For submission to the Journal of Integrated Pest Management

Category: ‘Issues’

### *Brevipalpus*-transmitted orchid fleck virus infecting three new ornamental hosts in Florida

Austin **Fife**1, Daniel **Carrillo**2, Gary **Knox**3, Fanny **Iriarte**4, Kishore **Dey**5, Avijit **Roy**6, Ronald **Ochoa**7, Gary **Bauchan**8, Mathews **Paret**4,9, Xavier **Martini**1\*

1 University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy FL 32351

2 University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead FL 33031

3 University of Florida, Department of Environmental Horticulture, North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy FL 32351

4 University of Florida, Department of Plant Pathology, North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy FL 32351

5 The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Section of Plant Pathology, Doyle Conner Building, 1911 SW 34th street, Gainesville, FL 32608

6 United States Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service, Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory, 10300 Baltimore Ave, Bldg. 4 BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705

7 United States Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Research Service, Systematic Entomology Laboratory 10300 Baltimore Ave, Bldg. 5 BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705

8 United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Electron and Confocal Microscopy Unit, Bldg. 12 BARC-West, 10300 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705

9 Plant Pathology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

\*Corresponding author; E-mail: xmartini@ufl.edu Phone: 850-875-7160 Fax: 352-846-6617

### Abstract

We describe the first detection of orchid fleck virus (OFV) infecting three unreported hosts: *Liriope muscari*, cv. ‘Gigantea’ (Decaisne) Bailey, *Ophiopogon intermedius* Don and *Aspidistra elatior* Blume (Asparagaceae: Nolinoidaea) in Leon and Alachua Counties, FL. The orchid-infecting subgroup (Orc) of OFV infects over 50 plant species belonging to the plant families Orchidaceae, Asparagaceae (Nolinoidaea), and causes citrus leprosis disease in *Citrus* (Rutaceae). The only known vectors of OFV-Orc are the flat mites, *Brevipalpus californicus* (Banks) *sensu lato* (Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae). Florida has various plants in the landscape which *Brevipalpus* spp. feed on, which are susceptible to infection by OFV-Orc. Chlorotic ringspots and flecking were seen affecting Liriopogons (*Liriope* and *Ophiopogon* spp.) in Leon County, FL. Nearby *A. elatior* also appeared chlorotic. Local diagnostics returned negative for common plant pathogens, therefore new samples were sent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and USDA-ARS for identification. Two orchid-infecting strains of OFV were detected via combinations of conventional RT-PCR, RT-qPCR, Sanger sequencing and High Throughput Sequencing (HTS). Amplicons shared 98% nucleotide identity with OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 RNA2 genome sequences available in NCBI GenBank. Coinfections were detected in each county, but single strains of OFV-Orc were detected in *L. muscari* (Alachua, OFV-Orc2) and *A. elatior* (Leon, OFV-Orc1). Three potential mite vectors were identified via cryo-scanning electron microscopy (Cryo-SEM): *Brevipalpus californicus* (Banks) sensu lato, *B. obovatus* Donnadieu, and *B. confusus* Baker. In conclusion, OFV orchid strains are present in northern Florida, representing a risk for susceptible plants in the southeastern US.

### Resumen

Se describe la primera detección del virus de orchid fleck virus (OFV), infectando a tres huéspedes no reportados: *Liriope muscari*, cv. ‘Gigantea’ (Decaisne) Bailey, *Ophiopogon intermedius* Don and *Aspidistra elatior* Blume (Asparagaceae: Nolinoidaea) para los condados de Leon y Alachua, FL. Los subgrupos de OFV que infectan a las orquídeas (Orc) puedan infectar más de 50 especies de plantas pertenecientes a las familias Orchidaceae, Asparagaceae (Nolinoidaea), e infecta *Citrus* (Rutaceae) cómo la enfermedad de la leprosis de los cítricos. Los únicos vectores de OFV-Orc son los ácaros planos *Brevipalpus californicus* (Banks) *sensu lato* (Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae). La Florida tiene varias plantas en el campo ornamental, por lo cúales las especias de *Brevipalpus* se puedan alimentarse, y esas plantas son susceptibles a las infecciones de OFV-Orc. Se observaron manchas anulares cloróticas y salpicaduras en las hojas de las Serpentinas (*Liriope* y *Ophiopogon* spp.) y también se vieron hojas cloróticas en el *A. elatior* adyacente, situado en el condando de Leon, FL. Los diagnósticos del laboratorio local fueron negativos para los patógenos comunes, por lo tanto, se enviaron nuevos ejemplares al Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) y el USDA-ARS para su identificación. Se detectaron dos cepas del OFV mediante la combinación de RT-PCR convencional, RT-qPCR, secuenciación de Sanger y secuenciación de alto rendimiento. Las ampliaciones compartían una identidad de nucleótidos del 98% con las secuencias del genoma de ARN2 de OFV-Orc1 y OFV-Orc2 disponibles en el NCBI GenBank. Se detectaron coinfecciones del virus en cada condado, pero se detectaron cepas únicas de OFV-Orc en *L. muscari* (Alachua , OFV-Orc2) y *A. elatior* (Leon , OFV-Orc1). Se identificaron tres ácaros mediante microscopía electrónica de barrido criogénico (Cryo-SEM) con potencial de ser vectores: *Brevipalpus californicus* (Banks) *sensu lato*, *B. obovatus* Donnadieu y *B. confusus* Baker. En conclusión, OFV está presente en el norte de Florida, lo que representa un riesgo para las plantas susceptibles en el sureste de Estados Unidos.

### Keywords:

False spider mite, flat mite, *Brevipalpus*-transmitted viruses, *Liriope*, Nolinoidaea, *Ophiopogon*, *Aspidistra*, Ruscaceae, Rutaceae, Asparagaceae, orchid, Orchidaceae, pests, ornamental plants, orchid fleck virus.

