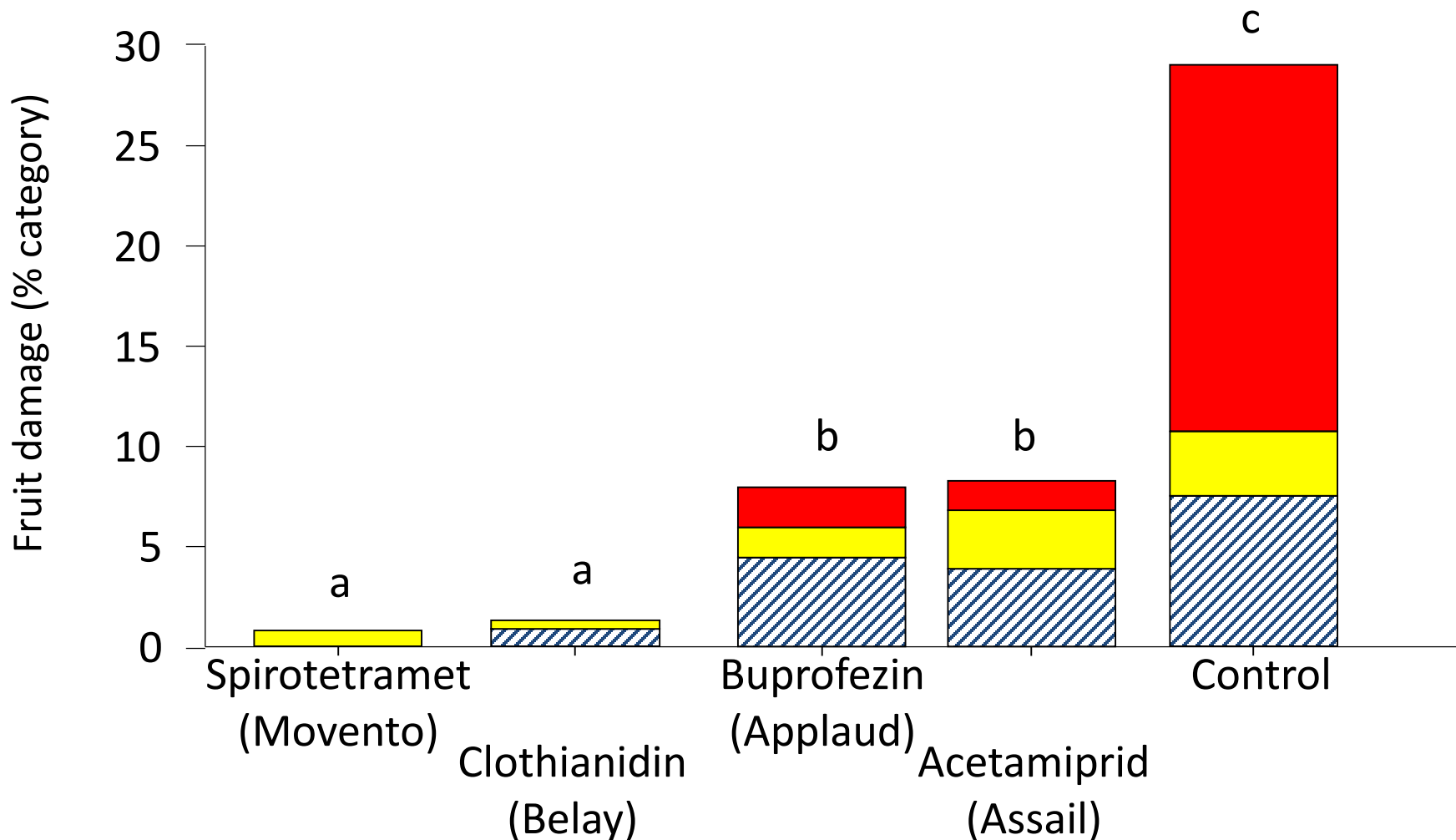
In the 1990s, Chemical Industry and UC sought alternates  
to in-season OPs and Carbamates



Spray Volume: 100 GPA; Air-blast Sprayer; label rate.  
Details in Daane et al. 2006. *Calif. Agric.* 60(1): 31-38.  
Vine mealybug (*P. ficus*) was the target pest; Del Rey, CA.



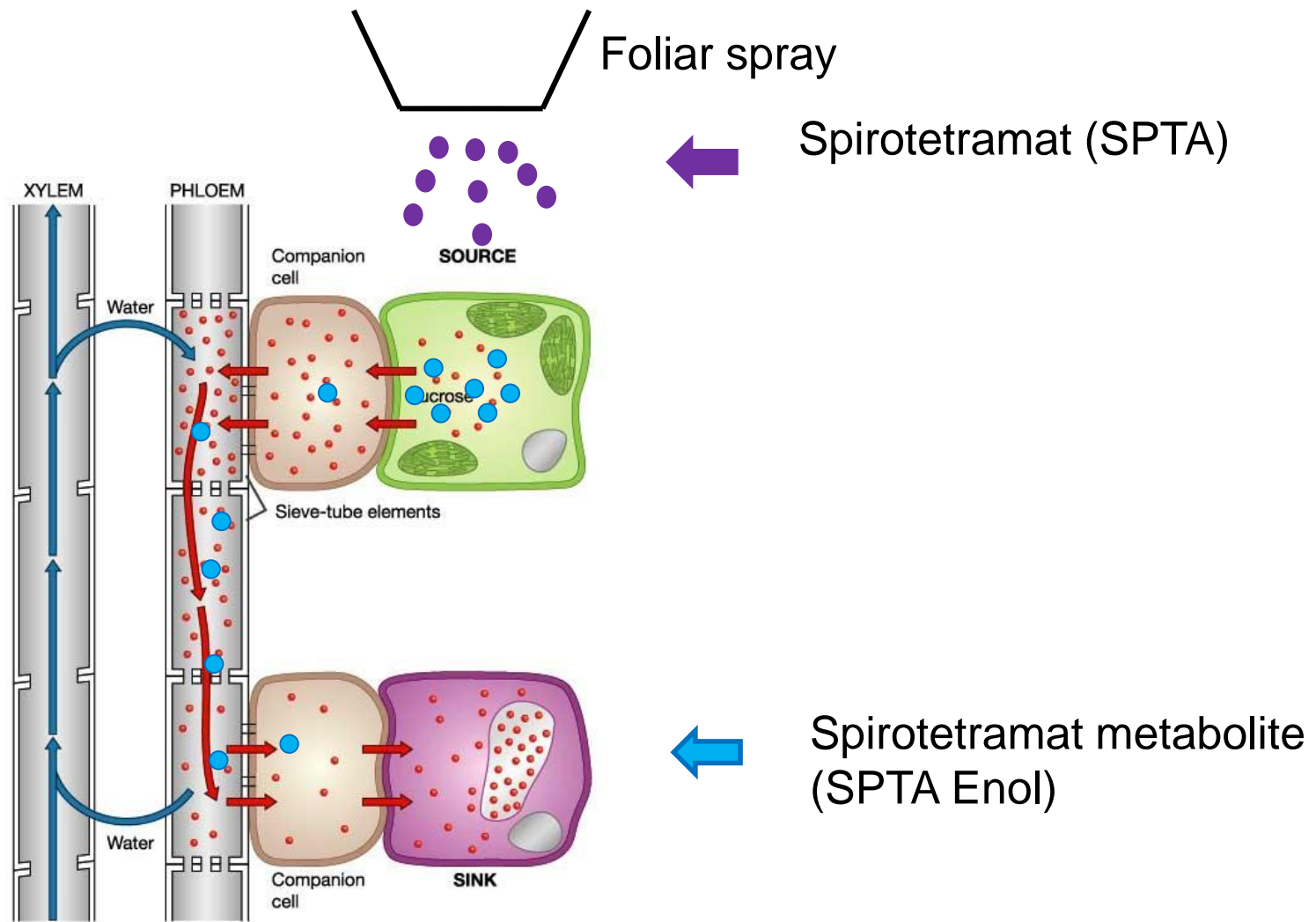
Since the 1990s, more effective materials have been added to the tool box



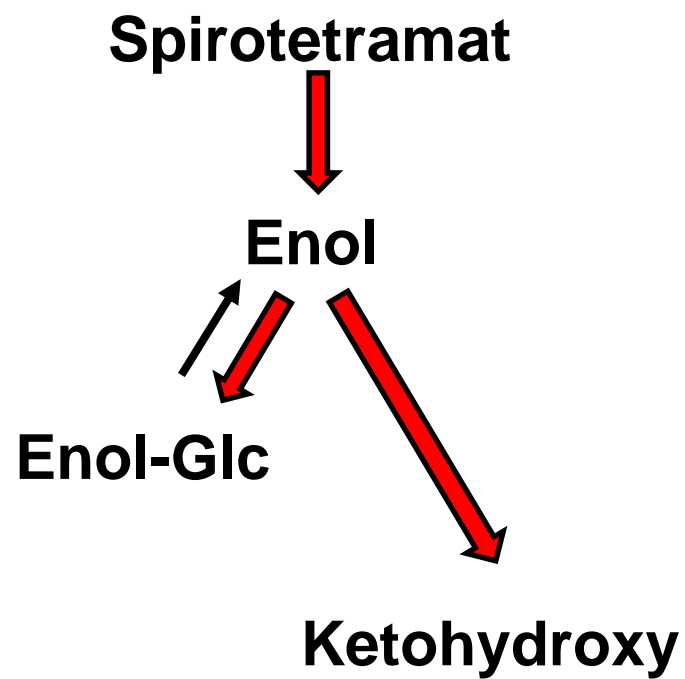
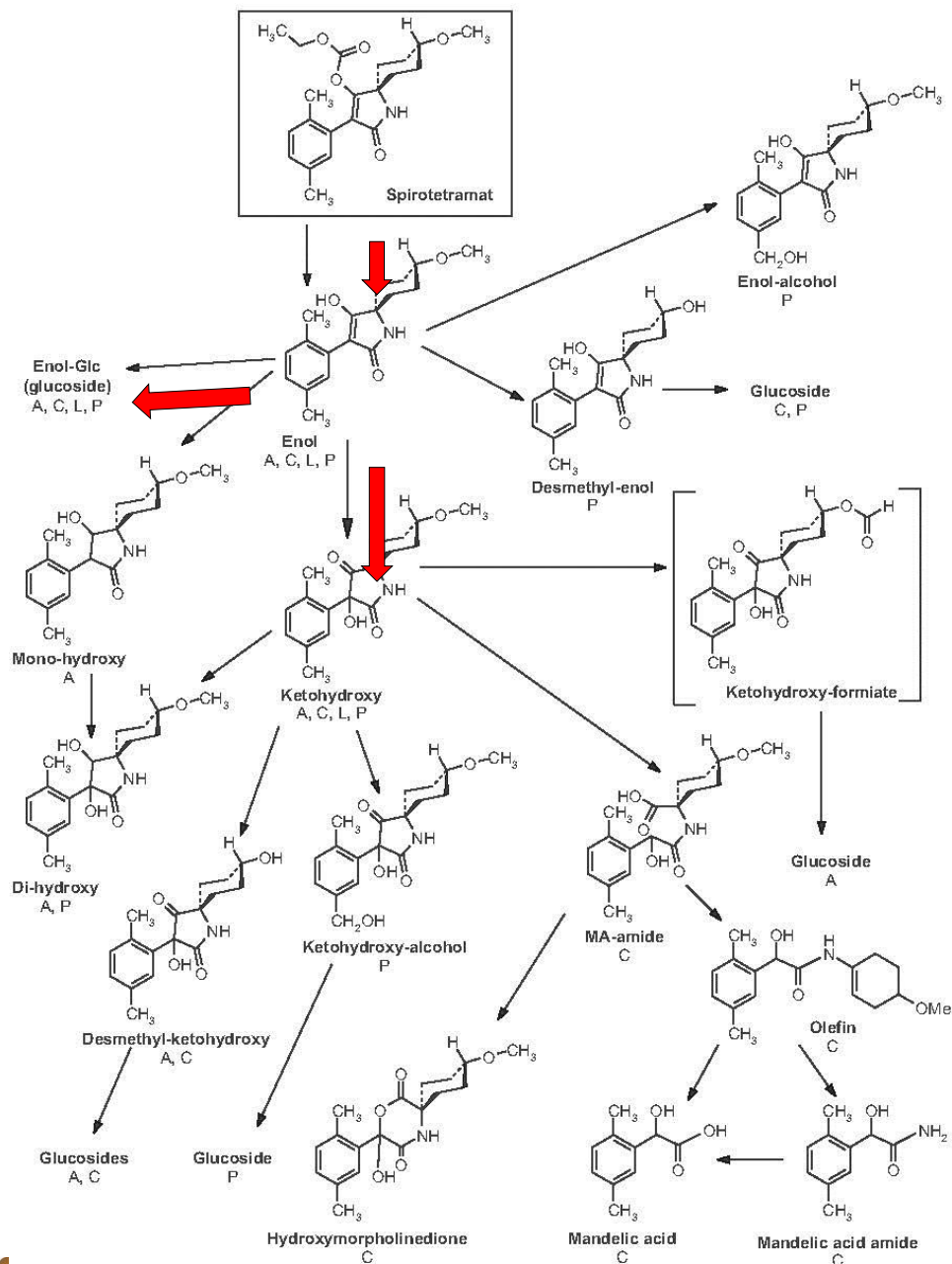
Spray Volume: 100 GPA; Air-blast Sprayer; label rate (Applaud 12 oz per ac)  
Belay & Movento on 21 June 2011, Applaud & Assail on 7 July 2011  
*Planococcus ficus*, Lodi-Woodbridge wine grapes, Lodi, CA

