

# Julien Lévy

Texas A&M University - Department of Horticultural Sciences  
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<http://www.scoop.it/t/plant-and-insect-vector>

## EDUCATION

**PhD**, Plant Science (Molecular and Cellular Biology), University Paul Sabatier Toulouse III (INRA-LIPM), (France) 2003.

**MS**, Molecular Genetics and Cellular Biology, University Paul Sabatier Toulouse III (CNRS-IBCG), (France), 1999.

**BA**, Physiology, Genetics, Cellular and Molecular Biology, University Paul Sabatier Toulouse III (France), 1998.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Post-Doctoral Associate**, Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Science (since 2009). Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Pierson. Project: Study of Zebra Chip disease in potato. Improved diagnosis of the disease, localization of the pathogen, and identification of tolerant cultivars. Molecular translocation study using qPCR and fluorescent microscopy. Field studies for screening and verification of resistant and tolerant varieties (potato). Tomato study on plant hormonal and defenses genes related regulation in response to the insect and to the pathogen.

**Post-Doctoral Associate**, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Ithaca, USA, (2005 –2009). Advisor: Dr. Maria Harrison. Project: Identification of genes involved in the Arbuscular Mycorrhiza symbioses using a RNAi silencing strategy. Large scale RNAi screening, identification of a gibberellic-dependent protein involved in mycorrhizal development.

**Research associate**, Biogemma (Biotech Company/ Limagrain), Clermont-Ferrand, France (2003 – 2005). Group Leader: Pascual Perez. Project: Utilization of the yeast restriction enzyme *I-SceI* to increase homologous recombination in maize. The purpose of this study was to develop tools to improve the efficiency of gene replacement or targeted insertion to increase the quality and acceptability of GMO.

**PhD. Research**, Laboratory of Interactions of Plant-Microorganisms (LIPM), INRA-CNRS, Toulouse, France (1999-2003). Co-Advisors: Frederic Debelle, Charles Rosenberg and Jean Denarie. Project: Positional cloning of *DMI* genes involved in Nod factor signal transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization in the legume model *Medicago truncatula*. 6 months collaboration with Pr. Ton Bisseling University of Wageningen, The Netherlands.

**Masters Research**, Laboratory of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (LMGM), (CNRS-IBCG), France (1999). Advisor: Dr. Olivier Fayet. Project: Study of the frame shift motif of the transposable element *Is911* in *E.coli*. identification of the mechanisms of regulation of frame shift.

