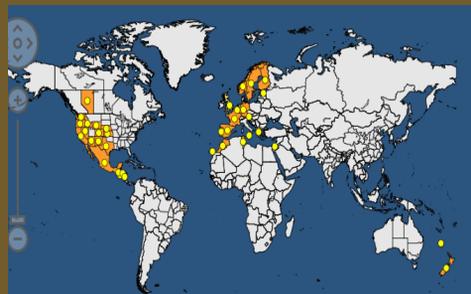


Role of weed hosts as pathogen reservoirs of insect vectored diseases (WEEDVECT)



Funding

Non-competitive funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 163 000

Research consortium

SASA (GB), AGES (AT), VATZUM (LT), NIB (SI),

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Goals

The project aims to develop a better understanding of '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' (Lso), in terms of its crop hosts, vectors and native/weed hosts. Understanding of potential vectors and natural reservoirs may help to anticipate/prevent outbreaks in new areas and mitigate the impact on crops in existing areas

Objectives

- Survey psyllid populations through suction traps and/or in field sampling to establish the presence or absence of known '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' vector species
- Test psyllid populations for the presence of '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' to investigate the prevalence of the pathogen in the environment and also the possibility of new vector species
- Sample and test potential Apiaceae weed and crop hosts across carrot growing areas for the presence of '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*'
- Investigate the host plant range of psyllid species by barcoding their gut contents
- Investigate the prevalence of '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' in the environment by developing a robust protocol for testing aphid species for the presence of '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*'

Key outputs and results

- Inventory lists of potential Lso weed host species and Lso prevalence in the environment
- Inventory lists of potential Lso vector/carrier species and their distribution
- Validated method of linking plant host to psyllid/aphid species
- Reliable method for Lso detection in non psyllid insect species