Orchid fleck virus (OFV), is the type member for the genus *Dichorhavirus*, family *Rhabdoviridae*. The virus is a bacilliform, nuclear rhabdovirus composed of two segments of single-stranded, negative-sense RNA which infects plants (Dietzgen et al. 2014, Walker et al. 2018, Amarasinghe et al. 2019). Only Flat mites (Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae) from the genus *Brevipalpus* are known to transmit dichorhaviruses (Maeda 1998). Plants infected with OFV exhibit chlorotic and necrotic flecks on their leaves(Kubo et al. 2009b, Kubo et al. 2009a, Dietzgen et al. 2018a). The virus was first described as infecting *Cymbidium* orchids in Japan (Doi et al. 1977). There have been reports of OFV and OFV-like rhabdoviruses infecting orchids in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Oceania. The prevalence of OFV and its mite vector is thought to be associated with the movement of infected orchids (Dietzgen et al. 2018a). More than fifty species of Orchidaceae (Kitajima et al. 2010, Peng et al. 2013) can naturally become infected with OFV, as well as some Asparagaceae (Nolinoidaea) (Mei et al. 2016, Dietzgen et al. 2018b), and Rutaceae, where infection causes citrus leprosis-like symptoms (Roy et al. 2015, 2020, Cook et al. 2019, Olmedo-Velarde et al. 2021). Mechanical transmission of OFV is possible under laboratory conditions to the plant families Chenopodiaceae, Aizoaceae, Fabaceae, and Solanaceae (Chang et al. 1976, Kondo et al. 2003, Peng et al. 2013).

#### Virus Detection

During June 2020, chlorotic flecks and ringspot patterns of unknown etiology were observed on Giant Lilyturf *Liriope* spp., cv. ‘Gigantea’ in a landscape of Leon County, Florida (Fig. 1). *Liriope* belong to a group of plants in the family Asparagaceae, subfamily Nolinoidaea, comprised of grass-like monocotyledonous liliod plants native to southeastern Asia (Chase et al. 2009, Meng et al. 2021). *Liriope* and the closely related *Ophiopogon* (Asparagaceae: Nolinoidaea) are considered the most important ground cover plant in the southeastern United States (Mcharo et al. 2003). Viral infections of suspected leaf samples were initially tested at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic at the North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC) in Quincy, FL. All the samples were tested with one step conventional RT-PCR, and were found negative for begomovirus, carlavirus, potyvirus, tospovirus, cucumber mosaic virus and tobacco mosaic virus. As initial diagnostics were inconclusive, samples were taken of putatively infected plants with ringspot symptoms during July and August of 2020. Leaves were taken from *Liriope* spp. and *Ophiopogon* spp., as well as the *Aspidistra elatior* Blume (Asparagaceae: Nolinoidaea), nearby, which appeared sickly and chlorotic (Fig. 2). Plant materials were sent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) for identification. The FDACS determined that the pathogen was OFV using previously published primers and methods to conduct RT-PCR and Sanger sequencing (Kubo et al. 2009b, Kubo et al. 2009a, Ramos-González et al. 2015). The identity of the virus was verified as OFV Orchid strain 1, (OFV-Orc1), following the methods described in Kondo et al. (2017). Nucleotide sequencing shared 98% nucleotide identity with the OFV-isolates So (Accession No. AB244418) and Br (Accession No. MK522807), which belong to orchid subgroup I (Kondo et al. 2006, 2017). These samples from FDACS were subsequently retested by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ S&T Beltsville laboratory, in conjunction with tests of fresh samples from both Alachua and Leon counties. The USDA used RT-PCR, RT-qPCR, and High Throughput Sequencing (HTS) to reconfirm the presence of OFV. Conventional RT-PCR with Generic R2-Dicho-GF and R2-Dicho-GR primers amplified ~800 nt amplicons of the L-gene (RNA2) (Roy et al. 2020), to detect both OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 in *O. intermedius* and *A. elatior* from Leon County (Kondo et al. 2017) (GenBank Accession Numbers: MZ852004, MZ852005 MZ852006, and MZ852007). 99% nucleotide sequence identity is shared between OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 for the RNA2 genome, whereas 90% sequence identity was found between these two reassortment strains. The presence of OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 in Leon and Alachua counties was reaffirmed with HTS data (Table 1): Analysis of HTS data from Leon County found that the symptomatic *L. muscari* were coinfected with both OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2, while the symptomatic *A. elatior* were solely infected with OFV-Orc1. Sequence data of symptomatic *L. muscari* from Alachua County revealed infections with OFV-Orc2 (GenBank Accession MZ852006). After the initial identification by FDACS of OFV-Orc, mite samples were collected from symptomatic Asparagaceae in Leon County. Most mites collected were Tenuipalpid mites (flat mites or false spider mites), a pest of ornamental plants, some of which are known to act as vectors for plant viruses (Childers et al. 2003, Childers and Rodrigues 2011).