## PUBLICATIONS

- D. Floss, **J. Lévy**, V. Levesque-Tremblay, et al., M J. Harrison. DELLA proteins regulate arbuscule formation in arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis (**in press**) **Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences**
- Nachappa P., **Lévy J.**, Pierson E., Tamborindeguy C. Bacterial plant pathogen titer correlates with reduced population growth rate of its insect vector. **Journal of Invertebrate Pathology**. Available online ahead of press 6-NOV-2013 DOI information: 10.1016/j.jip.2013.10.008
- Lévy J.**, Hancock J., Ravindran A., Gross D.C., Tamborindeguy C., Pierson E. Methods for rapid and effective PCR-based detection of ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*’ from insect vectors streamlining the DNA extraction/purification process. **J. Econ. Entomol.** 2013 Jun, **106(3):1440-5**
- Nachappa P., **Lévy J.**, Tamborindeguy C. Transcriptome analyses of *Bactericera cockerelli* adults following “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*” infection. **MGG 2012 Oct;287(10):803-17**
- Ravindran A., **Lévy J**, Pierson E and Gross D.C. Development of LAMP as a sensitive and rapid method for detection of ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*’ in potatoes and psyllids. **Phytopathology**, 2012 **102:9**
- Ayar; Wehrkamp-Richter; Laffaire; Le Goff; **Levy**; Chaignon, Salmi, Lepicard, Alexandra; Sallaud, Gallego, White, Paul. Gene targeting in maize by somatic ectopic recombination **Plant Biotechnology Journal** 2012 Oct 24. doi: 10.1111.
- Lévy, J.**, Ravindran, A., Gross, D.C., Tamborindeguy C. and Pierson, E. Translocation of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”, the Zebra Chip Pathogen, in Potato and Tomato. **Phytopathology**, 2011 **101:11, 1285-1291**
- Ravindran A., **Lévy J**, Pierson E and Gross D.C. Developing Primers for Improved PCR Detection of the Potato Zebra Chip Pathogen, “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”, **Plant Disease**, 2011 **95:12 1542-1546**
- Nachappa P., **Lévy J.**, Pierson E., Tamborindeguy C. Diversity of endosymbionts in “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”-uninfected and infected populations of potato psyllid, *Bactericera cockerelli*, vector of zebra chip disease of potato. **Current Microbiology** 2011 **62: 1510-1520**
- Lévy J.**, Bres C., Geurts R., Chalhoub B., Kulikova O., Duc G., Journet E.P., Ané J.M., Lauber E., Bisseling T., Dénarié J., Rosenberg C., Debelle F. A putative Ca<sup>2+</sup> and calmodulin-dependent protein kinase required for bacterial and fungal symbioses. **Science**. 2004 **27; 303**
- Ané J.M., Kiss G.B., Riely B.K., Penmetza R.V., Oldroyd G.E.D., Ayax C., **Lévy J.**, Debelle F., Baek J.M., Kaló P., Rosenberg C., Roe B.A., Long S.R., Dénarié J., Cook D.R. *Medicago truncatula DMI1* required for bacterial and fungal symbioses in legumes. **Science**. 2004 **27; 303**
- Ané J.M., **Lévy J.**, Thoquet P., Kulikova O., de Billy F., Penmetza V., Kim D.-J., Debelle F., Rosenberg C., Cook D., Bisseling T., Huguet T. and Dénarié J. Genetic and cytogenetic mapping of *DMI1*, *DMI2* and *DMI3* genes of *Medicago truncatula* involved in Nod factor transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization. **Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions** 2002;**15 : 1108-18**

## **PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION AND REVISION**

Lévy J\*. and Tamborindéguy C. Solanum habrochaites Resistance Against *Bactericera cockerelli* Does Not Protect Against Transmission of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”. **Journal of Economic Entomology** – accepted with revision, \*corresponding author

## **BOOK CHAPTER**

F. Debelle, C. Bres, J. Levy, B. Ben Amor, JF. Arrighi, F. Maillet, JM. Ane, C. Rosenberg, J. Denarie, S. Shaw, G. Oldroyd, S. Long, R. Penmetsa, D. Cook, R. Geurts, T. Bisseling, G. Duc, and C. Gough. 2005. “Genetic and Molecular Analysis of Nod Factor Signalling in *Medicago truncatula*”. Pages. 165-168 in Y-P. Wang et al. (eds.), *Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment*, Springer, Netherlands.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS – PROCEEDINGS**

Lévy, J., Scheuring, D.C., Koym, J.W., Henne, D.C., Tamborindéguy, C., Pierson, E. and Miller, J.C., Jr. Investigations on Putative ZC Tolerant Potato Selections **Proceedings of the 2012 Zebra Chip Conference, San Antonio, TX, October 30 - November 2, 2012.**

Tamborindéguy, C., Huot, O., and Levy, J. Plant Defenses against Psyllids and *Liberibacter* **Proceedings of the 2012 Zebra Chip Conference, San Antonio, TX, October 30 - November 2, 2012.**

Lévy, J., Ravindran, A., Gross, D., Tamborindéguy C., and Pierson, E. Translocation and Quantification of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*” in Potato and Tomato. **Proceedings of the 2011 Zebra Chip Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 6-9, 2011.**

Ravindran A., Lévy J., Pierson E., and Gross D. LAMP PCR lights the way for a simple, fast method for detection of Lso in infected potatoes and psyllids. **Proceedings of the 2011 Zebra Chip Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 6-9, 2011.**

J. C. Miller Jr, Scheuring, D.C., Koym, J., Henne, D., Jifon, Lévy, J., Tamborindéguy, C. and Pierson, E. Further study on host plant tolerance to Zebra Chip. **Proceedings of the 2011 Zebra Chip Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 6-9, 2010.**