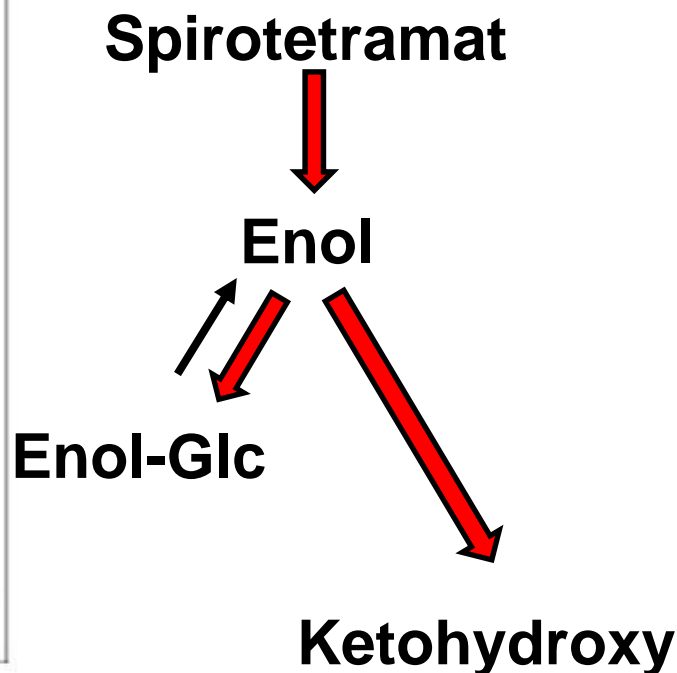
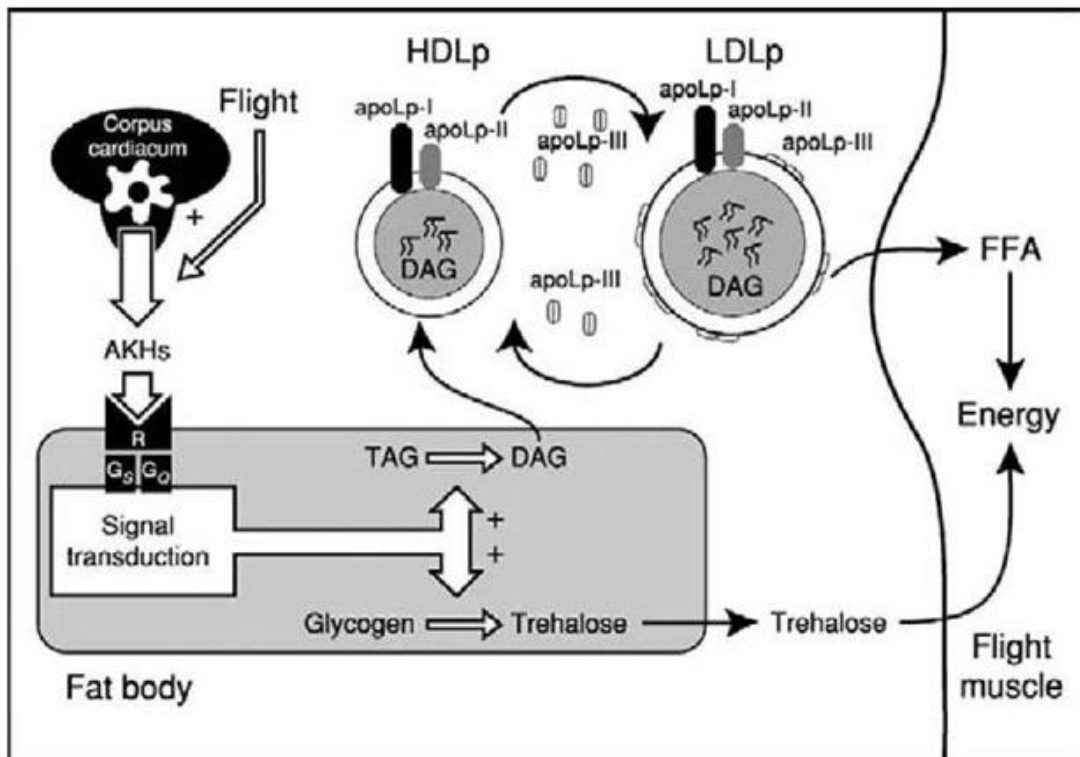


# Understanding the systematic uptake of pesticide

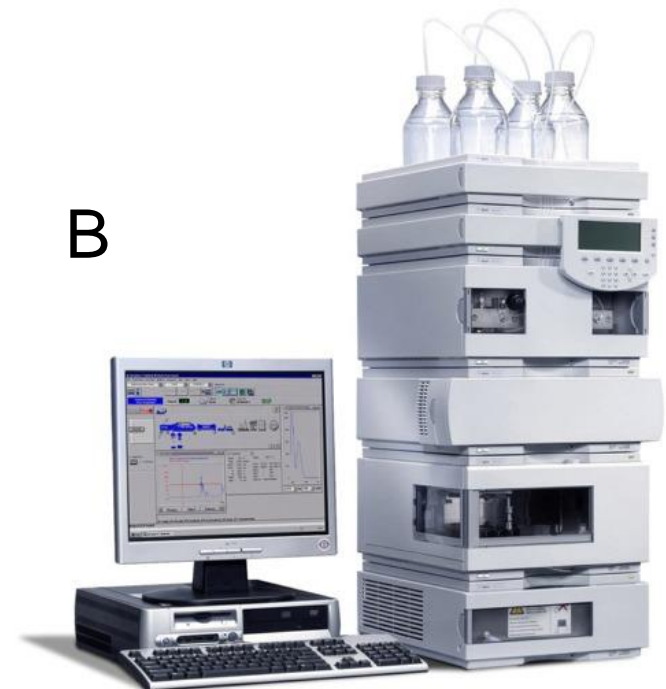
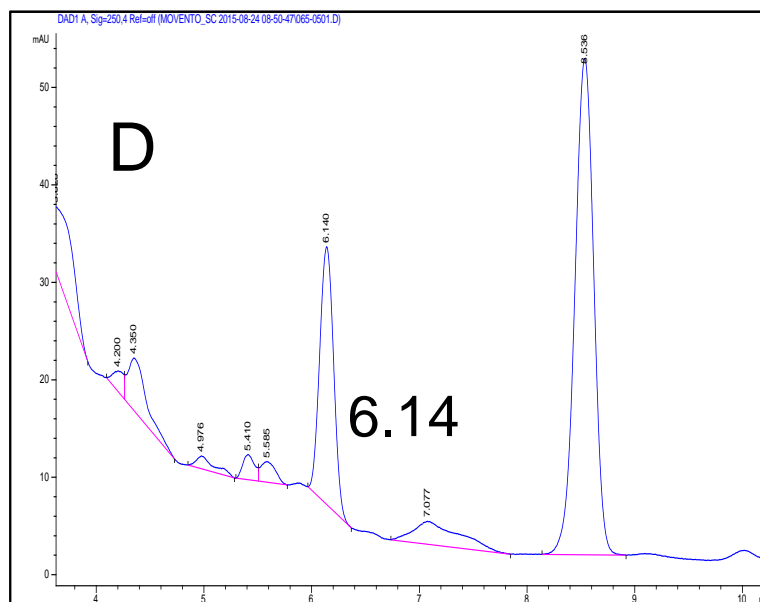
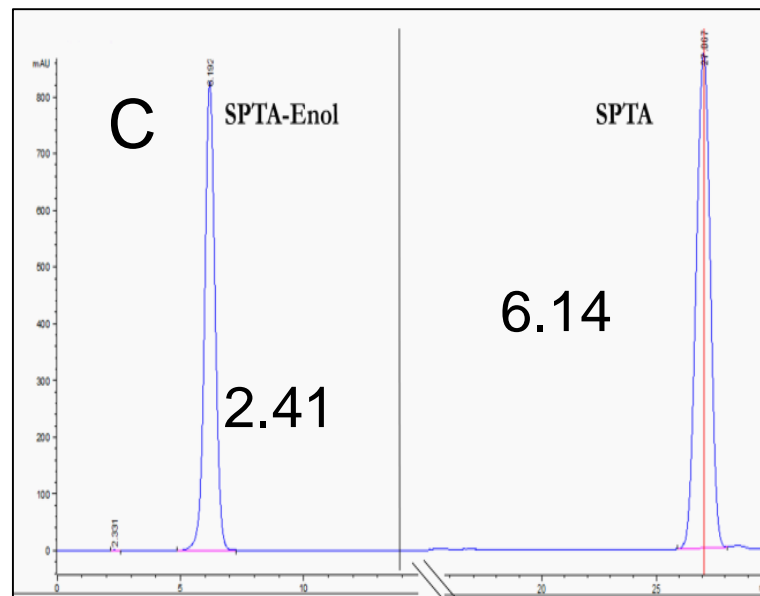
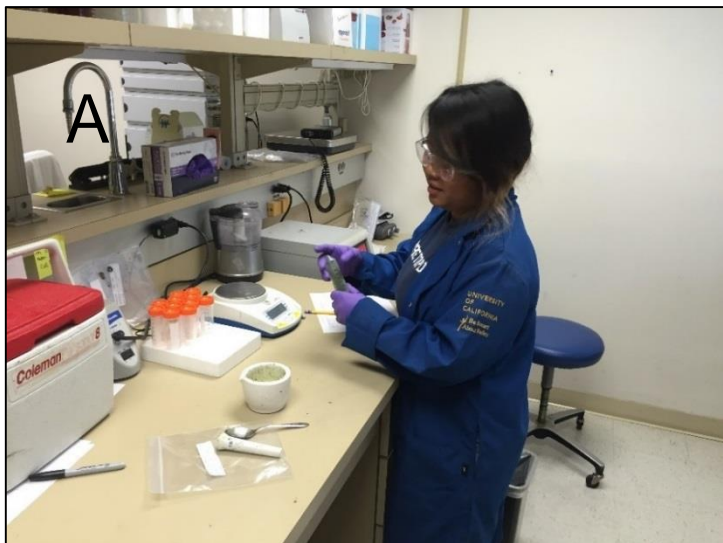


Modified after: <http://www.uic.edu/classes/bios/bios100/lectf03am/translocation.jpg>

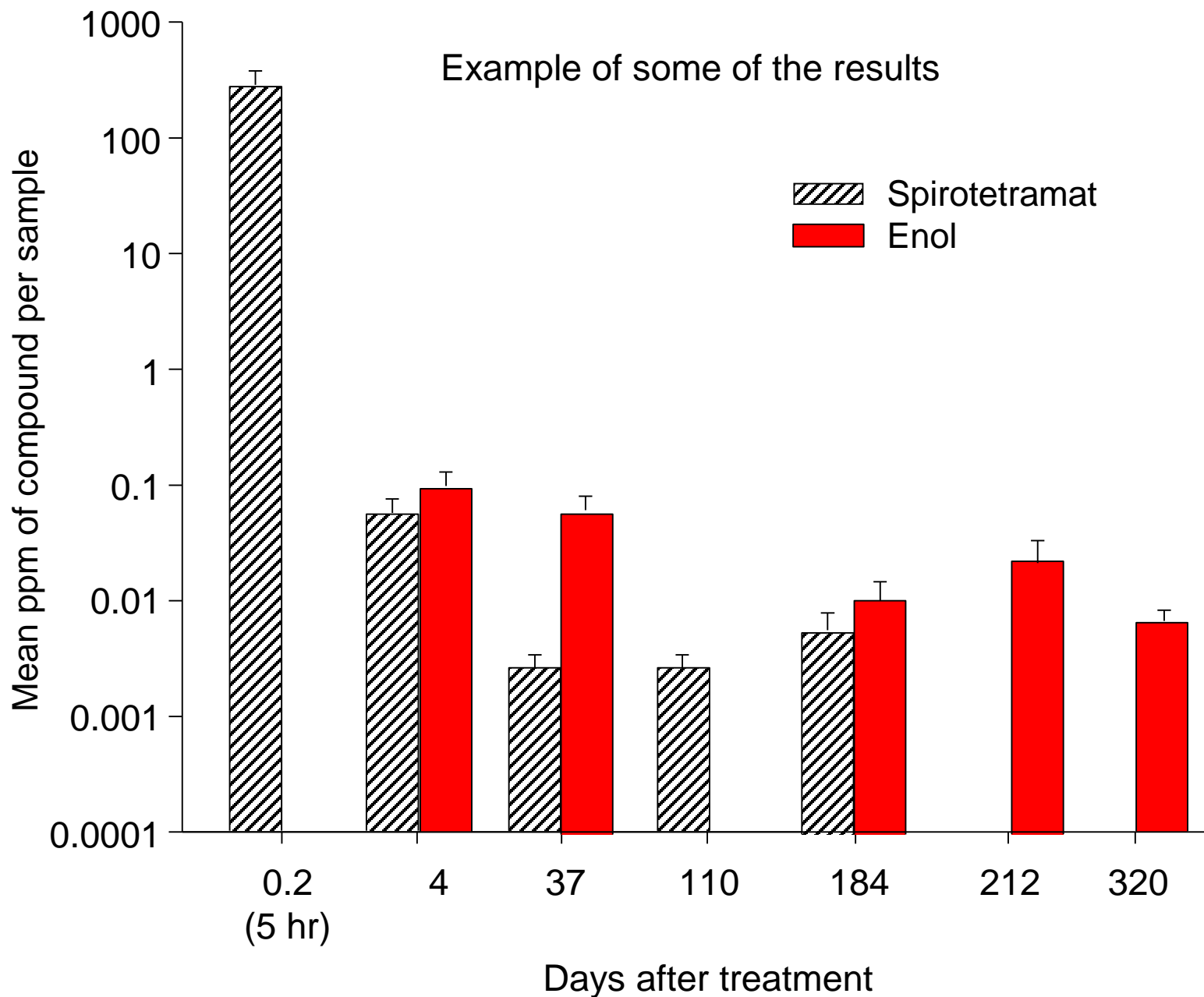




Spirotetramat is a tetrone acid derivative and acts as a lipid biosynthesis inhibitor. Lipids (fats, oils, waxes, vitamins, hormones) are essential to an animal's existence. Spirotetramat is effective against juvenile stages (like a growth hormone), but can reduce adult fecundity and fertility. Death also occurs because mealybugs will have their energy transport system disrupted and should cease movement.