#### A comment on the the status of *Brevipalpus* in Florida

Mite taxonomy is complicated by cryptic species complexes which occur in many plant-feeding groups of the Acari (Umina and Hoffmann 1999, Skoracka and Dabert 2010, Arthur et al. 2011, Skoracka et al. 2013), including tenuipalpid mites from the genus *Brevipalpus* (Navia et al. 2013). The commonly used phase-contrast microscopy is insufficient to detect some diagnostic characters for separation of cryptic species, instead best practices recommend the combination of Differential Interference Contrast (DIC) Microscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy along with molecular methods to separate cryptic species (Beard et al. 2015). The flat mites collected were initially suspected to belong to *B. californicus* after inspection with phase contrast microscopy. Subsequent observation via DIC microscopy at FDACS agreed with this tentative identification. Unfortunately, the *B. californicus* s.l. species group, *sensu* Baker and Tuttle (1987) is suspected to contain cryptic species (Childers and Rodrigues 2011, Rodrigues and Childers 2013). New mite samples were collected from symptomatic liriopogons and *A. elatior* in Leon County and sent to USDA-ARS’s Electron and Confocal Microscopy Unit for analysis. Three mite species were recovered and examined under cryo-scanning electron microscopy (Cryo-SEM): *B. californicus* s.l. (Fig. 3), *B. obovatus* Donnadieu and *B. confusus* Baker. The recent report of OFV in the US is thought to be Ko et al. (1985) which describes nuclear inclusions caused by an undescribed bacilliform rhabdovirus in *Brassia* orchids. The significance of this report is their description of the spoke-wheel configurations of the viral particles (Ko et al. 1985), a sign typically associated with OFV infection (Chang et al. 1976). Unfortunately, this article made no mention of mites or further investigations of the virus. The first report of OFV in the continental US was Bratsch et al. (2015), who confirmed the presence of OFV in *Phalaenopsis* hybrids using Transmission Electron Microscopy of ultrathin sections of plant tissue as well as molecular sequence analysis. They also discuss the association of OFV with *Brevipalpus* mites, but the authors did not make a conclusive species identification beyond suggesting that the mite vector belonged to the *B. californicus* group, referring to Kondo et al. (2003). Later reports of OFV described OFV infecting a previously undescribed Nolinoidaea hosts in Australia (Mei et al. 2016, Dietzgen et al. 2018b), including *Liriope spicata* (Thunb.) Lour, a different species of liriopogon than those identified from the Florida sites. We are not aware of any reports of OFV infecting liriopogons, *A. elatior* nor other Nolinoidaea in the US. Although Peng et al. (2013) had mentioned an association between *B. californicus* and *A. elatior*, they never reported symptoms of OFV-Orc in this plant. We believe that our findings indicate the first report of OFV-Orc infecting ornamental Nolinoidaea in Florida, and possibly the US. This publication also marks the first reports of *A. elatior* and *Ophiopogon* spp. as natural hosts of OFV-Orc. There are two orchid strains of OFV (OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2), and two citrus strains (OFV-Cit1 and OFV-Cit2) (Beltran-Beltran et al. 2020, Roy et al. 2020). The OFV strains detected in Florida are identical in genome sequence to the orchid strains of OFV infecting citrus in Hawaii, Mexico, Colombia, and South Africa (Beltran-Beltran et al. 2020, Roy et al. 2020). Both OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 infect citrus (Roy et al. 2020), but none of the citrus strains have been reported from any orchid species. It is important to note the uncertainty surrounding the vector for OFV-Orc. There are three mite species which have been recovered from OFV-Orc infected plants: *B. obovatus*, and *B. confusus* and *B. californicus* s.l., but only *B. californicus* has been described as a vector of OFV. Even so, these types of questions require future study to determine the potential of nolinoidaea to citrus transmission. Best practices for integrated pest management have not been created for controlling *Brevipalpus* mites on these ornamentals, but methods designed to control *Brevipalpus* in other systems may be applicable. The most common method used to control *Bervipalpus* are synthetic acaricides, such as spirodiclofen and cyflumetofen (Andrade et al. 2010, 2019, Leeuwen et al. 2015, Vechia et al. 2018). Unfortunately, some acaricides and their residues can harm beneficial predatory mites as well (Fernández et al. 2017), even at low doses (Havasi et al. 2021), and mixing different chemistries can be detrimental for mite control (Vechia et al. 2018). Furthermore, pesticide resistance has been reported in various *Brevipalpus* populations (Alves et al. 2000, Omoto et al. 2000, Campos and Omoto 2002, Rocha et al. 2021), due to exposure to pesticides used to control other arthropod pests (Vechia et al. 2021). In addition, phytoseiid predatory mites such as *Amblyseius largoensis* (Muma) and *Galendromus helveolus* (Chant) (Chen et al. 2006, Argolo et al. 2020), entomopathogenic fungi (Magalhães et al. 2005, Rossi-Zalaf et al. 2008, Peña et al. 2015, Revynthi et al. 2019) have shown promise for controlling other *Brevipalpus* mites. Moreover, it is often possible to integrate different control techniques for improved management, such as combining predatory mites with compatible acaricides and entomopathogenic fungi (Reddy 2001, Midthassel et al. 2016, Andrade et al. 2019). In conclusion, detecting OFV in Florida represents a concern for horticulturists who grow orchids, *Liriope*, *Ophiopogon*, or other susceptible Asparagaceae species which are commonly used in landscaping. Florida is also home to a plethora of native and naturalized orchid species, many of which are threatened, including cultivated *Vanilla* in southern Florida (Chambers et al. 2019) and the famous Ghost Orchid, [*Dendrophylax lindenii* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Rolfe]. Furthermore, Citrus Leprosis was present in Florida during the 1860’s and almost eradicated by the mid-1960s (Knorr 1968, Knorr et al. 1968, Childers et al. 2003). An examination of herbarium specimens of Florida citrus found that one strain of this historical virus, Citrus leprosis dichorhavirus-N0, is distantly related to the modern isolates of OFV (Kitajima et al. 2011, Hartung et al. 2015, Roy et al. 2020). The recent detection of OFV-Orc1 in South Africa (Cook et al. 2019) in *C. sinensis* (Navel and Valencia orange) and OFV-Orc2 in Hawaii (Olmedo-Velarde et al. 2021) in *C. reticulata* (mandarin) and *C. jambhiri* (rough lemon) associated with leprosis-like symptoms highlights the potential threat of different isolates of OFV on citrus. *B. californicus*, *B. yothersi*, and *B. obovatus* are all present in Florida (Childers et al. 2003, Akyazi et al. 2017), and are difficult to identify by non-experts, or without advanced methodologies. DNA barcoding (Armstrong and Ball 2005) or a similarly simple and accurate method for identification of these mite complexes is vital to identify mite populations which need to be monitored or controlled. By doing so, we can determine the risk OFV-Orc represents for the native plants, agriculture and the ornamental/landscaping industries of Florida and the surrounding regions.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to give special thanks for the Tallahassee Museum and their patience, cooperation, and support with collecting plant samples. We are grateful for the USDA-APHIS PPQ Beltsville laboratory for their support in the identification and confirmation OFV isolates, as well as *Brevipalpus* mite identification at the USDA-ARS. We also want to thank Drs. Sam Bolton, FDACS and Aline Tassi, Univ. of Sao Paulo, Brazil for checking the mites we have sent for species validation. Furthermore, we are grateful for Dr. Marc S. Frank’s identification of the Liriopogons collected. We are especially indebted to the late Dr. Gary Bauchan for his contributions to this study and the field of acarology, he will be greatly missed. This research was partly funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Hatch project FLA-NFC-005607. Mention of trade names or commercial products in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the USDA; USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### References

