IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE SYMBIONTS FOR PARATRANSGENIC-BASED CONTROL OF THE GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

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ABSTRACT
Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS; *Homalodisca vitripennis* (Germar, 1821)) is a highly polyphagous Hemipteran pest of wine and table grapevines and transmits the xylem limited bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, the causal agent of Pierce's disease in grapevines (*Vitis*, L.). In a previous study which surveyed the GWSS microbiome, sequences homologous to *Delftia sp*. were identified exclusively in the insect's hemolymph. Based on the results of the survey, this bacterium was selected as the most likely candidate for future paratransgenesis-based control studies. In this study, *Delftia* was isolated from the hemolymph of GWSS and identified by PCR.