Screening of historical isolates stored in New Zealand culture collections for *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*

D. Park¹, D. Than¹, K.R. Everett², J. Rees-George², M.K. Romberg³ and B.J.R. Alexander³

¹Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand

²Plant and Food Research, Mt. Albert, Auckland, New Zealand

³Plant Health and Environment Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2095, Auckland 1140, New Zealand

Corresponding author: Megan.Romberg@maf.govt.nz

Subsequent to the detection of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (Psa) on kiwifruit in Te Puke (November 2010), isolates of *Pseudomonas* spp. from kiwifruit stored in the International Collection of Microorganisms from Plants (ICMP) and at Plant & Food Research (PFR) were tested by PCR for Psa. A total of 139 isolates from ICMP were assayed with the previously published primer pairs PsaF1/PsaR2 and PAV1/P22. An amplicon of expected size for Psa was produced from 19 isolates using primers PAV1/P22, but no amplicons were obtained using the primers PsaF1/PsaR2. Amplicons produced by primers PAV1/P22 were sequenced and these isolates were identified as *Pseudomonas viridiflava*. A further 52 *Pseudomonas* isolates collected from kiwifruit and stored at PFR did not amplify a PCR product with primers PsaF1/PsaR2. These PCR tests confirm that Psa was not detected in any of the cultures held in the ICMP or at PFR. The screening of historical *Pseudomonas* isolates associated with kiwifruit suggests that Psa strains had not been isolated from New Zealand kiwifruit samples prior to the detection in 2010.

Seasonal abundance of *Bactericera cockerelli* and beneficial insects in a potato crop in Canterbury

N. Jorgensen¹, N.M. Taylor², N.A. Berry¹ and R.C. Butler¹

¹The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited, Private Bag 4704, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

²The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited, Private Bag 1401, Havelock North 4157, New Zealand

Corresponding author: Nina.Jorgensen@plantandfood.co.nz

The tomato/potato psyllid (TPP), *Bactericera cockerelli* (Sulc) (Hemiptera: Trioziidae), has been regarded as a significant pest of solanaceous crops in New Zealand since its discovery in 2006. Current management of TPP relies primarily on the use of insecticides. A better understanding of the role of beneficial insects in the control of TPP is needed to guide future Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. In Canterbury 2010–11, the seasonal abundance of TPP and beneficial insects was monitored in a low-spray potato crop using yellow sticky traps and in-crop plant assessments. The brown lacewing (*Micromus tasmaniae*) was the most abundant beneficial insect encountered, followed by ladybird species (*Adalia bipunctata* and *Coccinella undecimpunctata*). Numbers of adult brown lacewings and ladybirds peaked on sticky traps in December 2010, while adult TPP numbers peaked in February 2011. Brown lacewing eggs were present on potato plants throughout the season, with the highest numbers found during January/early February 2011. Numbers of all life stages of TPP were highest on potato plants from mid January to the end of the monitoring period in mid February 2011 (crop spray-off).