**Akyazi, R., E. A. Ueckermann, and O. E. Liburd**. **2017**. New report of *Brevipalpus yothersi* (Prostigmata: Tenuipalpidae) on blueberry in Florida. Florida Entomologist. 100: 731–739, DOI:[10.1653/024.100.0420](https://doi.org/10.1653/024.100.0420).

**Alves, E. B., C. Omoto, and C. R. Franco**. **2000**. Resistência cruzada entre o dicofol e outros acaricidas em *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) (Acari: Tenuipalpidae). Anais da Sociedade Entomológica do Brasil. 29: 765–771, DOI:[10.1590/s0301-80592000000400017](https://doi.org/10.1590/s0301-80592000000400017).

**Amarasinghe, G. K., M. A. Ayllón, Y. Bào, C. F. Basler, S. Bavari, K. R. Blasdell, T. Briese, P. A. Brown, A. Bukreyev, A. Balkema-Buschmann, U. J. Buchholz, C. Chabi-Jesus, K. Chandran, C. Chiapponi, I. Crozier, R. L. de Swart, R. G. Dietzgen, O. Dolnik, J. F. Drexler, R. Dürrwald, W. G. Dundon, W. P. Duprex, J. M. Dye, A. J. Easton, A. R. Fooks, P. B. H. Formenty, R. A. M. Fouchier, J. Freitas-Astúa, A. Griffiths, R. Hewson, M. Horie, T. H. Hyndman, D. Jiāng, E. W. Kitajima, G. P. Kobinger, H. Kondō, G. Kurath, I. V. Kuzmin, R. A. Lamb, A. Lavazza, B. Lee, D. Lelli, E. M. Leroy, J. Lǐ, P. Maes, S.-Y. L. Marzano, A. Moreno, E. Mühlberger, S. V. Netesov, N. Nowotny, A. Nylund, A. L. Økland, G. Palacios, B. Pályi, J. T. Pawęska, S. L. Payne, A. Prosperi, P. L. Ramos-González, B. K. Rima, P. Rota, D. Rubbenstroth, M. Shı̄, P. Simmonds, S. J. Smither, E. Sozzi, K. Spann, M. D. Stenglein, D. M. Stone, A. Takada, R. B. Tesh, K. Tomonaga, N. Tordo, J. S. Towner, B. van den Hoogen, N. Vasilakis, V. Wahl, P. J. Walker, L.-F. Wang, A. E. Whitfield, J. V. Williams, F. M. Zerbini, T. Zhāng, Y.-Z. Zhang, and J. H. Kuhn**. **2019**. Taxonomy of the order Mononegavirales: Update 2019. Archives of Virology. 164: 1967–1980, DOI:[10.1007/s00705-019-04247-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00705-019-04247-4).

**Andrade, D. J. de, C. A. L. de Oliveira, F. C. Pattaro, and D. S. Siqueira**. **2010**. Acaricidas utilizados na citricultura convencional e orgânica: Manejo da leprose e populações de ácaros fitoseídeos. Revista Brasileira de Fruticultura. 32: 1028–1037, DOI:[10.1590/s0100-29452011005000013](https://doi.org/10.1590/s0100-29452011005000013).

**Andrade, D. J. de, E. B. Ribeiro, M. R. de Morais, and O. Z. Zanardi**. **2019**. Bioactivity of an oxymatrine-based commercial formulation against *Brevipalpus yothersi* Baker and its effects on predatory mites in citrus groves. Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety. 176: 339–345, DOI:[10.1016/j.ecoenv.2019.03.118](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoenv.2019.03.118).

**Argolo, P. S., A. M. Revynthi, M. A. Canon, M. M. Berto, D. J. Andrade, İ. Döker, A. Roda, and D. Carrillo**. **2020**. Potential of predatory mites for biological control of *Brevipalpus yothersi* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae). Biological Control. 149: 104330, DOI:[10.1016/j.biocontrol.2020.104330](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2020.104330).

**Armstrong, K. F., and S. L. Ball**. **2005**. DNA barcodes for biosecurity: Invasive species identification. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences. 360: 1813–1823, DOI:[10.1098/rstb.2005.1713](https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2005.1713).

**Arthur, A. L., A. D. Miller, and A. R. Weeks**. **2011**. Genetic markers indicate a new species complex of emerging pest mites in Australian grains. Annals of the Entomological Society of America. 104: 402–415, DOI:[10.1603/an10065](https://doi.org/10.1603/an10065).

**Baker, E. W., and D. M. Tuttle**. **1987**. The false spider mites of Mexico (Tenuipalpidae: Acari). (technical report No. 1706). The United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service.

**Beard, J. J., R. Ochoa, W. E. Braswell, and G. R. Bauchan**. **2015**. *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) species complex (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) a closer look. Zootaxa. 3944: 1, DOI:[10.11646/zootaxa.3944.1.1](https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3944.1.1).