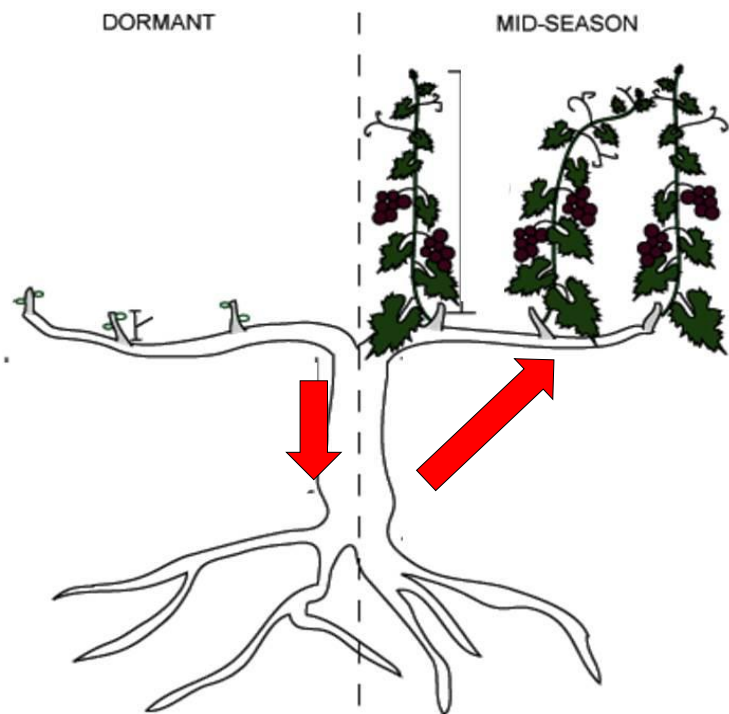


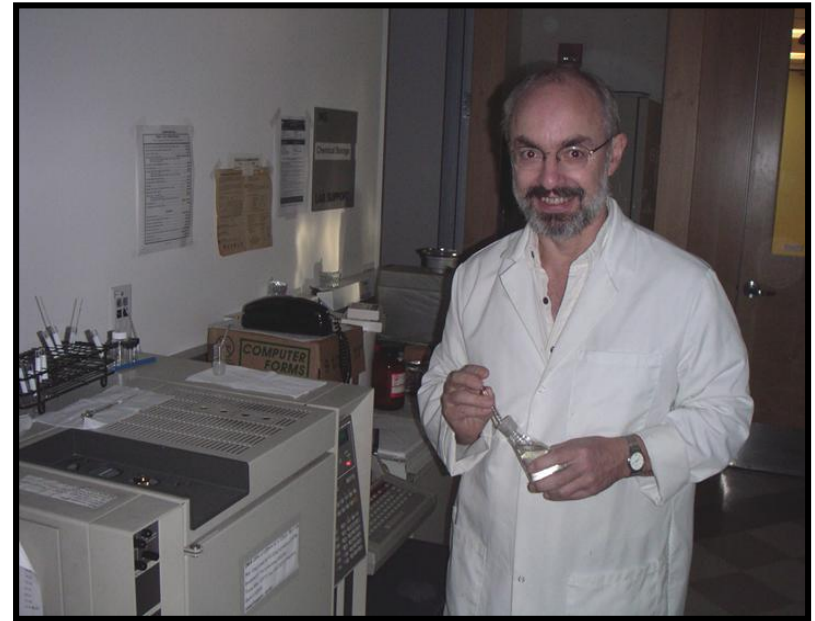
## Example of some of the results



## Questions we have been trying to address:

- Timing & methods of application
- Location & age of pest population
- Vine physiology
- Conversion of SPAT to SPAT-Enol?
- Movement of SPAT & SPAT-Enol





Development of mating disruption – led by pheromone chemist Jocelyn Millar, who has identified mealybug sex pheromones (Walt Bentley)

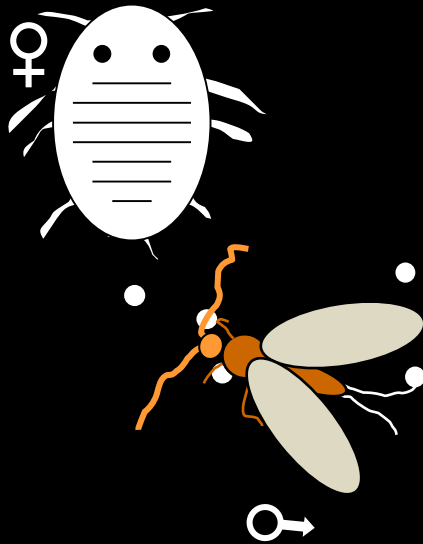




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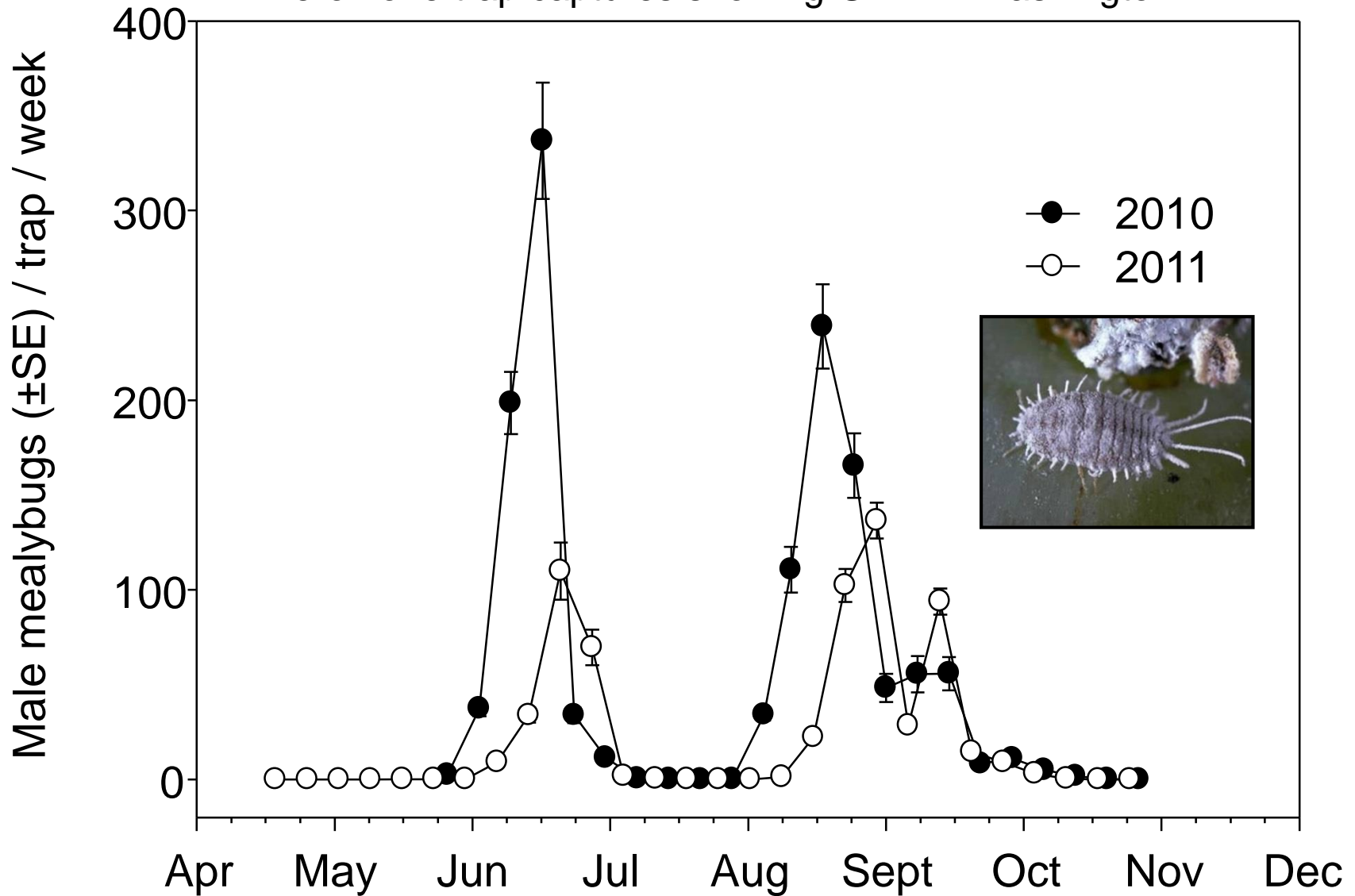
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# Identified and synthesized sex pheromone



Female emits sex  
pheromone

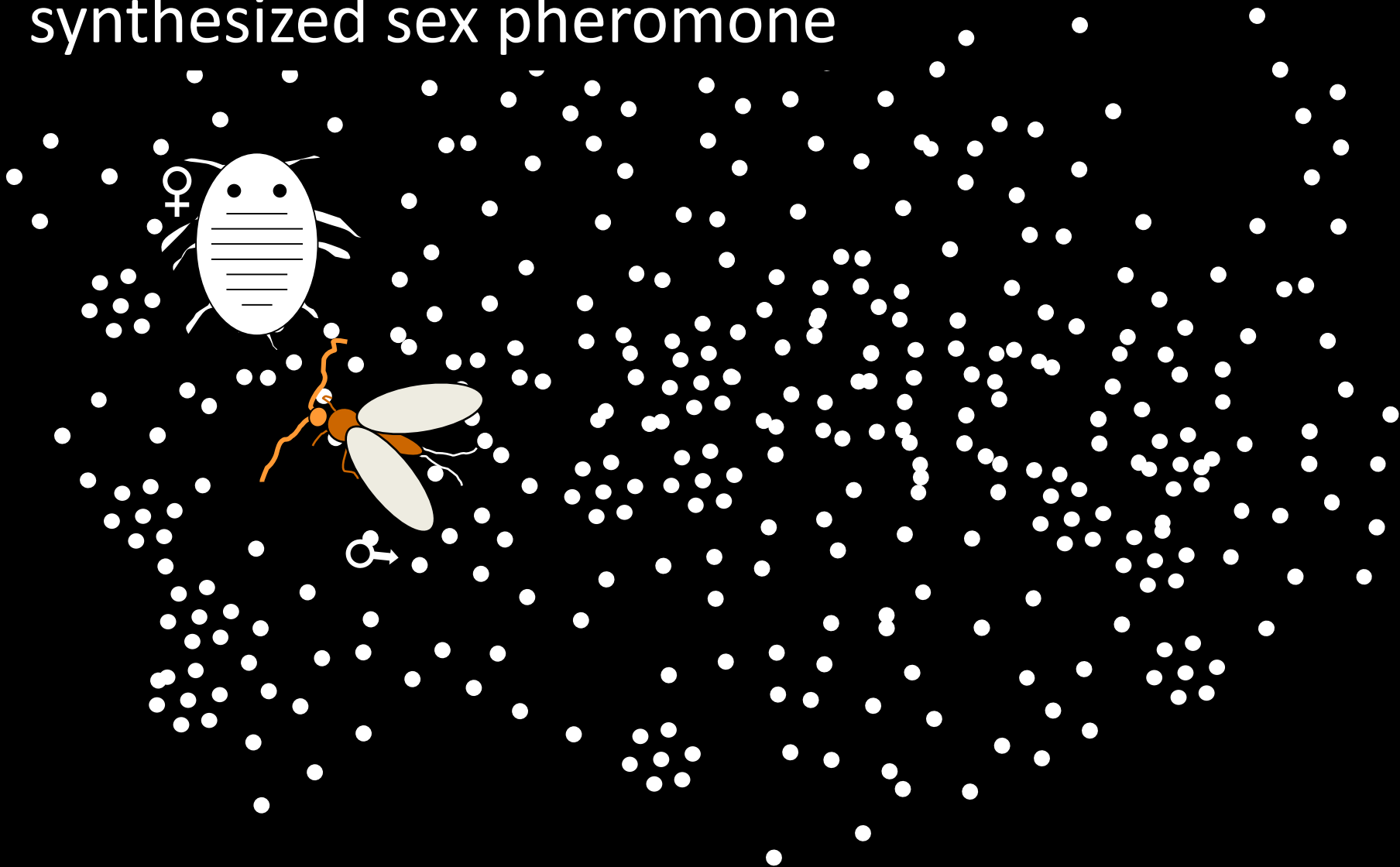
## Pheromone trap captures showing GMB in Washington



Bahder, Rayapati, Daane, Millar & Walsh. 2013.  
*Journal of Economic Entomology*.