Lévy, J., Pierson, E., Aravind, R., Gross, D., and Tamborindéguy C. Translocation of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”, the Zebra Chip Pathogen, in Potato and Tomato. **Proceedings of the 2010 Zebra Chip Conference, Dallas, TX, November 7-10, 2010.**

Miller, C., Scheuring, D., Liu, T., Yang, X., Jifon, J., Gross, D., Ravindran, A., Pierson, E. and Lévy, J. Investigations on Putative Zebra Chip (ZC) Tolerant Advanced Selections. **Proceedings of the 2010 Zebra Chip Conference, Dallas, TX, November 7-10, 2010.**

Aravind R., Gross D.C., Pierson E., and Lévy J. NEW Approaches for Developing and Improving PCR Diagnostic Methods for the ZC Pathogen. **Proceedings of the 2010 Zebra Chip Conference, Dallas, TX, November 7-10, 2010.**

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS – ABSTRACT**

IV International Conference on Legume Genomics and Genetics December, 2008  
Harrison, M.J., Zhang, Q., Levy, J.G., Jung, J.K., Hong, J.J., Mondo, S.J., Foster-Hartnett, D., Samac, D.A., Starker, C.G., Lenz, P.A., Farrell, M.L., Gantt, J.S.

Identification of genes controlling development of arbuscules in AM symbiosis [abstract]., December 7-12, 2008, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Abstract No. L61. p. 38.

#### INVITED SEMINAR

- **Colegio de Postgraduados, Montecillo, Mexico** - October, 29 2013  
Estado actual del manejo de Zebra Chip inducido por *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* en papa en el estado de Texas, USA.
- **Department of Horticultural Science at Texas A&M University** – November 2011  
A Tale of Two Symbiosis: Arbuscular Mycorrhiza and Zebra Chip Disease
- **Boyce Thompson Institute Seminar, BTI Ithaca, NY** – April 2008  
Role of GA and DELLA protein in AM symbiosis development in *Medicago truncatula*.
- **Department of Molecular Biology, Wageningen University**, Wageningen Netherlands – December 2002  
Positional cloning of *DMI3*, a gene involved in Nod factor transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization.

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

- ESA annual meeting, Austin, TX - November 10th, 2013 (Talk)  
Psyllids or associated microbes, who is in charge? C. Tamborindéguy, P. Nachappa, F. Ibanez, J.G. Levy
- Zebra Chip annual meeting, San Antonio, TX – November 2013
  1. Investigations on ZC tolerant potato selections. J.C. Miller, Jr, D.C. Scheuring, J.W. Koym, J.G. Levy, E.A. Pierson and D.C. Henne (Talk)
  2. Plant - psyllids interactions, identification of *Solanum habrochaites* as a source of resistance to the potato tomato psyllid. J.G. Levy and C. Tamborindéguy (Talk)
  3. Time-Course Investigations of ZC Expression in the Potato Cultivars Waneta and Atlantic. D.C. Scheuring, J.W. Koym, J.G. Levy, D.C. Henne and J.C. Miller, Jr. (Poster)
- APS annual meeting, Austin, TX – August 2013 (Posters)
  1. Advances in the detection of ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*,’ the causative agent of potato zebra chip disease. J.G. Levy, A. Ravindran, D. Gross, E.A. Pierson
  2. Characterizing the promoter of the phenazine biosynthesis operon in the biological control strain *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* 30-84. JM Yu, J.G. Levy, DP Wang, L. S. Pierson III, E.A. Pierson
  3. The function of the *acr* genes in phenazine regulation and transport in the biological control strain *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* 30-84. Y. Yang, DP Wang, JM Yu, J.G. Levy, , L.S. Pierson III, E.A. Pierson
- Zebra Chip annual meeting, San Antonio, TX – October 2012
  1. New Methods for Streamlining the DNA Extraction Process for Detection of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*” from Insect Vectors.(Poster) J.G. Levy, J Hancock, A Ravindran, D Gross, C Tamborindéguy, and EA Pierson.
  2. A fast-track breeding methodology for developing ZC tolerant potato cultivars.(Poster) J. Miller, Jr., J.G. Levy, D. Henne, J. Koym, and D. Scheuring.
  3. Plant defenses against psyllids and *Liberibacter*.(Talk) C. Tamborindéguy, O. Huot and JG Levy.