**Beltran-Beltran, A. K., M. T. Santillán-Galicia, A. W. Guzmán-Franco, D. Teliz-Ortiz, M. A. Gutiérrez-Espinoza, F. Romero-Rosales, and P. L. Robles-Garcı́a**. **2020**. Incidence of Citrus leprosis virus C and *Orchid fleck dichorhavirus* citrus strain in mites of the genus *Brevipalpus* in Mexico. Journal of Economic Entomology. 113: 1576–1581, DOI:[10.1093/jee/toaa007](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaa007).

**Bratsch, S. A., B. E. Lockhart, and C. Ishimaru**. **2015**. Confirmation of first report of Orchid fleck virus in *Phalaenopsis* hybrid orchids in the USA. Plant Health Progress. 16: 146–148, DOI:[10.1094/php-br-15-0018](https://doi.org/10.1094/php-br-15-0018).

**Broussard, M. C.** **2007**. A horticultural study of *Liriope* and *Ophiopogon*: Nomenclature, morphology, and culture (PhD thesis). Louisiana State University, Department of Horticulture.

**Campos, F. J., and C. Omoto**. **2002**. Resistance to hexythiazox in *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Brazilian citrus. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 26: 243–251, DOI:[10.1023/a:1021103209193](https://doi.org/10.1023/a:1021103209193).

**Chambers, A. H., P. Moon, V. Edmond, and E. Bassil**. **2019**. Vanilla cultivation in southern Florida. EDIS. 2019: 7, DOI:[10.32473/edis-hs1348-2019](https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-hs1348-2019).

**Chang, M. U., Arai. Kei, Doi. Yoji, and Yora. Kiyoshi**. **1976**. Morphology and intracellular appearance of Orchid fleck virus. Japanese Journal of Phytopathology. 42: 156–157, DOI:[10.3186/jjphytopath.42.156](https://doi.org/10.3186/jjphytopath.42.156).

**Chase, Mark. W., James. L. Reveal, and M. F. Fay**. **2009**. A subfamilial classification for the expanded asparagalean families Amaryllidaceae, Asparagaceae and Xanthorrhoeaceae. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society. 161: 132–136, DOI:[10.1111/j.1095-8339.2009.00999.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8339.2009.00999.x).

**Chen, T.-Y., J. V. French, T.-X. Liu, and J. V. da Graça**. **2006**. Predation of *Galendromus helveolus* (Acari: Phytoseiidae) on *Brevipalpus californicus* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae). Biocontrol Science and Technology. 16: 753–759, DOI:[10.1080/09583150600700172](https://doi.org/10.1080/09583150600700172).

**Childers, C. C., and J. C. V. Rodrigues**. **2011**. An overview of *Brevipalpus* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) and the plant viruses they transmit. Zoosymposia. 6: 180–192, DOI:[10.11646/zoosymposia.6.1.28](https://doi.org/10.11646/zoosymposia.6.1.28).

**Childers, C. C., J. C. V. Rodrigues, K. S. Derrick, D. S. Achor, J. V. French, W. C. Welbourn, R. Ochoa, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2003**. Citrus leprosis and its status in Florida and Texas: Past and present. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 30: 181–202, DOI:[10.1023/b:appa.0000006548.01625.72](https://doi.org/10.1023/b:appa.0000006548.01625.72).

**Cook, G., W. Kirkman, R. Clase, C. Steyn, E. Basson, P. H. Fourie, S. D. Moore, T. G. Grout, E. Carstens, and V. Hattingh**. **2019**. Orchid fleck virus associated with the first case of Citrus leprosis-N in South Africa. European Journal of Plant Pathology. 155: 1373–1379, DOI:[10.1007/s10658-019-01854-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10658-019-01854-4).

**Dietzgen, R. G., J. Freitas-Astúa, C. Chabi-Jesus, P. L. Ramos-González, M. M. Goodin, H. Kondo, A. D. Tassi, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2018a**. [Dichorhaviruses in their host plants and mite vectors](https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.aivir.2018.06.001). Elsevier.

**Dietzgen, R. G., J. H. Kuhn, A. N. Clawson, J. Freitas-Astúa, M. M. Goodin, E. W. Kitajima, H. Kondo, T. Wetzel, and A. E. Whitfield**. **2014**. *Dichorhavirus*: A proposed new genus for *Brevipalpus* mite-transmitted, nuclear, bacilliform, bipartite, negative-strand RNA plant viruses. Archives of Virology. 159: 607–619, DOI:[10.1007/s00705-013-1834-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00705-013-1834-0).

**Dietzgen, R. G., A. D. Tassi, J. Freitas-Astúa, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2018b**. First report of Orchid fleck virus and its mite vector on Green cordyline. Australasian Plant Disease Notes. 13, DOI:[10.1007/s13314-018-0295-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13314-018-0295-4).

**Doi, Y., M. U. Chang, and K. Yora**. **1977**. Orchid fleck virus. CMI/AAB descriptions of plant viruses.

**Fantz, P. R.** **2008**. Species of *Liriope* cultivated in the southeastern United States. HortTechnology. 18: 343–348, DOI:[10.21273/horttech.18.3.343](https://doi.org/10.21273/horttech.18.3.343).

**Fantz, P. R.** **2009**. Names and species of *Ophiopogon* cultivated in the southeastern United States. HortTechnology. 19: 385–394, DOI:[10.21273/hortsci.19.2.385](https://doi.org/10.21273/hortsci.19.2.385).

**Fantz, P. R., D. Carey, T. Avent, and J. Lattier**. **2015**. Inventory, descriptions, and keys to segregation and identification of liriopogons cultivated in the southeastern United States. HortScience. 50: 957–993, DOI:[10.21273/hortsci.50.7.957](https://doi.org/10.21273/hortsci.50.7.957).

