

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER AND PIERCE'S DISEASE DATA

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ASBTRACT

The progression of PD in vineyards and across a landscape is dependent upon factors related specifically to four components: GWSS, *Xylella fastidiosa* causing PD, grapes, and the environment. When conditions in all four of these areas are optimal, disease spreads with devastating consequence as in Temecula in the late 1990s. Conversely, sub-optimization within any of the four categories can slow or stop disease progress. The aggressive insecticide campaigns against GWSS are prime examples of creating this sub-optimal condition for disease spread. This single approach has been effective, but it may not be sustainable in reduced budget times. The science of epidemiology seeks to determine how the 4 components listed above interact, with the goal of creating long-term, sub-optimal conditions for disease spread. Achieving this goal will enable California producers to continue growing grapes in areas known to have PD and GWSS.

INTRODUCTION

Earlier studies pointed out the importance of the distribution of disease (Weltzien 1972, 1978) and insects (Southwood 1978), but mapping the distribution of disease and insect populations has not been applied to entomological and epidemiological studies until recently. This is mainly because there was a lack of suitable technologies or methods to map the distribution of insects and diseases in the field. Recently, the global positioning system (GPS), the geographic information system (GIS), and geostatistics have been applied to entomological and epidemiological. These technologies combined with advanced statistical methods can facilitate the making of distribution maps and the analyzing and modeling of the spatial phenomena represented on the maps.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this research is to analyze the GWSS and PD data to investigate the relationship between GWSS and PD. The objectives of this research include,

1. Determine the spatial patterns and structures of GWSS and PD distributions, and use these analyses to create statistical distribution maps.
2. Analyze map correlations between GWSS abundance and incidence of PD.
3. Relate the epidemiology of GWSS-transmitted PD to environmental components, and identify characteristics of areas with rapid and slow PD infection rates.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

This project has just begun, so our report is preliminary at the present time. Prior to analyses, the GWSS and PD data need to be centralized into a geo-referenced database. Fortunately, there has been a tremendous and successful effort to maintain a weekly trapping effort for GWSS in areas of Kern, Tulare, and Ventura Counties. The data have been managed in a geographic information system (GIS) maintained by Rosie Yacoub of CDFA in Sacramento. We are working closely with Rosie to obtain trapping data from Kern County. Secondly, for certain areas there are crop layers that have been entered into the GIS, and we will work closely with the Kern County GIS group to obtain these layers. Within these two data sets we find

information related to two of the four epidemiological components (i.e., GWSS abundance and the agricultural environment). Data from the other two components (i.e., PD and grapes) also have been collected, largely by Barry Hill and Jennifer Hashim (Hill and Hashim 2002, Hashim and Hill 2003). These scientists have directed crews to survey hundreds of vineyards in Kern and Tulare counties over the past four years. Much of the data has been entered and managed in a GIS format at UC Berkeley under the direction of Maggi Kelly. We have begun the process of bringing the PD data together with the GWSS data and crop layers. Once the map databases are constructed and standardized, we will pursue the analyses phases of this project.

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