# Mating disruption - synthesized sex pheromone



# Small-plot studies with sprayable formulation

Period: 2003 and 2004\*

Crop Destruct: Small plots (0.2-0.3 ha) in raisin vineyards

2004 Design: Applied sprayable microencapsulated pheromone (10 g / ha) every 3 wks (20 Apr to 18 Jul); split-plot, 5 reps

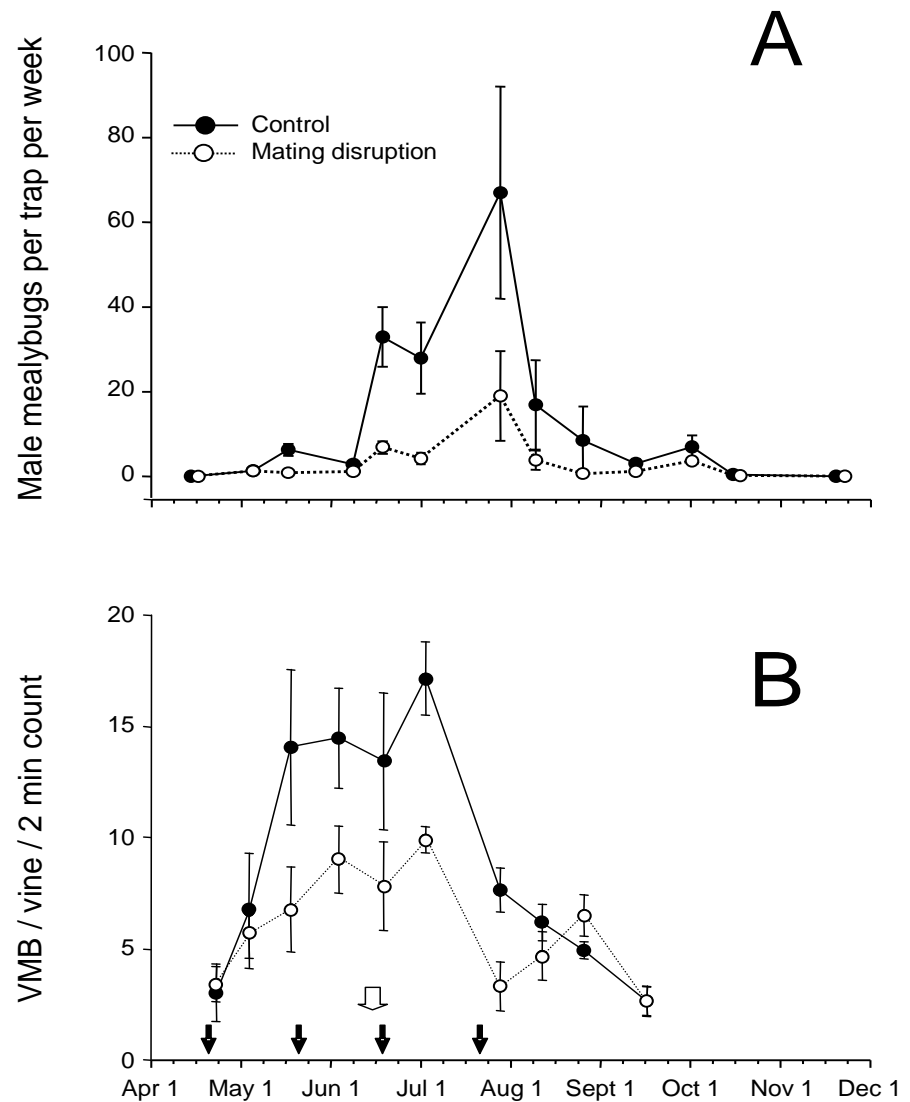
Insecticides: Buprofezin on all plots (in 2003 plots also received chlorpyrifos)

Measured: Male VMB flight, mealybug density via timed-counts, rated crop damage.



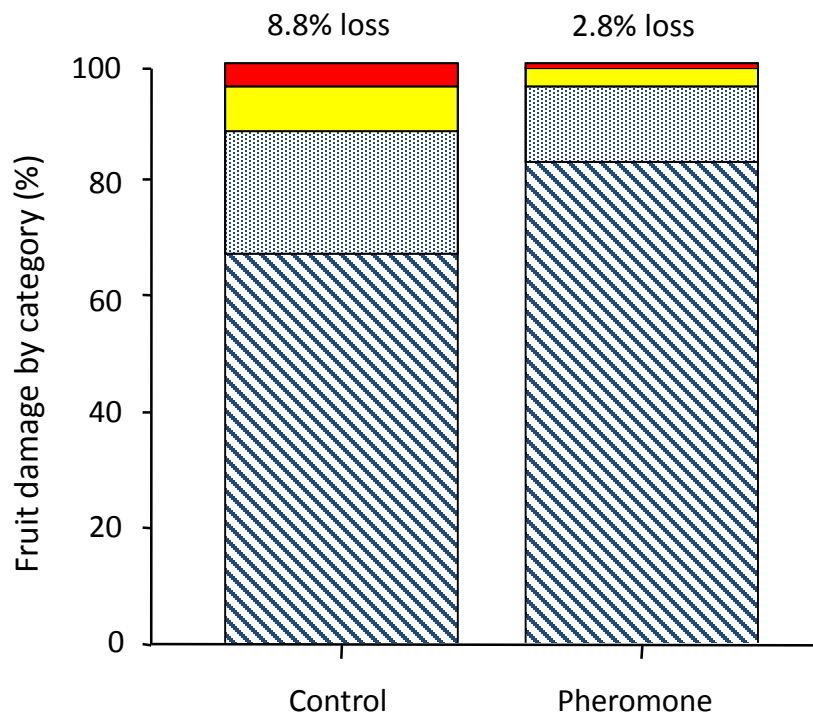
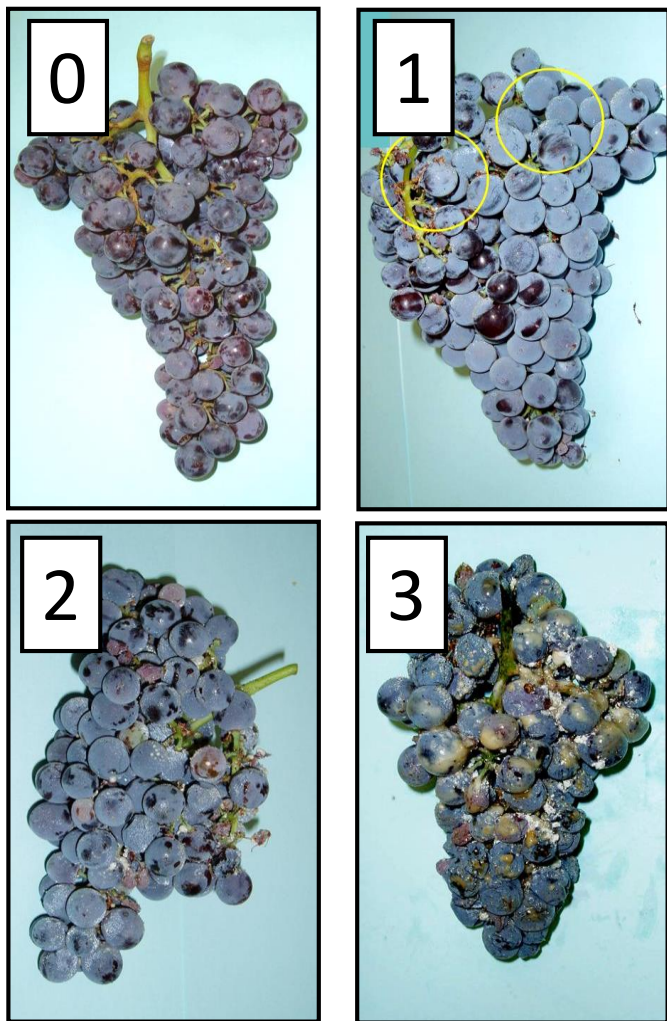
# Small-plot studies with sprayable formulation

Walton, Daane, Bentley, Millar, Larsen & Malakar-Kuenen. 2006.  
*Journal of Economic Entomology* 99: 1280-90.



# Small-plot studies with sprayable formulation

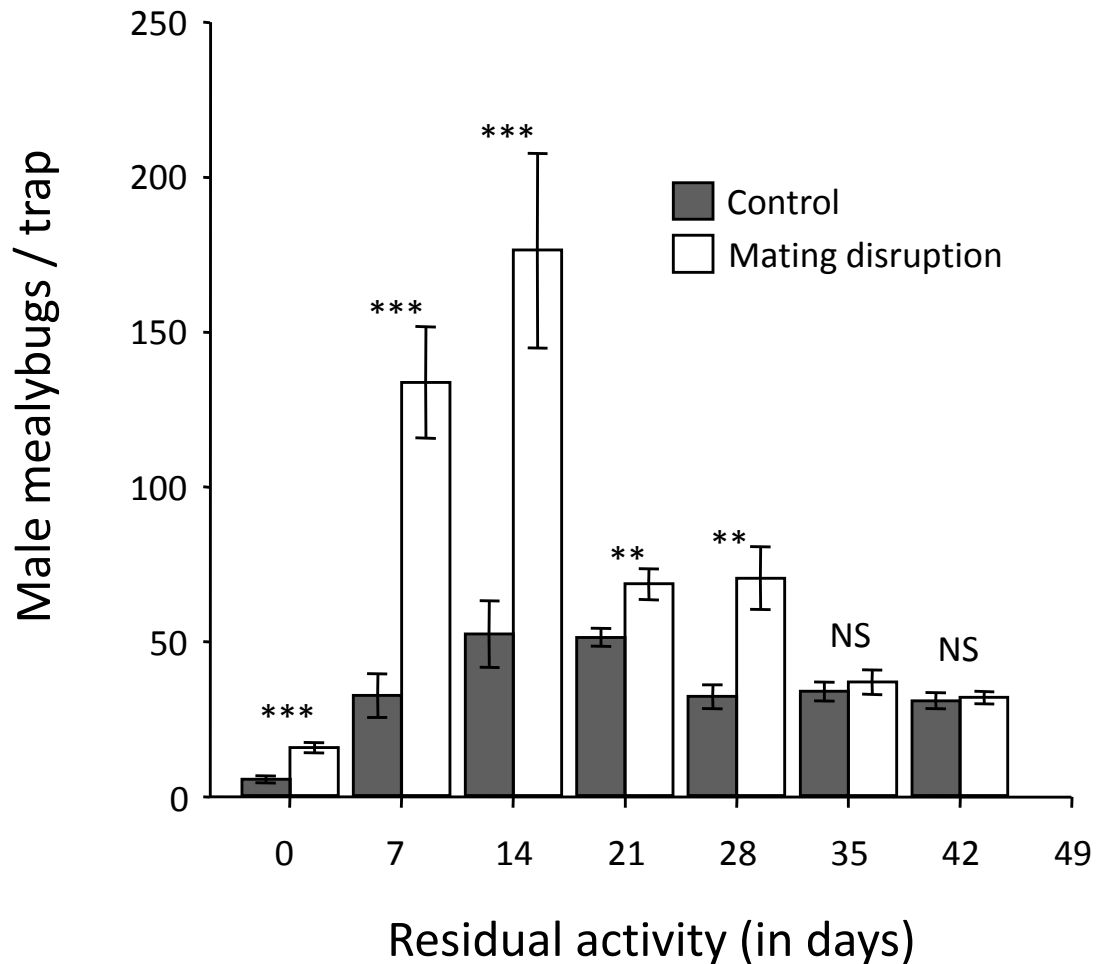
Walton, Daane, Bentley, Millar, Larsen & Malakar-Kuenen. 2006.  
*Journal of Economic Entomology* 99: 1280-90.



## Methodology (0 – 3 scale)

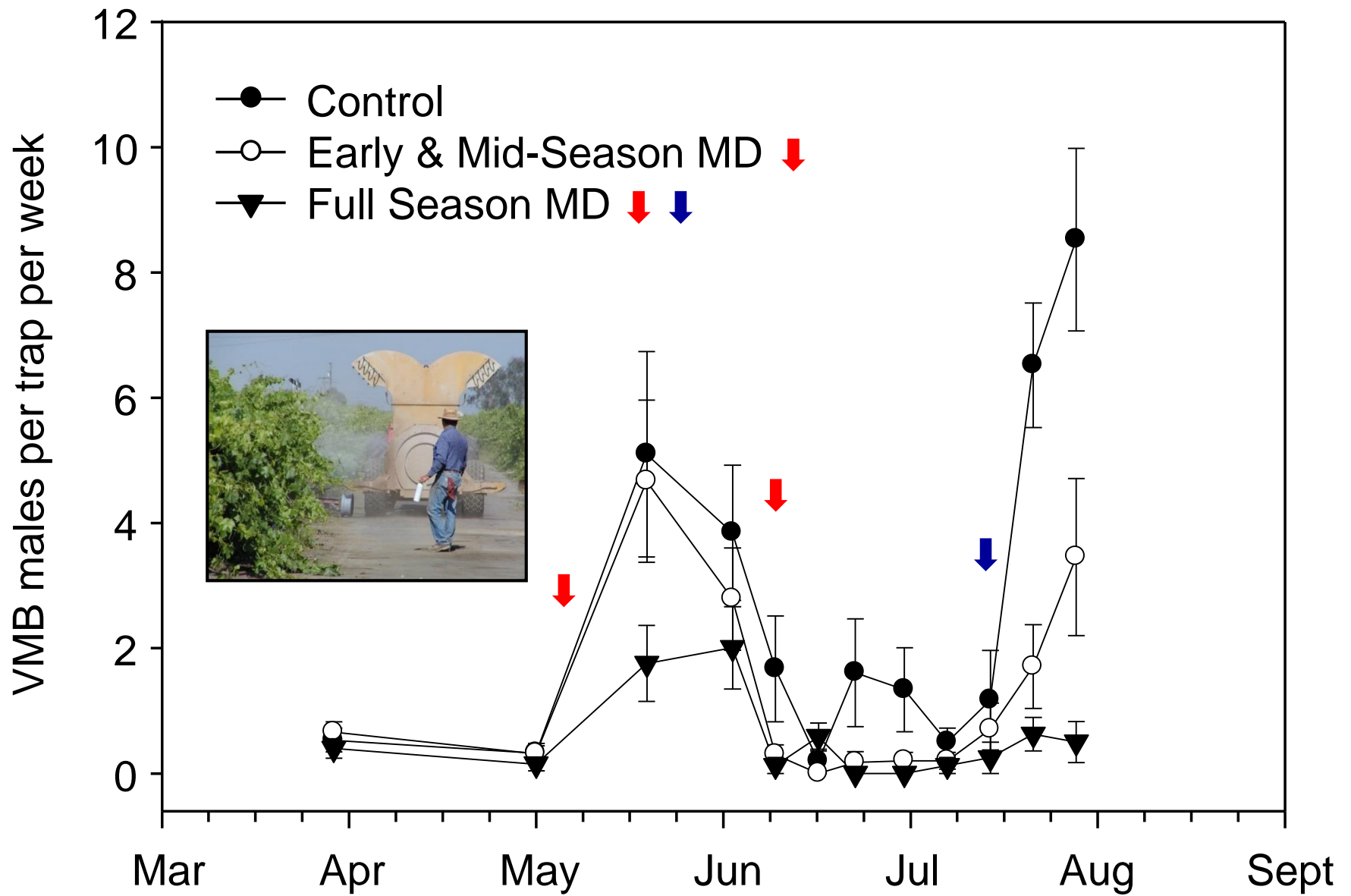
- Unmarketable cluster (3)
- Mealybug damage (2)
- Honeydew, few VMB (1)
- No damage (0)

# Small-plot studies with sprayable formulation



Walton, Daane, Bentley, Millar, Larsen & Malakar-Kuenen. 2006.  
*Journal of Economic Entomology* 99: 1280-90.