**Fernández, M. M., P. Medina, A. Wanumen, P. Del Estal, G. Smagghe, and E. Viñuela**. **2017**. Compatibility of sulfoxaflor and other modern pesticides with adults of the predatory mite *Amblyseius swirskii*. Residual contact and persistence studies. BioControl. 62: 197–208, DOI:[10.1007/s10526-017-9784-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10526-017-9784-1).

**Hartung, J. S., A. Roy, S. Fu, J. Shao, W. L. Schneider, and R. H. Brlansky**. **2015**. History and diversity of Citrus leprosis virus recorded in herbarium specimens. Phytopathology. 105: 1277–1284, DOI:[10.1094/phyto-03-15-0064-r](https://doi.org/10.1094/phyto-03-15-0064-r).

**Havasi, M., A. Alsendi, N. S. S. Bozhgani, K. Kheradmand, and R. Sadeghi**. **2021**. The effects of bifenazate on life history traits and population growth of *Amblyseius swirskii* Athias-Henriot (Acari: Phytoseiidae). Systematic and Applied Acarology. 26: 610–623, DOI:[10.11158/saa.26.3.10](https://doi.org/10.11158/saa.26.3.10).

**Kitajima, E. W., C. M. Chagas, R. Harakava, R. F. Calegario, J. Freitas-Astúa, J. C. V. Rodrigues, and C. C. Childers**. **2011**. Citrus leprosis in Florida, USA, appears to have been caused by the nuclear type of Citrus leprosis virus (CilLV-N). Virus Reviews & Research. 16, DOI:[10.17525/vrr.v16i1-2.51](https://doi.org/10.17525/vrr.v16i1-2.51).

**Kitajima, E. W., J. C. V. Rodrigues, and J. Freitas-Astua**. **2010**. An annotated list of ornamentals naturally found infected by *Brevipalpus* mite-transmitted viruses. Scientia Agricola. 67: 348–371, DOI:[10.1590/s0103-90162010000300014](https://doi.org/10.1590/s0103-90162010000300014).

**Knorr, L. C.** **1968**. [Studies on the etiology of leprosis in citrus](https://doi.org/10.5070/C526w4x67c). *In* International Organization of Citrus Virologists Conference Proceedings.

**Knorr, L. C., H. A. Denmark, and H. C. Burnett**. **1968**. Occurrence of *Brevipalpus* mites, leprosis, and false leprosis on citrus in Florida. The Florida Entomologist. 51: 11, DOI:[10.2307/3493667](https://doi.org/10.2307/3493667).

**Ko, N.-J., F. W. Zettler, J. R. Edwardson, and R. G. Christie**. **1985**. Light microscopic techniques for detecting orchid viruses. Acta Horticulturae. 241–254, DOI:[10.17660/actahortic.1985.164.27](https://doi.org/10.17660/actahortic.1985.164.27).

**Kondo, H., K. Hirota, K. Maruyama, I. B. Andika, and N. Suzuki**. **2017**. A possible occurrence of genome reassortment among bipartite rhabdoviruses. Virology. 508: 18–25, DOI:[10.1016/j.virol.2017.04.027](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.virol.2017.04.027).

**Kondo, H., T. Maeda, Y. Shirako, and T. Tamada**. **2006**. Orchid fleck virus is a rhabdovirus with an unusual bipartite genome. Journal of General Virology. 87: 2413–2421, DOI:[10.1099/vir.0.81811-0](https://doi.org/10.1099/vir.0.81811-0).

**Kondo, H., T. Maeda, and T. Tamada**. **2003**. Orchid fleck virus: *Brevipalpus californicus* mite transmission, biological properties and genome structure. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 30: 215–223, DOI:[10.1023/b:appa.0000006550.88615.10](https://doi.org/10.1023/b:appa.0000006550.88615.10).

**Kubo, K. S., J. Freitas-Astúa, M. A. Machado, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2009a**. Orchid fleck symptoms may be caused naturally by two different viruses transmitted by *Brevipalpus*. Journal of General Plant Pathology. 75: 250–255, DOI:[10.1007/s10327-009-0167-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10327-009-0167-z).

**Kubo, K. S., R. M. Stuart, J. Freitas-Astúa, R. Antonioli-Luizon, E. C. Locali-Fabris, H. D. Coletta-Filho, M. A. Machado, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2009b**. Evaluation of the genetic variability of Orchid fleck virus by single-strand conformational polymorphism analysis and nucleotide sequencing of a fragment from the nucleocapsid gene. Archives of Virology. 154: 1009–1014, DOI:[10.1007/s00705-009-0395-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00705-009-0395-8).

**Leeuwen, T. V., L. Tirry, A. Yamamoto, R. Nauen, and W. Dermauw**. **2015**. The economic importance of acaricides in the control of phytophagous mites and an update on recent acaricide mode of action research. Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology. 121: 12–21, DOI:[10.1016/j.pestbp.2014.12.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pestbp.2014.12.009).

**Maeda, T.** **1998**. Evidence that Orchid fleck virus is efficiently transmitted in a persistent manner by the mite *Brevipalpus californicus*. Abstr., 7th Int. Cong. Plant Pathol. 3.

**Magalhães, B. P., J. C. V. Rodrigues, D. G. Boucias, and C. C. Childers**. **2005**. Pathogenicity of *Metarhizium anisopliae* var. Acridum to the false spider mite *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae). Florida Entomologist. 88: 195–198, DOI:[10.1653/0015-4040(2005)088[0195:pomava]2.0.co;2](https://doi.org/10.1653/0015-4040(2005)088[0195:pomava]2.0.co;2).

**Masiero, E., D. Banik, J. Abson, P. Greene, A. Slater, and T. Sgamma**. **2020**. Molecular verification of the UK national collection of cultivated *Liriope* and *Ophiopogon* plants. Plants. 9: 558, DOI:[10.3390/plants9050558](https://doi.org/10.3390/plants9050558).

