

## Current Research Objectives

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**Research topic:** Psyllid Management

**Primary Research Objective(s):** Identify and characterize viruses infecting psyllids in Florida that might be used as a biological control agent

**Research Goal:** Understand viruses that infect psyllids and their interaction with CLAs. This might provide an insight how psyllids vector the CLAs bacterium. This information can be used to develop control strategies to disturb psyllid-CLAs interaction and prevent spread of bacteria.

**Outcomes to date:** We have detected four known viruses that infecting psyllid in Florida including *Diaphorina citri*-associated *C virus* (DcACV), *Diaphorina citri flavi-like virus* (DcFLV), *Diaphorina citri reovirus* (DcRV), and *Diaphorina citri densovirus* (DcDNV). However, continue to look for other insect-infecting viruses that might infect psyllids as well. These viruses may be used in the future as a vector to knock out important genes in psyllid populations.

**Funding source for this objective(s):** State Legislative funding for the UF/IFAS Citrus Initiative