Daane et al. unpublished, 2017 study



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# Large-plot studies with plastic dispensers



Daane et al. unpublished

Period: 2005 to 2008

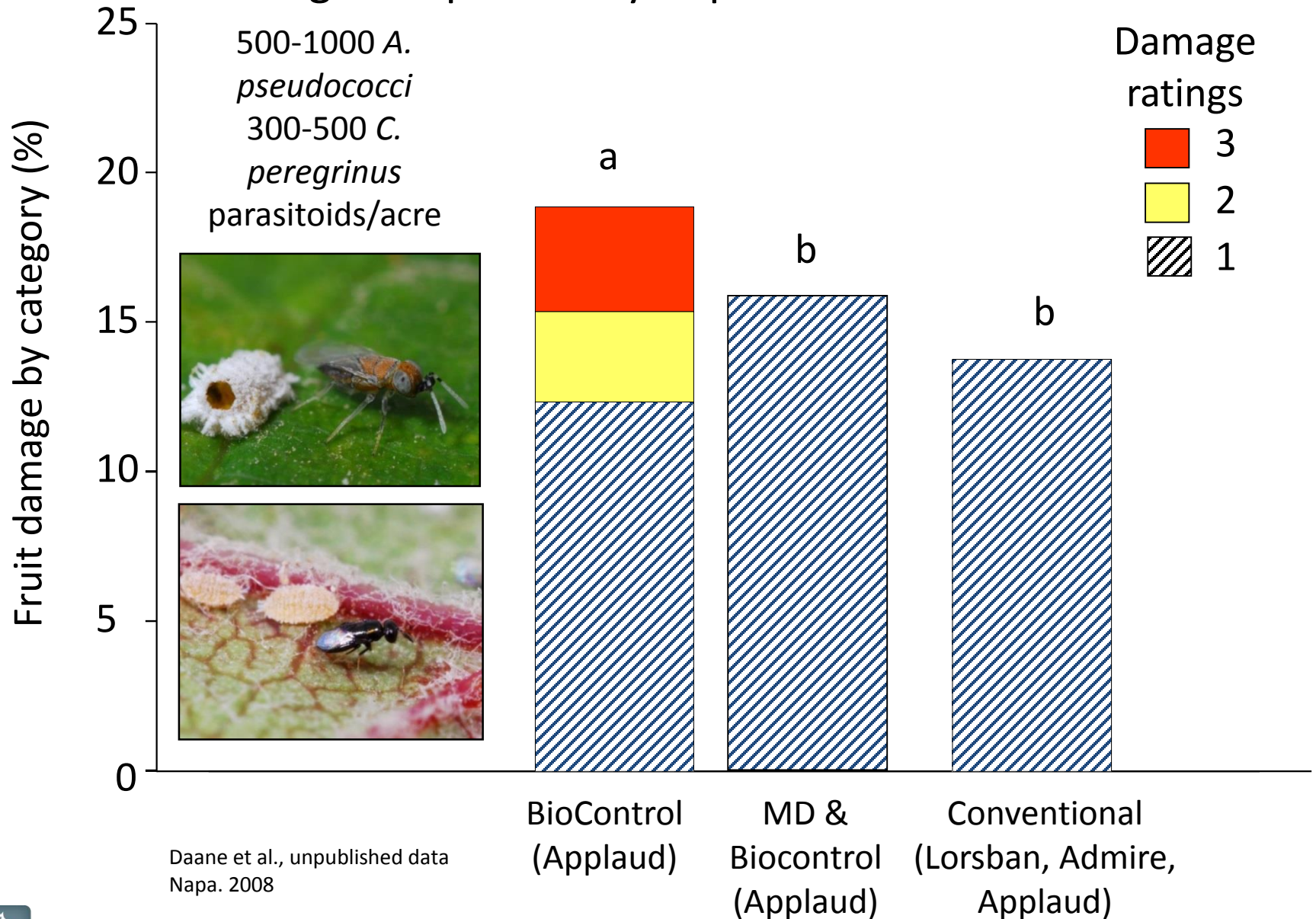
Experimental permit for use: Large plots (5-20 ha) in raisin and wine vineyards

Typically Design: Deployed plastic dispensers (100-150 mg a.i. / dispenser, one application per season, ca. 500 / ha), split-plot, 4-6 reps per region

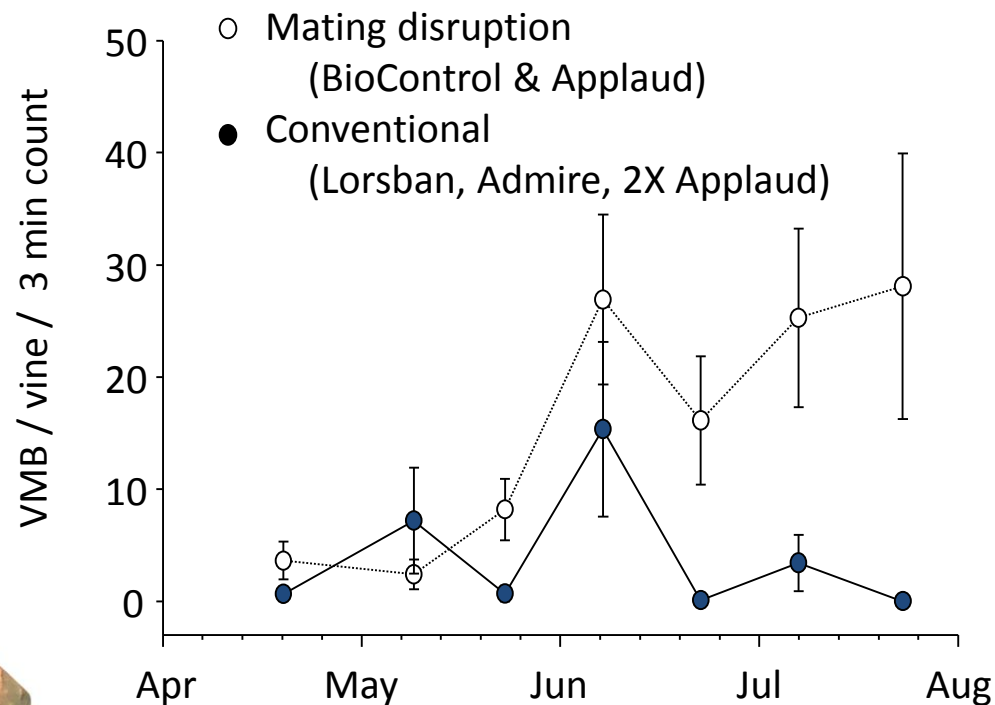
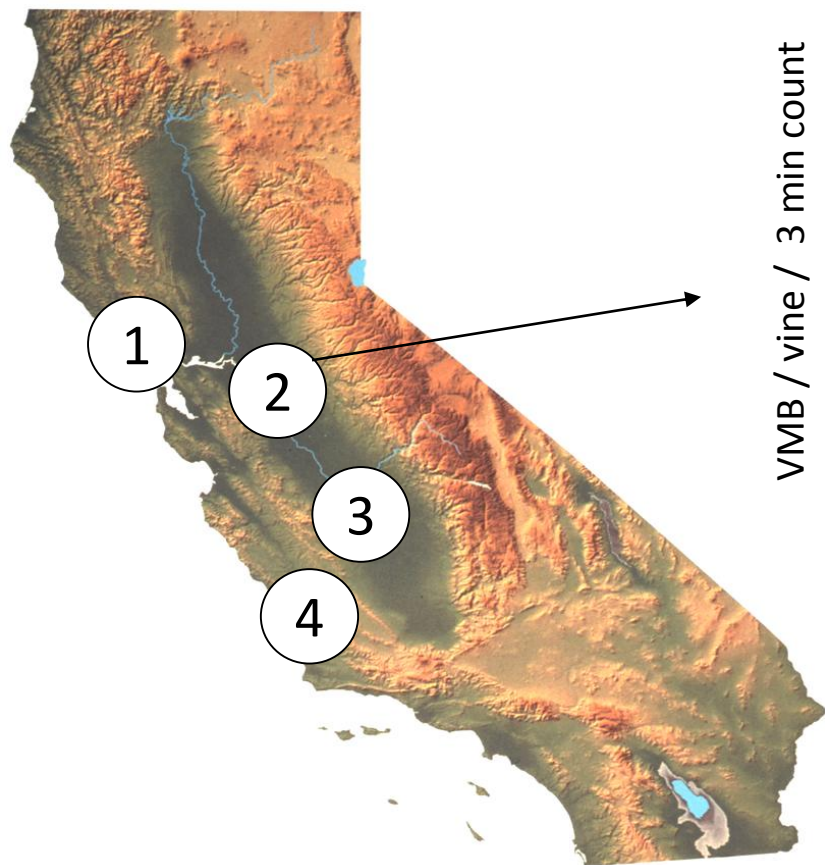
Insecticides: Variable

Measured: Male VMB flight, mealybug density via timed-counts, rated crop damage.

# Mating Disruption May Improve Bio-Control



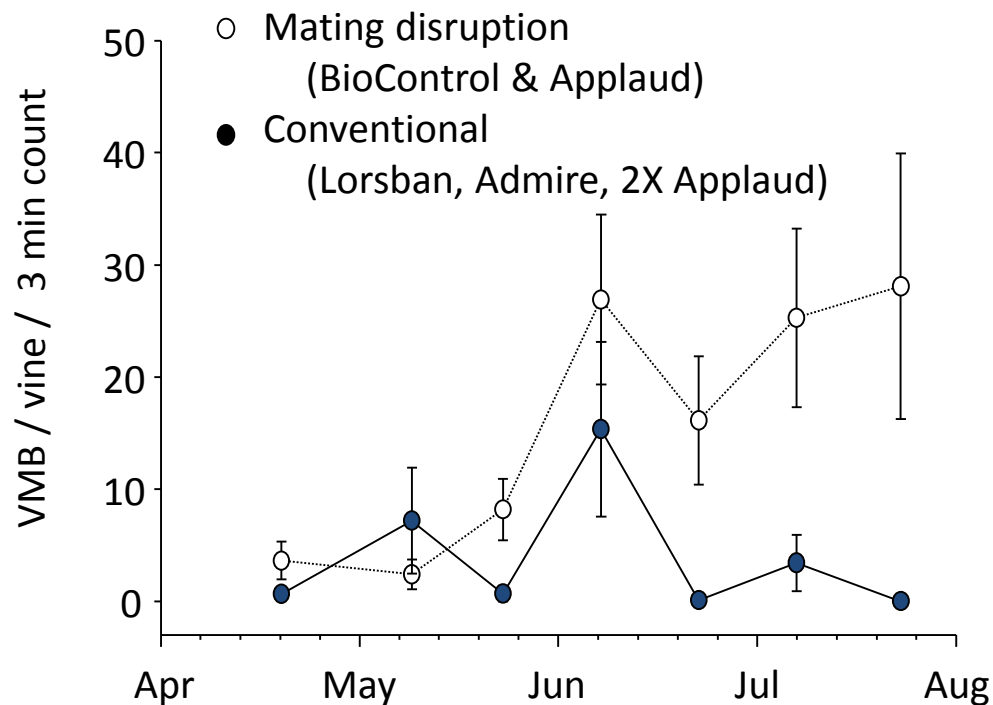
# Large-plot studies with plastic dispensers: CONS



Daane et al. unpublished

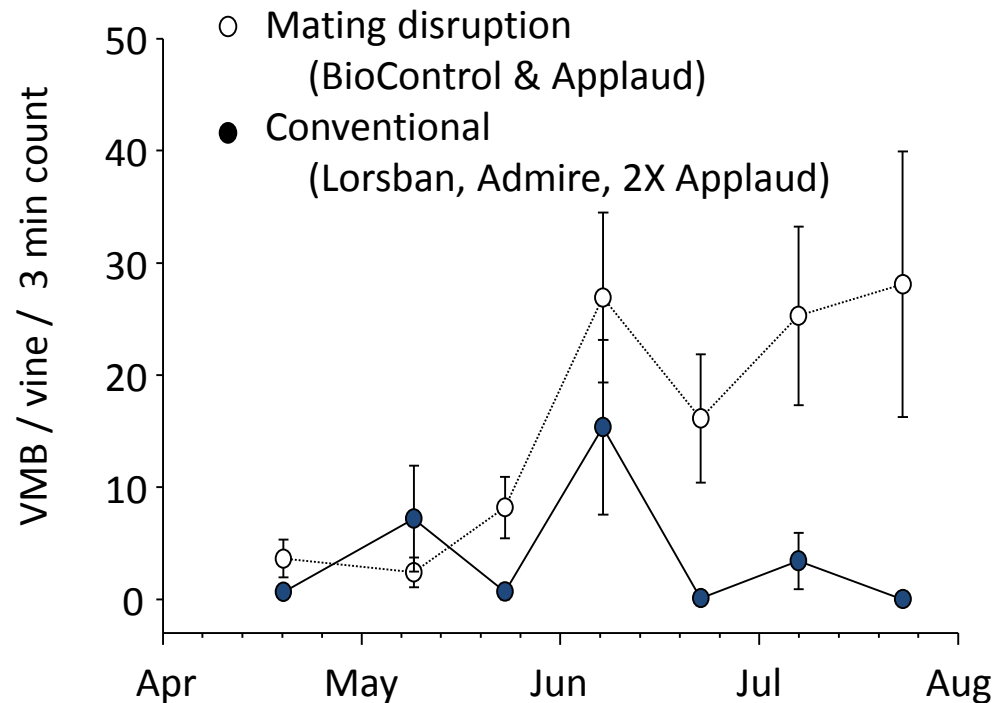
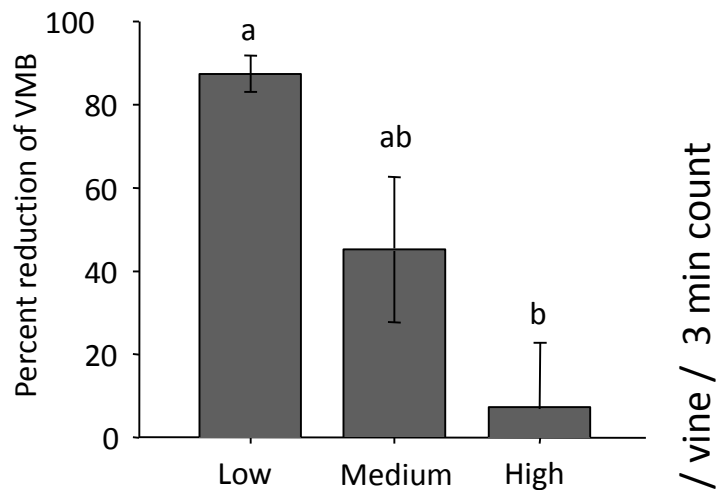