**Mcharo, M., E. Bush, D. L. Bonte, C. Broussard, and L. Urbatsch**. **2003**. Molecular and morphological investigation of ornamental liriopogons. Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. 128: 575–577, DOI:[10.21273/jashs.128.4.0575](https://doi.org/10.21273/jashs.128.4.0575).

**Mei, Y., N. Bejerman, K. S. Crew, N. McCaffrey, and R. G. Dietzgen**. **2016**. First report of Orchid fleck virus in lilyturf (*Liriope spicata*) in Australia. Plant Disease. 100: 1028–1028, DOI:[10.1094/pdis-10-15-1205-pdn](https://doi.org/10.1094/pdis-10-15-1205-pdn).

**Meng, R., L.-Y. Luo, J.-Y. Zhang, D.-G. Zhang, Z.-L. Nie, and Y. Meng**. **2021**. The deep evolutionary relationships of the morphologically heterogeneous Nolinoideae (Asparagaceae) revealed by transcriptome data. Frontiers in Plant Science. 11, DOI:[10.3389/fpls.2020.584981](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2020.584981).

**Midthassel, A., S. R. Leather, D. J. Wright, and I. H. Baxter**. **2016**. Compatibility of *Amblyseius swirskii* with *Beauveria bassiana*: Two potentially complimentary biocontrol agents. Biocontrol. 61: 437–447, DOI:[10.1007/s10526-016-9718-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10526-016-9718-3).

**Navia, D., R. S. Mendonça, F. Ferragut, L. C. Miranda, R. C. Trincado, J. Michaux, and M. Navajas**. **2013**. Cryptic diversity in *Brevipalpus* mites (Tenuipalpidae). Zoologica Scripta. 42: 406–426, DOI:[10.1111/zsc.12013](https://doi.org/10.1111/zsc.12013).

**Olmedo-Velarde, A., A. Roy, C. Padmanabhan, S. Nunziata, M. K. Nakhla, and M. Melzer**. **2021**. First report of Orchid fleck virus associated with Citrus leprosis symptoms in rough lemon (*Citrus jambhiri*) and mandarin (*C. reticulata*) the United States. Plant Disease., DOI:[10.1094/PDIS-12-20-2736-PDN](https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-12-20-2736-PDN).

**Omoto, C., E. B. Alves, and P. C. Ribeiro**. **2000**. Detecção e monitoramento da resistência de *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) do dicofol. Anais da Sociedade Entomológica do Brasil. 29: 757–764, DOI:[10.1590/s0301-80592000000400016](https://doi.org/10.1590/s0301-80592000000400016).

**Peña, J. E., K. Santos, I. Baez, and D. Carrillo**. **2015**. Physical post-harvest techniques as potential quarantine treatments against *Brevipalpus yothersi* (Acarina: Tenuipalpidae). The Florida Entomologist. 98: 1169–1174, DOI:[10.1653/024.098.0422](https://doi.org/10.1653/024.098.0422).

**Peng, D. W., G. H. Zheng, Z. Z. Zheng, Q. X. Tong, and Y. L. Ming**. **2013**. Orchid fleck virus: An unclassified bipartite, negative-sense RNA plant virus. Archives of Virology. 158: 313–323, DOI:[10.1007/s00705-012-1506-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00705-012-1506-5).

**Ramos-González, P. L., H. Sarubbi-Orue, L. Gonzales-Segnana, C. Chabi-Jesus, J. Freitas-Astúa, and E. W. Kitajima**. **2015**. Orchid fleck virus infecting orchids in Paraguay: First report and use of degenerate primers for its detection. Journal of Phytopathology. 164: 342–347, DOI:[10.1111/jph.12420](https://doi.org/10.1111/jph.12420).

**Reddy, G. V. P.** **2001**. Comparative effectiveness of an integrated pest management system and other control tactics for managing the spider mite *Tetranychus ludeni* (Acari: Tetranychidae) on eggplant. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 25: 985–992, DOI:[10.1023/a:1020661215827](https://doi.org/10.1023/a:1020661215827).

**Revynthi, A. M., J. E. Peña, J. M. Moreno, A. L. Beam, C. Mannion, W. D. Bailey, and D. Carrillo**. **2019**. Effectiveness of hot-water immersion against *Brevipalpus yothersi* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) as a postharvest treatment for lemons. Journal of Economic Entomology., DOI:[10.1093/jee/toz258](https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toz258).

**Rocha, C., J. D. Vechia, P. Savi, C. Omoto, and D. Andrade**. **2021**. Resistance to spirodiclofen in *Brevipalpus yothersi* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from brazilian citrus groves: Detection, monitoring, and population performance. Pest Management Science., DOI:[10.1002/ps.6341](https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.6341).

**Rodrigues, J. C. V., and C. C. Childers**. **2013**. *Brevipalpus* mites (Acari: Tenuipalpidae): Vectors of invasive, non-systemic cytoplasmic and nuclear viruses in plants. Experimental and Applied Acarology. 59: 165–175, DOI:[10.1007/s10493-012-9632-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10493-012-9632-z).

**Rossi-Zalaf, L. S., S. B. Alves, and S. A. Vieira**. **2008**. Efeito de meios de cultura na virulência de *Hirsutella thompsonii* (Fischer) (Deuteromycetes) para o controle *Brevipalpus phoenicis* (Geijskes) (Acari: Tenuipalpidae). Neotropical Entomology. 37: 312–320, DOI:[10.1590/s1519-566x2008000300011](https://doi.org/10.1590/s1519-566x2008000300011).

**Roy, A., A. L. Stone, G. Otero-Colina, G. Wei, R. H. Brlansky, R. Ochoa, G. Bauchan, W. L. Schneider, M. K. Nakhla, and J. S. Hartung**. **2020**. Reassortment of genome segments creates stable lineages among strains of Orchid fleck virus infecting citrus in Mexico. Phytopathology. 110: 106–120, DOI:[10.1094/phyto-07-19-0253-fi](https://doi.org/10.1094/phyto-07-19-0253-fi).

