Host Specificity Testing of *Tamarixia radiata* for the Classical Biological Control of Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*, in California

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Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) vectors phytopathogenic bacteria that cause a lethal disease in citrus known as huanglongbing. Pest management practices largely rely on the use of insecticides to control ACP. However, pesticide use is not always possible, especially in the urban settings with backyard citrus and in commercial organic production systems. Classical biological control of ACP using host specific parasitoids, in particular *Tamarixia radiata* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), is one possible strategy for ACP control in areas where pesticide use is undesired. A strain of this parasitoid from the Punjab of Pakistan is of interest for use in California. Work is in progress to assess the environmental safety of *T. radiata* to native Californian psyllids and weed biocontrol agents. Representative non-target psyllids have been selected based on (A) native plant feeding psyllids that are phylogenetically related to ACP, (B) native psyllids with higher probability of occurrence around citrus groves, (C) native pest psyllids, (D) introduced pest psyllids, and (E) imported biological control agents of weeds. Laboratory-reared, late-instar ACP and non-target psyllid nymphs were transferred onto Murraya seedlings and respective native host plants grown in soil media to maintain good health of the test psyllids. The ability of *T. radiata* ‘Pakistani strain’ was tested in quarantine under choice and no-choice regimes contained within a caged arena. Successful completion of host specificity testing will be followed by submission of an Environment Assessment report for USDA-APHIS, NAPPO, and the CDFA. Demonstration of acceptable risk to non-target species by *T. radiata* to these regulatory agencies will likely result in permission to mass rear and release the Punjab strain of *T. radiata* in California for classical biological control of ACP.