# Large-plot studies with plastic dispensers: CONS



Daane et al. unpublished

# Large-plot studies with plastic dispensers: CONS



Daane et al. unpublished

# Could “puffers” reduce costs? (Welter & Kurtural)

## Lower labor costs & better release control....



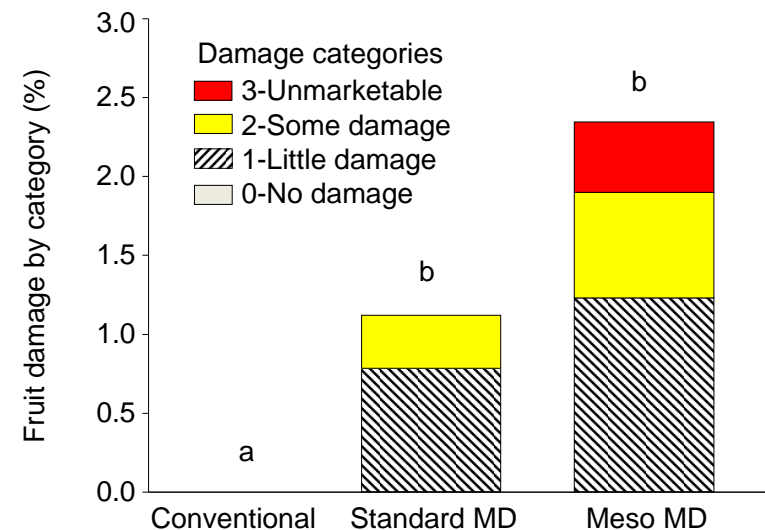
Puffers for pheromone release may reduce costs further, requiring only placement of 4 puffers / ha, and automating pheromone release to time of day

# Could “meso” dispensers reduce costs?

## Lower labor costs .. but fewer ‘point’ sources



‘meso dispensers’ may reduce costs, requires placement of 50 / ha, but they did not perform as well



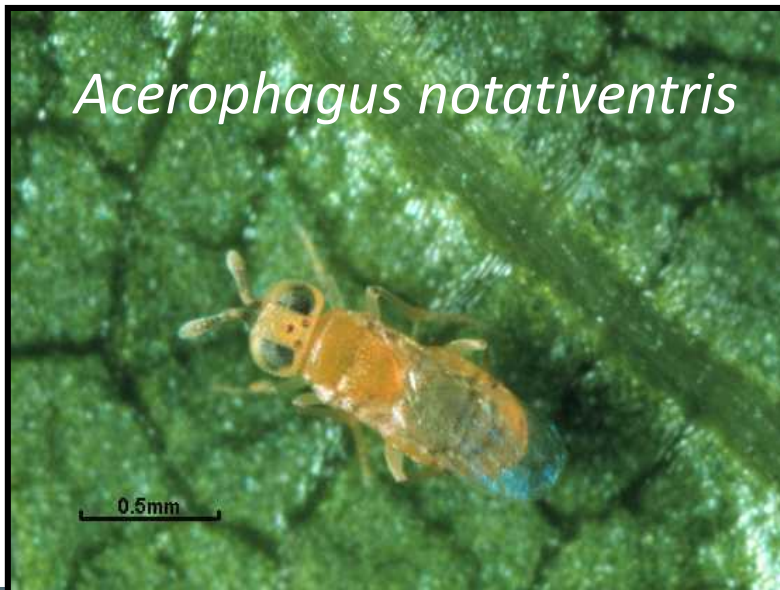
# California parasites of “Grape MB” complex

*Acerophagus angelicus*



- Grape mealybug parasitoids
- found in all regions
  - provide effective control
  - disrupted by cultural practices  
insecticides  
high vine vigor

*Acerophagus notativentris*



*Tetracnemoidea sydneyensis*



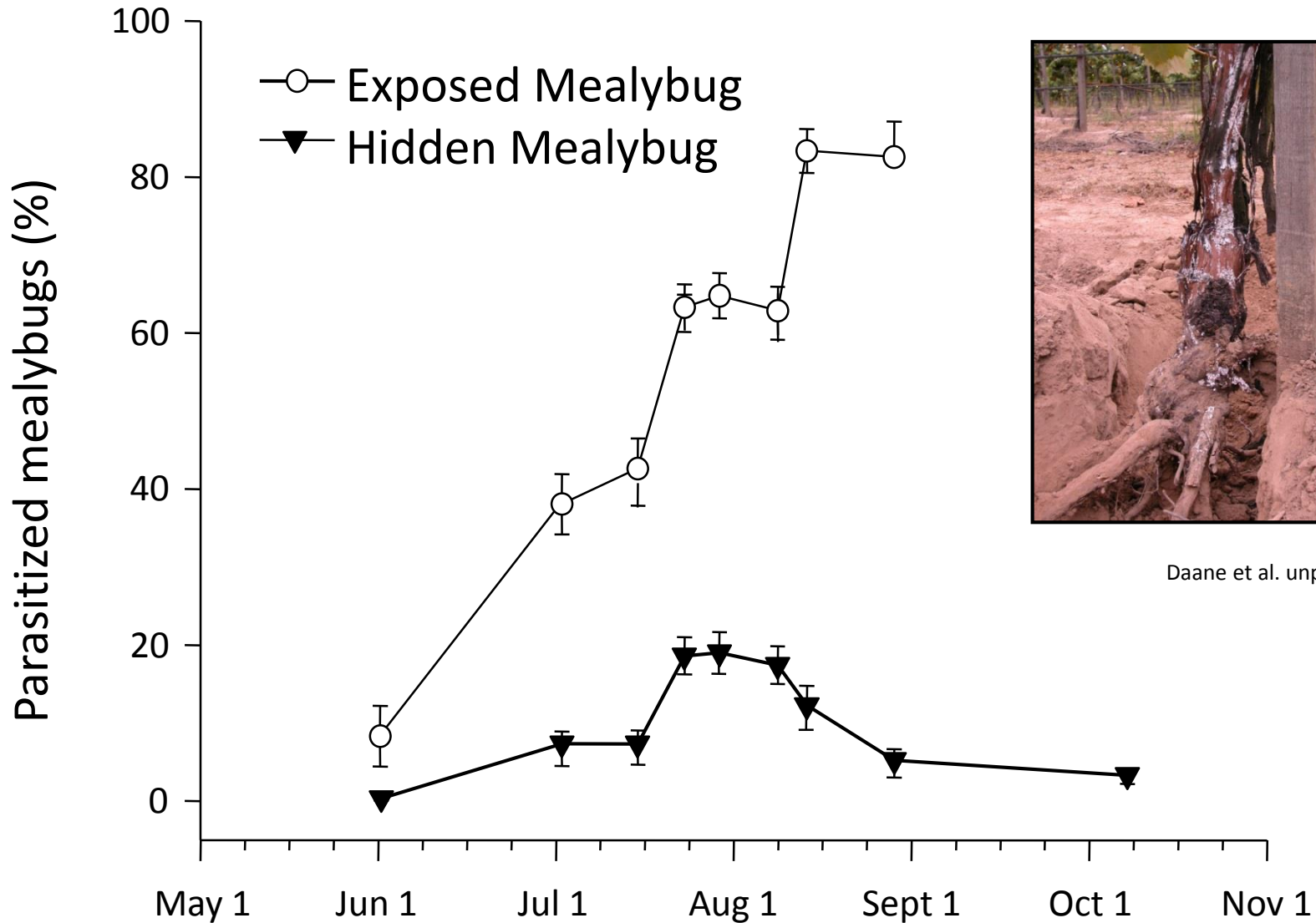
**What controls are available for organic?**



*Anagyrus pseudococci* – female  
“Israel” – similar California, S. Italy  
“N. Italy” – released 2006-08  
“E. Spain” – imported 2008

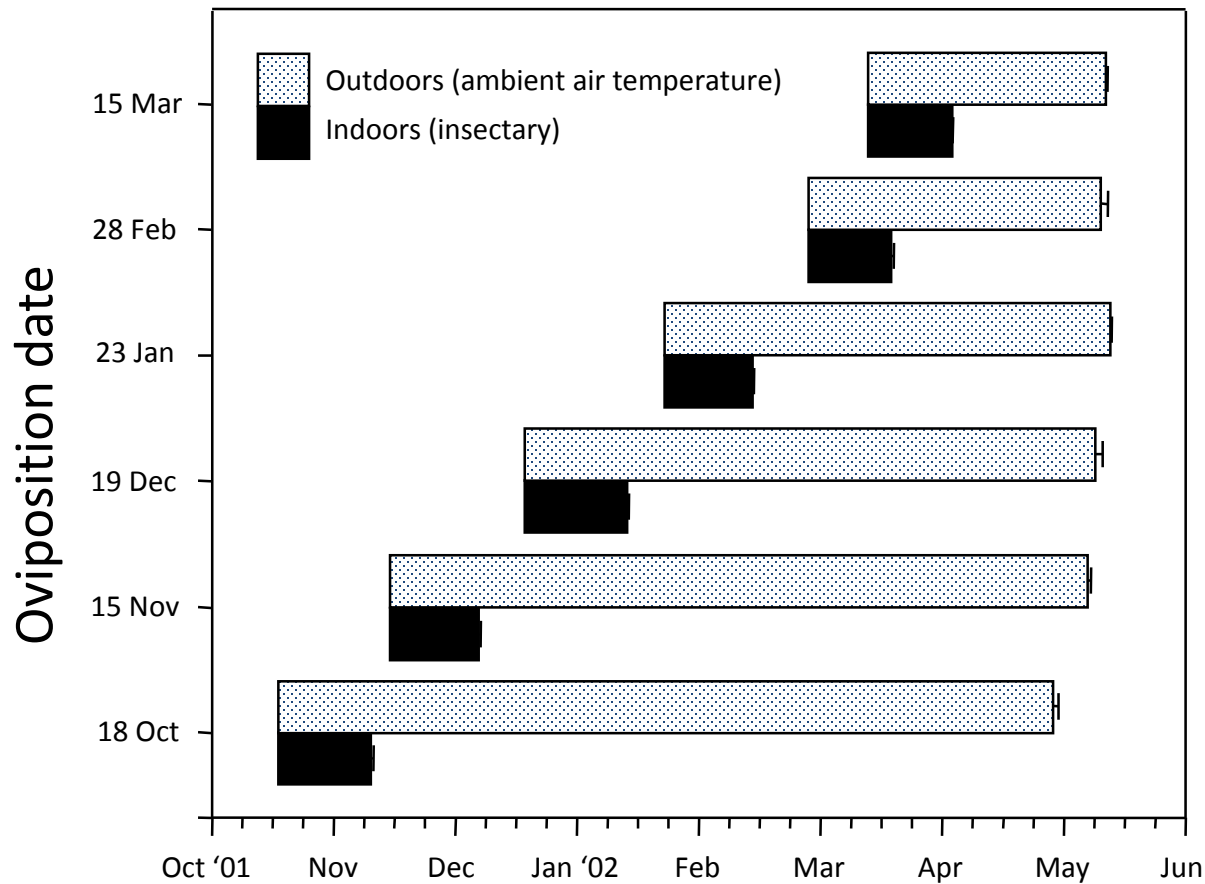


# Problem I: mealybug location



Daane et al. unpublished

# Problem II. Parasite Overwintering Biology



*A. pseudococchi* oviposition and adult emergence dates

Daane, Malakar-Kuenen, Walton et al. 2005. *Biol. Control*

# Ant / homopteran mutualism - both animals benefit

Daane et al. 2007 Ecol. Entomol  
Nelson et al. 2007. Environ. Entomol,  
Daane et al. 2008. J Econ Entomol  
Cooper et al. 2008 Calif Agricul