**Roy, A., A. L. Stone, J. Shao, G. Otero-Colina, G. Wei, N. Choudhary, D. Achor, L. Levy, M. K. Nakhla, J. S. Hartung, W. L. Schneider, and R. H. Brlansky**. **2015**. Identification and molecular characterization of nuclear Citrus leprosis virus, a member of the proposed dichorhavirus genus infecting multiple citrus species in Mexico. Phytopathology. 105: 564–575, DOI:[10.1094/phyto-09-14-0245-r](https://doi.org/10.1094/phyto-09-14-0245-r).

**Skoracka, A., and M. Dabert**. **2010**. The Cereal rust mite *Abacarus hystrix* (Acari: Eriophyoidea) is a complex of species: Evidence from mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences. Bulletin of Entomological Research. 100: 263–272, DOI:[10.1017/s0007485309990216](https://doi.org/10.1017/s0007485309990216).

**Skoracka, A., L. Kuczyński, W. Szydło, and B. Rector**. **2013**. The wheat curl mite *Aceria tosichella* (Acari: Eriophyoidea) is a complex of cryptic lineages with divergent host ranges: Evidence from molecular and plant bioassay data. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. 109: 165–180, DOI:[10.1111/bij.12024](https://doi.org/10.1111/bij.12024).

**Umina, P. A., and A. A. Hoffmann**. **1999**. Tolerance of cryptic species of blue oat mites (*Penthaleus* spp.) And the redlegged earth mite (*Halotydeus destructor*) to pesticides. Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture. 39: 621, DOI:[10.1071/ea99028](https://doi.org/10.1071/ea99028).

**Vechia, J. F. D., M. C. Ferreira, and D. J. Andrade**. **2018**. Interaction of spirodiclofen with insecticides for the control of *Brevipalpus yothersii* in citrus. Pest Management Science. 74: 2438–2443, DOI:[10.1002/ps.4918](https://doi.org/10.1002/ps.4918).

**Vechia, J. F. D., T. V. Leeuwen, G. D. Rossi, and D. J. Andrade**. **2021**. The role of detoxification enzymes in the susceptibility of *Brevipalpus californicus* exposed to acaricide and insecticide mixtures. Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology. 175: 104855, DOI:[10.1016/j.pestbp.2021.104855](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pestbp.2021.104855).

**Walker, P. J., K. R. Blasdell, C. H. Calisher, R. G. Dietzgen, H. Kondo, G. Kurath, B. Longdon, D. M. Stone, R. B. Tesh, N. Tordo, N. Vasilakis, and A. E. Whitfield**. **2018**. ICTV virus taxonomy profile: *Rhabdoviridae*. Journal of General Virology. 99: 447–448, DOI:[10.1099/jgv.0.001020](https://doi.org/10.1099/jgv.0.001020).

**Wang, G.-Y., Y. Meng, J.-L. Huang, and Y.-P. Yang**. **2014**. Molecular phylogeny of *Ophiopogon* (Asparagaceae) inferred from nuclear and plastid DNA sequences. Systematic Botany. 39: 776–784, DOI:[10.1600/036364414x682201](https://doi.org/10.1600/036364414x682201).

### Table 1: List of Asparagaceae (Nolinoidaea) species infected with orchid fleck virus, collected from the landscape of northern Florida

| Scientific Name | Common Names | County | Strains Detected |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Liriope muscari* cv. ‘Gigantea’\* (Decaisne) Bailey | Lilyturf, Orchardgrass, Monkeygrass | Alachua & Leon | OFV-Orc1 & OFV-Orc2 |
| *Ophiopogon intermedius*\*\* Don | Aztec Grass, ‘Argenteomarginatus’ | Leon | OFV-Orc1 & OFV-Orc2 |
| *Aspidistra elatior* Blume | Cast Iron Plant, Bar-room Plant | Leon | OFV-Orc1 & OFV-Orc2 |

Table 1: \* *Liriope muscari* cv. ‘Gigantea’ has been traditionally classified as *L. gigantea* Hume by Broussard (2007) and Fantz et al. (2015), although this distinction has been challenged by Wang et al. (2014) and Masiero et al. (2020). \* \* *O. intermedius* is sometimes misclassified as *Liriope muscari* ‘Variegated Evergreen Giant’ Fantz (2009) or ‘Grandiflora White’ (Fantz 2009). Both OFV-Orc1 and OFV-Orc2 were detected in each species tested, many plants were coinfected with both strains, see ‘[Virus Detection](#virus-detection)’.

### Figure captions

Fig. 1: Variety of symptoms seen on *Liriope* spp. infected with orchid fleck virus (OFV): (a) symptoms on *Liriope muscari* cv. ‘Gigantea’ (b-c) Details of symptoms on *L. muscari* cv. ‘Gigantea’ (d) rust colored spots on *Ophiopogon intermedius*

Fig. 2: Symptoms seen on *Aspidistra elatior* infected with OFV: (a) Detail of leaf chlorosis (b) Chlorosis appears similar to sun damage (c-d) Chlorotic flecks may indicate early symptoms of OFV

Fig. 3: Cryo-SEM images of *Brevipalpus californicus* *sensu lato* displaying various characters used for identification (Baker and Tuttle 1987, Beard et al. 2015) (a) Dorsum (b) Lateral view (c) Venter (d) Close up of distal end of leg 2, with arrows indicating paired solenidia, characteristic of the genus *Brevipalpus* (e) Enlargement of the microplates of the mite cerotegument (f) Dorsal view of the distal portion of mite abdomen (g) Dorsal view of the mite rostrum (h) Ventral view of mite rostrum, observe 3 distal setae.

### Figures





