

The relationship between the distribution of citrus psylla, the vector insect of citrus greening disease, and the distribution of jasmine orange

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Objectives

Asian citrus greening disease, or “huang long bing”, is the most significant obstacle to sustainable citrus production in tropical and subtropical Asian countries. The first detection of this disease in Japan was in 1988 on Iriomote Island, Okinawa. Subsequently, the disease spread throughout Okinawa prefecture.

The disease is transmitted by grafting or vector insects, like the Asian citrus psylla, *Diaphorina citri* (Fig. 1); therefore, controlling *D. citri* is an important step towards controlling the disease itself. *D. citri* is distributed throughout tropical and subtropical Asia and has also been recorded on major islands among the southwest islands of Japan. The host plants of *D. citri* are restricted to species belonging to the family Rutaceae. Among these species, *Murraya paniculata*, or “orange jasmine” (Fig. 2), and cultivated *Citrus* spp., are the most favored host plants.

In this survey, we investigated the distribution of cultivated *Citrus* spp., *M. paniculata*, *D. citri*, and its parasitic natural enemies on the islands within the southwest islands of Japan displayed in Fig. 3.

Results

Citrus spp. were found on all the islands investigated; however, *M. paniculata* and *D. citri* were found only on the islands located south of Amami-Oshima. On the islands where the distribution of *D. citri* was confirmed, at least one of the two species of parasitic natural enemies (an encyrtid wasp *Diaphorencyrtus* sp and an eulophid wasp *Tamarixia radiata*) was found. Distribution of parasitic natural enemies represents the continuous occurrence of the host in the area. Therefore, it is concluded that *D. citri* maintains a continuous presence on the islands south of Amami-Oshima.

In conclusion, the most intensive efforts to prevent invasion by Asian citrus greening disease should be implemented in areas where *D. citri* is distributed, even if the disease has not yet been detected at the present time.



Fig. 1. Infection of adult *Diaphorina citri* on *Murraya paniculata*.



Fig. 2. *Murraya paniculata* “orange jasmine” planted as a hedge around a house.

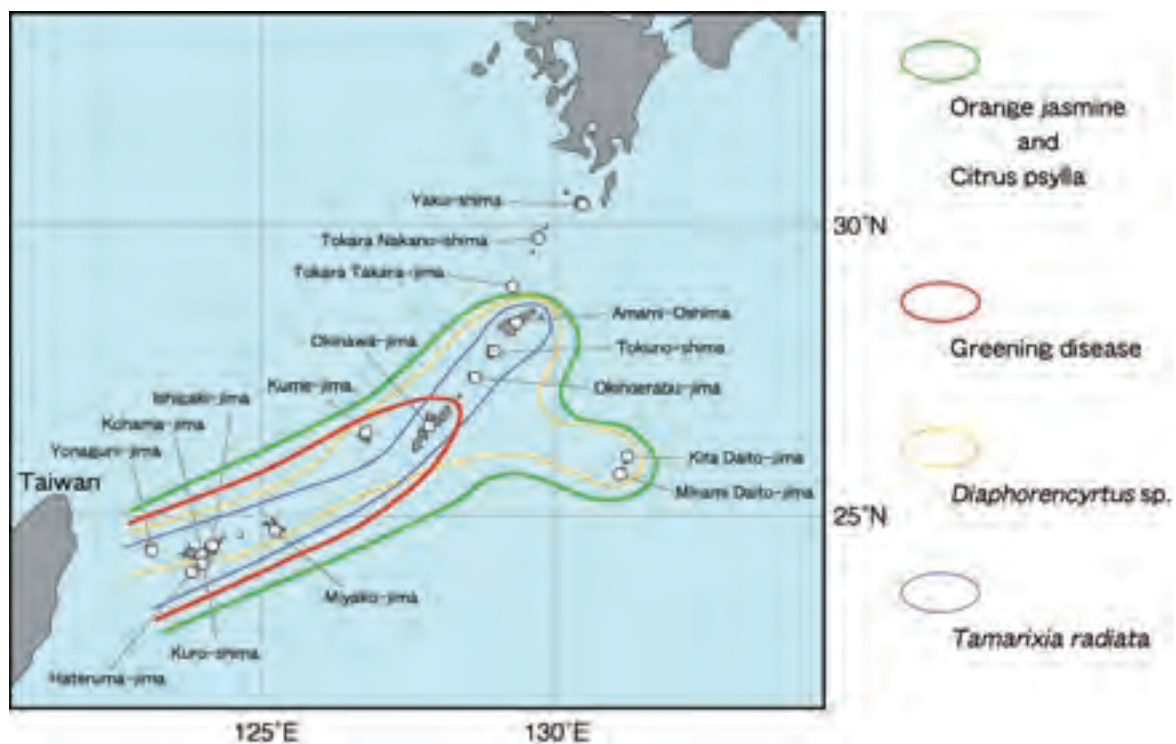


Fig. 3. Distribution of *Murraya paniculata* “orange jasmine”, *Diaphorina citri* “citrus psylla”, citrus greening disease “huang long bing”, and two wasps parasitizing *D. citri* (*Diaphorencyrtus* sp. and *Tamarixia radiata*) on the Southwest Islands of Japan.

Reference

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