photo credit: Charles Chien



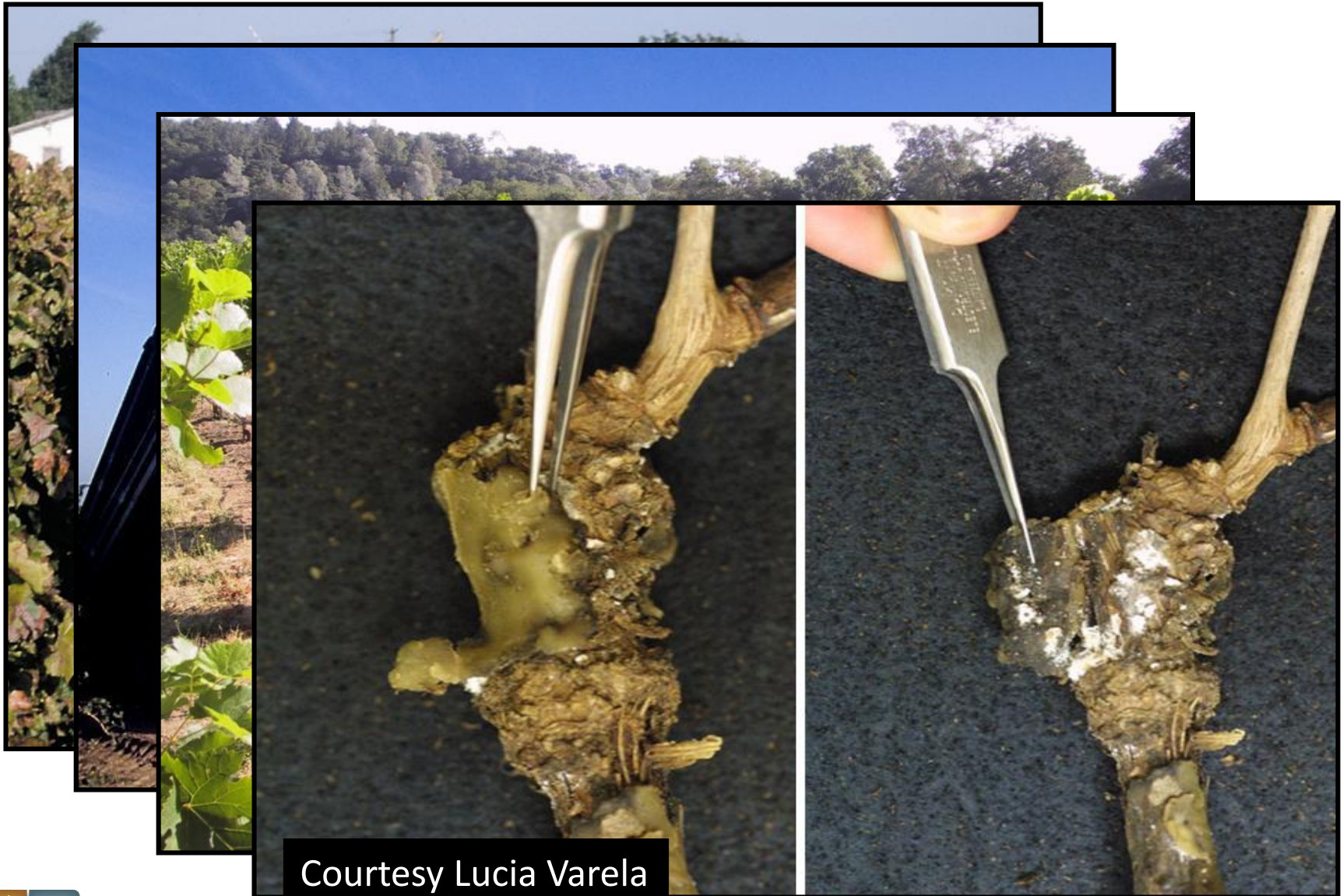
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# Dispersal Mechanisms Were Poorly Known



Courtesy Lucia Varela

Keeping the mealybug out of the vineyard and using effective insecticides when needed remains the best controls. UC personnel worked farmers, industry and PCAs to develop better insecticide programs.



Can we simply kill all mealybugs for GLRaV control?

In a newly planted  
block, two treatments:  
insecticides vs control

Cabernet  
Sauvignon  
(2008)

Grape MB &  
GLRaV-3

Grape MB &  
Red Blotch (?)

Imagery Date: 10/24/2009 1993

38°25'43.40" N 122°23'59.73" W elev 151 ft

Eye alt 2408 ft



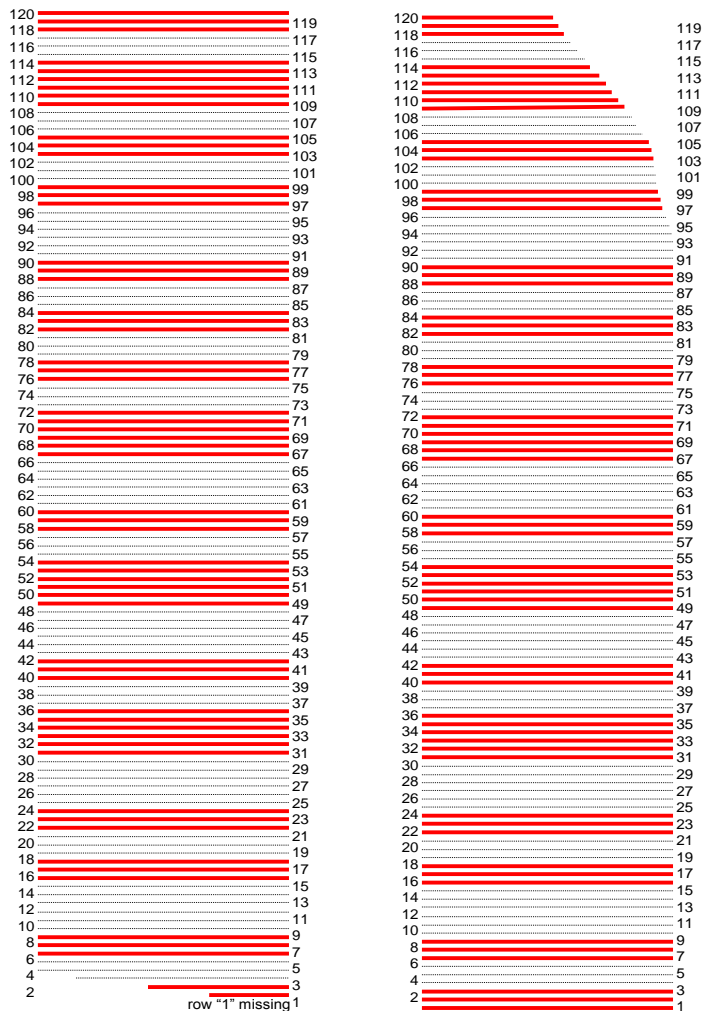
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**Insecticide**  
  
**Control**

GLRaV moderate source block

## GLRaV weak source block



## GLRaV strong source block

Highway 29



Two annual applications of a combination of either Applaud, Admire, Clutch or Movento



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● Insecticides  
● No insecticides

GLRaV3a  
GLRaV3c  
GLRaV3d

GLRaV3b

Imagery Date: 10/24/2009 1993 38°25'48.40" N 122°23'59.73" W elev 151 ft Eye alt 2408 ft

## Insect growth regulator

Applaud (Buprofezin)

## Neonicotinoids

Admire (Imidacloprid)

Clutch (Clothianidin)

Assail (Acetamiprid)

## Biosynthesis inhibitor

Movento (Spirotetramet)

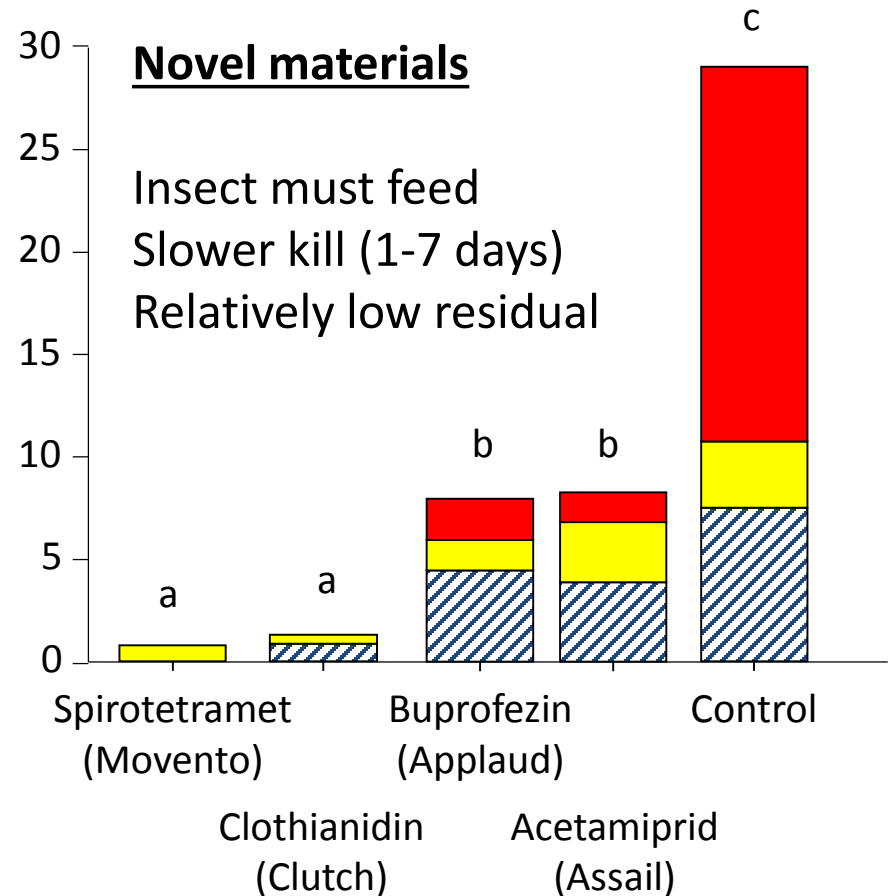
## OPs and Carbamates

Lorsban (Chlorpyrifos)\*

Lannate (Methomyl)\*

Dimethoate\*

\*Listing here materials still effective  
and still registered (leafhoppers)



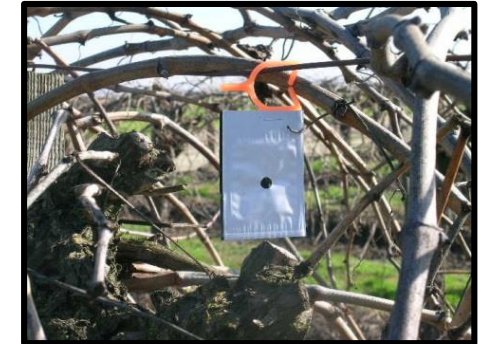
Spray Volume: 100 GPA; Air-blast Sprayer; label rate (Applaud 12 oz per ac)  
Clutch & Movento on 21 June 2011, Applaud & Assail on 7 July 2011  
*Planococcus ficus*, Lodi-Woodbridge wine grapes, Lodi, CA



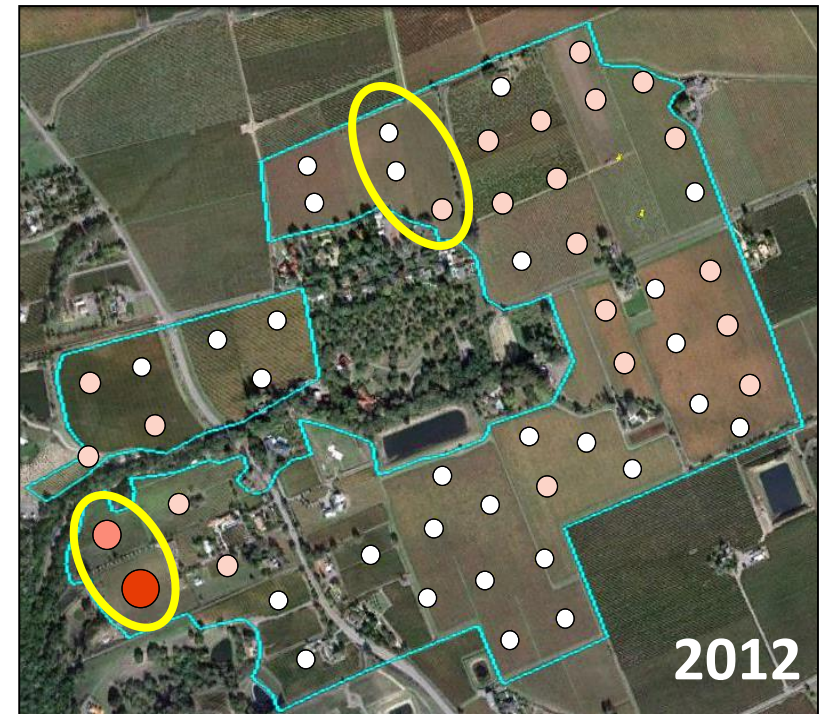
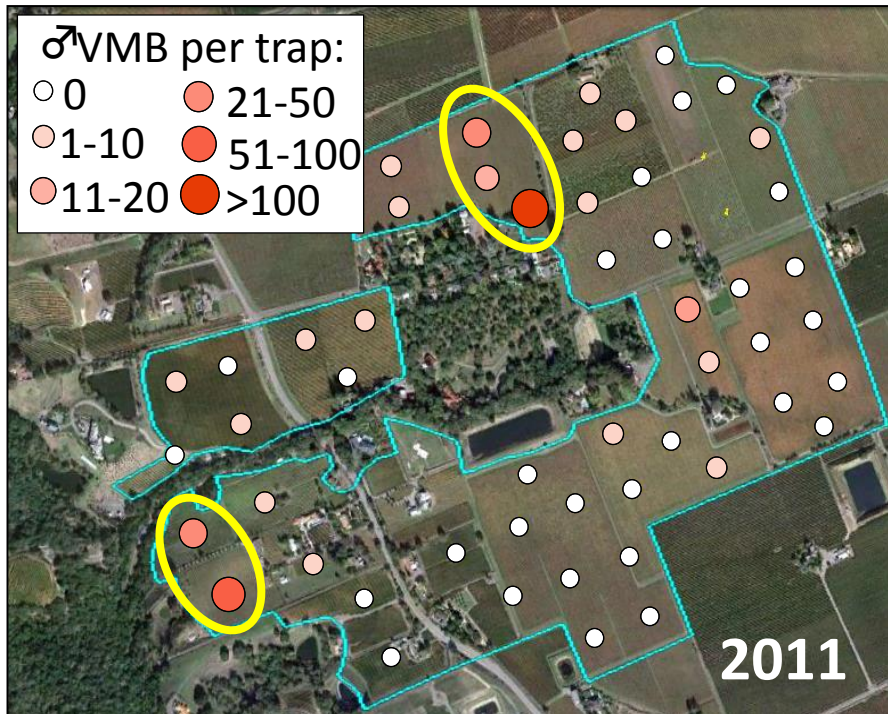
# Areawide control trial in Napa (2011-2012)

For Grape Leafroll Associated Viruses

- we know the vectors
- we know their transmission efficiency
- we know the effectiveness of controls



