# Factors that potentially mediate the ecological host range of *Trissolcus japonicus*

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# *Trissolcus japonicus* (Ashmead) (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae)



High parasitism rates in the native range (60 to 80%)

## Physiological Host-Specificity Tests (PHST)

#### **Risk = Hazard x Exposure**



PHST poses the risk hazard question,

"<u>Can</u> *T. japonicus* attack non-target species?"

To determine this,

- 23 Pentatomoidea spp. were tested; and
- Development and emergence occurred on 15 species in 11 genera.
- Therefore, the hazard prediction is that *T. japonicus* <u>can</u> complete development on some native Pentatomoidea.
- But, what about the exposure analysis?

### **Ecological Sieves**

"<u>Will</u> *T. japonicus* attack non-target species?"



# Sampling in Michigan



#### Current Distribution in Michigan Reported in 46 Counties



# **BMSB Sampling**

#### **Host Plants:**

#### June – Sept:

- Tree of Heaven
- Honeysuckle
- Ash
- Boxelder
- Eastern White Cedar
- Black Locust
- Pokeweed

#### Sept:

• Soybean







#### **Pentatomidae in Woodlot Communities**

- 15 species.
- Banasa dimidiata 24%
- Euschistus tristigmus luridus 24%





#### Pentatomoidea in Grassland Communities

- 16 species.
- Cormelaena spp.- 59%
- Euschistus variolarious 16%



# Adventive T. japonicus in the Field



#### Trissolcus japonicus (Ashmead) (Hymenoptera, Scelionidae) emerges in North America

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#### Discovery of an Exotic Egg Parasitoid of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål) in the Pacific Northwest

Author(s): Joshua M. Milnes, Nik G. Wiman, Elijah J. Talamas, Jay F. Brunner, Kim A. Hoelmer, Matthew L. Buffington and Elizabeth H. Beers Source: Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington, 118(3):466-470.

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## **MI Sentinel Egg Surveys**



#### Parasitoids by Host Species. 2015

Host		Parasitoid	BMSB Eggs			
Common Name	Family	Species	Family	No. Put	Atta	cked
				Out	No.	%
American hornbeam or Ironwood, Carpinus caroliniana	Betulaceae	Trissolcus cosmopeplae	Platygastridae	84	8	0.10
Milkweed, Asclepias albicans	Apocynaceae	Ooencyrtus sp.	Encyrtidae	84	8	0.10
Milkweed, Asclepias albicans	Apocynaceae	Trissolcus euschisti	Platygastridae	28	3	0.11
Wild Grape, Vitis vinifera	Vitaceae	Trissolcus cosmopeplae	Platygastridae	28	6	0.21
Wild Grape, Vitis vinifera	Vitaceae	Ooencyrtus sp.	Encyrtidae	27	4	0.15
Hawthorn, Crategus rhipidophylla	Rosaceae	Ooencyrtus sp.	Encyrtidae	56	6	0.11
American basswood, <i>Tilia americana</i>	Tiliaceae	Trissolcus cosmopeplae	Platygastridae	28	1	0.04
American basswood, <i>Tilia americana</i>	Tiliaceae	Trissolcus euschisti	Platygastridae	28	2	0.07
American basswood, <i>Tilia americana</i>	Tiliaceae	Trissolcus brochymenae	Platygastridae	20	1	0.05
			Totals	383	39	0 10

#### **Ecological Sieves**





### Habitat Complexity Experiments



46 x 46 x 46 cm





1.5 x 1.5 x 2 m H

## Habitat Complexity Experiments

		No. egg masses parasitized					
Test N	lo. reps	BMSB	T.c. accerra	P. maculiventris	X <sup>2</sup> statistic	p-value	
Paired-choice	21	20	15		4.29	0.0384	
	21	18		12	4.2	0.0404	



### **Ecological Sieves**

#### **Physiological (Potential) Host Range**



### Semiochemicals

#### Host location by *Trissolcus basalis*:

- Egg kairomones (Bin et al. 1993).
- Adult cuticular hydrocarbons (Colazza et al. 2007).
- Defensive secretions (Laumann et al. 2009).
- Chemical footprints on leaves (Colazza et al. 2009).
- Feeding and oviposition damage (Colazza et al. 2004).



### Semiochemicals

- Y-tube Olfactometer.
- Odor Sources.
  - ✤ Eggs.
  - ✤ Adult BMSB.
  - ✤ Chemical footprints.
  - ✤ Feeding damage.
- Under Continued Evaluation.



### **Ecological Sieves**

#### **Physiological (Potential) Host Range**



- One, 24-h-old mated, naïve female *T. japonicus* placed in middle of arena.
- Scored behaviors:
  - Encounter with eggs;
  - Inspection of eggs by circling and antennal drumming;
  - Egg rejection (abandoning); and
  - Egg acceptance (oviposition).
- After 24-h, Petri dishes moved to an environmental chamber at 25°C; 60-80% RH; 16:8 L:D.
- Wasp removed from the arena after 24-h.
- Egg masses held separately until wasp or nymph emergence.



150 x 15 mm Petri dish arenas.

# No. replicates in which eggs were accepted (blue) or rejected (orange) (*n* = 30)







# **Development on Non-Target Hosts**

#### Does specificity differ?

- Do compounds on eggs train wasps for preference?
- Genetic inclination?
  - Tumlinson *et al.* 1993. How parasitic wasps find their hosts. *Scientific American*. March: 100-106.

#### Does fecundity differ?

#### · Effects of phenotypic variation.

- Arakawa *et al.* 2004. Effects of host species on body size, fecundity, and longevity of *Trissolcus mitsukurii* (Hymentoptera: Scelionidae), a solitary egg parasitoid of stink bugs. *Appl. Entomol. Zool.* 39:177-181.
- Abram *et al.* 2015. Size-induced phenotypic reaction norms in a parasitoid wasp: an examination of life-history and behavioural traits. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. (In Press).*



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🗾 Ovipositions 🛛 📕 Rejections



#### **BMSB** Reared



T.c. accerra Reared





#### P. maculiventris Reared



# **Conclusions and Future Work**

- 1. Risk = Hazard x Exposure, = "Can-Do" x "Will Do."
  - Hazard is the innate capacity of a biological control agent to attack a nontarget species and is determined in PHST; and
  - Exposure is determined by ecological sieves that may mediate the hazard.
  - A high hazard and a low exposure can mean that a potential biological control agent is "safe" to release.
- The hazard analysis following PHST shows that *T. japonicus* <u>can</u> attack at least 11 genera of native Pentatomoidea.
- 3. The exposure analysis shows that there are some ecological sieves (habitat partitioning and host egg characteristics) that can mediate the potential hazard.
- 4. In the absence of mediating ecological sieves, we feel that the potential host range of *T. japonicus* is too broad, and it should not be approved for release.
- 5. However, since adventive populations of *T. japonicus* have been found in eastern and western U.S., this is a moot point, and efforts to identify ecological sieves and evaluate damage to native Pentatomoidea should be the focus of future research.

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