An areawide program was tested: 1) monitoring the vector, 2) VMB mating disruption and applying insecticides as needed, and 3) roguing diseased vines

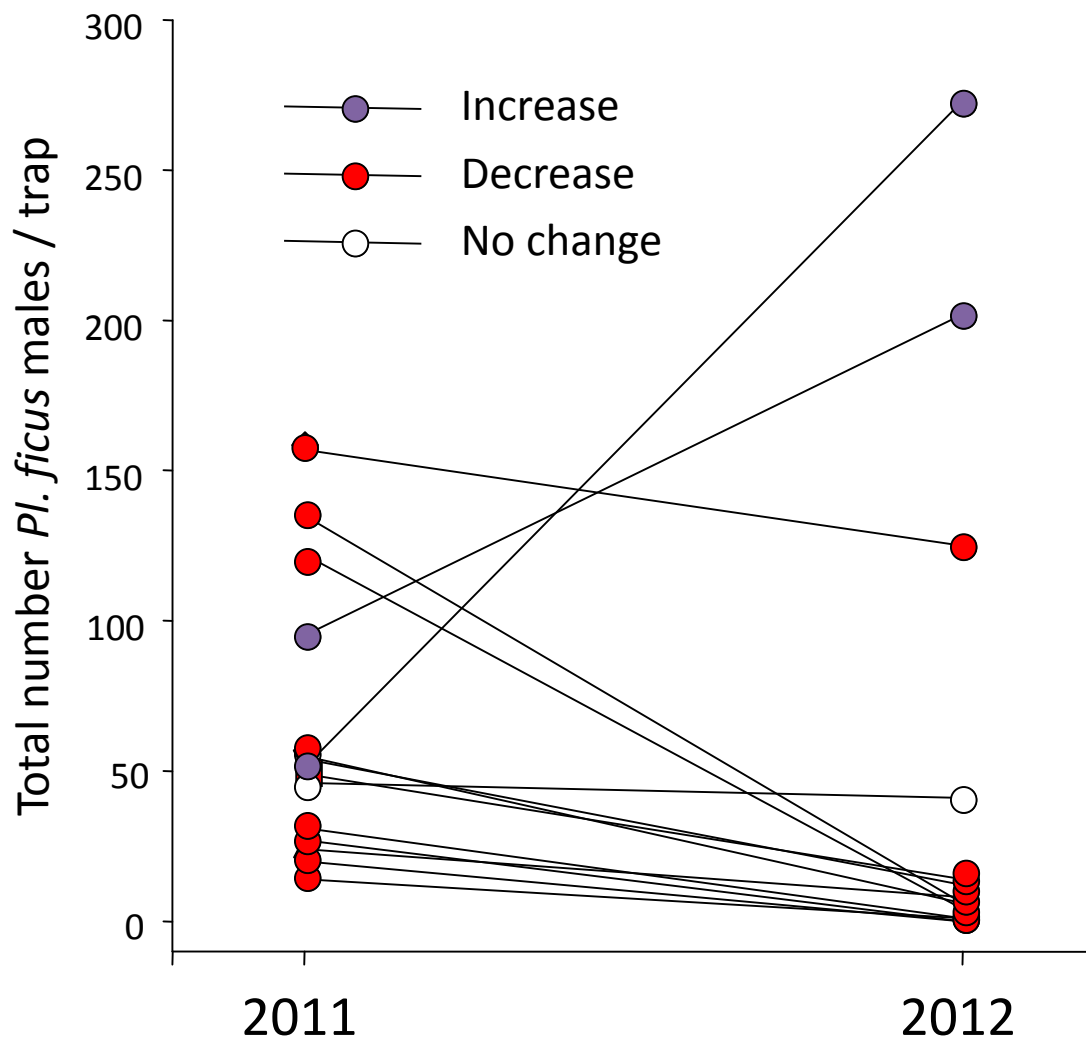


Results for 1 of 3 sites, shows that further spread can be prevented, and that farmers must work together.

# Comparison of traps in hotspots between years

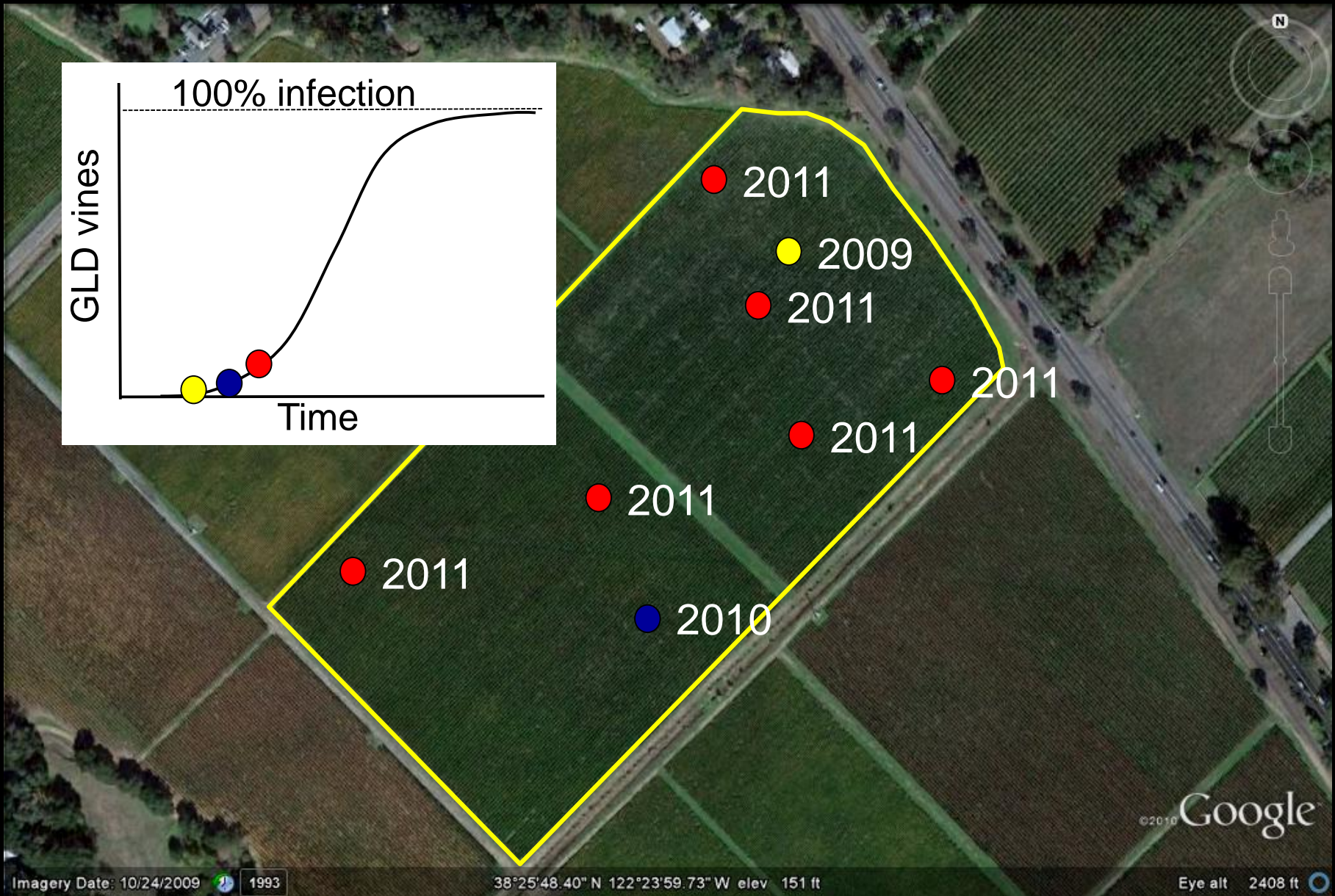
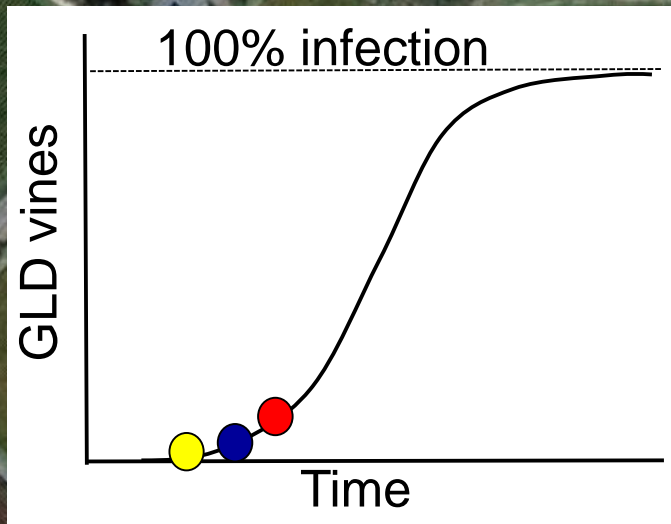
Numbers of vine MB in traps with total >20 VMB in either year generally decreased between 2011 and 2012, except in two cases.

When proper treatments are not applied the population will increase and spread.



# Insecticides for 'high density' Mating disruption to prevent spread





What about  
areawide  
control with  
insecticides?

In clean block  
remove the  
infected vines

Treat new blocks  
to kill dispersing  
crawlers

Treat source  
blocks to lower  
populations

Imagery Date: 10/24/2009

1993

38°25'48.40" N 122°23'59.73" W elev 151 ft

Eye alt 2408 ft

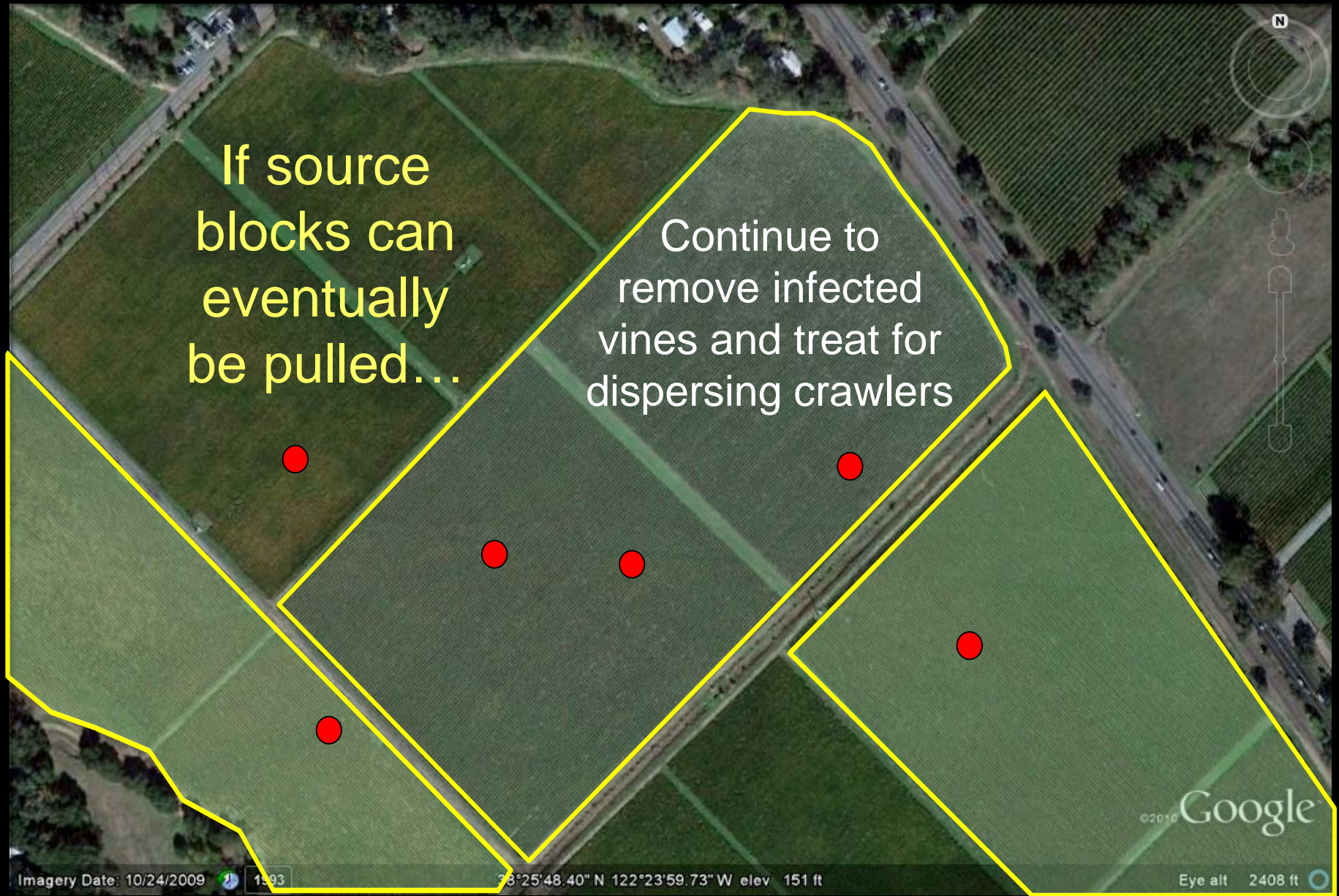


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[www.sustainableagexpo.org](http://www.sustainableagexpo.org)

If source  
blocks can  
eventually  
be pulled...

Continue to  
remove infected  
vines and treat for  
dispersing crawlers



# Conclusions & Questions

- 1) Different mealybug species in California vineyards.
- 2) Sampling using visual counts is tedious (pheromone traps).
- 3) Chemical controls remain the most common tool: Movento, Belay, Admire (and generic), Assail, Platinum, Venom, Applaud, Sivanto (flupyradifurone), Sequoia (sulfoxaflor, check registration).
- 4) Mating disruption for vine mealybug to maintain low densities – a lot more potential with the sprayable formulation.
- 5) There are excellent bio-controls for grape MB, and partial bio-control for vine MB; ants have a negative impact on bio-controls and a mating disruption and selective insecticides has a positive interaction with mating disruption
- 6) Mealybugs vector GLDs and this changes control decisions – start thinking about areawide control as the best program.