4. Investigations on putative ZC tolerant potato selections. **(Talk) J.G. Lévy**, DC Scheuring, JW Koym, D Henne, C Tamborindeguy, EA Pierson, and JC Miller, Jr.
- Microbial Friends & Foes, September 2012 **(Poster)**  
Gibberellin-DELLA signaling: A key component in establishing functional arbuscular mycorrhizas. Floss D. S., J.G. Lévy, Park H-J., Carley L. & Harrison M.J.
  - APS annual meeting, Providence, RI – August 2012 (Poster)  
Role of phenazine structural derivatives in fungal inhibition and biofilm formation. JM Yu, DP Wang, J.G. Lévy, LS Pierson III, E. A. Pierson
  - Zebra Chip annual meeting, San Antonio, TX – November 2011 (Talks)
    1. LAMP PCR Lights the Way for a Simple, Fast Method for Detection of *Lso* in Infected Potatoes and Psyllids. A. Ravindran, JG Lévy, EA Pierson, and D Gross.
    2. Further Studies on Host-Plant Tolerance to Zebra Chip. JC Miller Jr., D Scheuring, J Koym, D Henne, J Jifon, JG Lévy, C Tamborindeguy and EA Pierson.
    3. Translocation and Quantification of ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*’ in Potato and Tomato. JG Lévy, A. Ravindran, D. Gross, and C. Tamborindeguy, and EA Pierson
    4. Consequences of “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*” on psyllid populations C. Tamborindeguy, P Nachappa, and JG Lévy.
  - Potato Association of America, NC, August 2011 (Poster)  
Evaluation of potentially Zebra Chip-tolerant Advanced Selections in Insect Preference Trials. Pierson EA, DC Scheuring, DC Henne, JL Jifon, JG Lévy, SD Turner<sup>G</sup>, and JC Miller Jr.
  - Entomological Society of America 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, December 12-15, 2011. (Talk)  
Diversity of Endosymbionts in Populations of Potato Psyllid, *Bactericera cockerelli* (Hemiptera: Trioziidae), Vector of Zebra Chip Disease. P Nachappa, JG Lévy, E Pierson, and C Tamborindeguy.
  - Zebra chip Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, November 7-10, 2010. (Talks)
    1. New approaches for developing and improving PCR diagnostic methods for the ZC pathogen. A. Ravindran, D Gross, EA Pierson and JG Lévy.
    2. Translocation of the zebra chip pathogen in potato and tomato. JG Lévy, EA Pierson, A Ravindran, D Gross, and C Tamborindeguy.
    3. Investigations on Putative Zebra Chip (ZC) Tolerant Advanced Selections. E. Pierson, C. Miller, D. C. Scheuring, T. X. Liu, X. Yang, J. Jifon, D. Gross, R. Aravind, and JG Lévy.
  - Targeted Gene Integration in Plants Meeting - EU-FP7 - Ovronnaz, Switzerland – 2008 (talk)  
Homologous Recombination and Gene Targeting in maize Wehrkamp-Richter S., LeGoff S., Lévy J., Laffaire J.B., Paul W., Perez P.,
  - Meiosis and the causes and consequences of recombination - Warwick University, UK,- March 2006 (Poster)  
I-SceI-stimulated intrachromosomal homologous recombination in maize Wehrkamp-Richter S., LeGoff S., Lévy J., Paul W., Perez P., Degroote F., Picard G.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> European Annual meeting on *Medicago truncatula* – Norwich, England – January 2003 **(TALK)**  
Positional cloning of *DMI3*, a gene involved in Nod factor transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization. **Lévy J.**, Bres C., Debelle F., Rosenberg C., Gueurts R., Bisseling T., and Dénarié J.

- 1<sup>st</sup> EPSO Conference – Brunnen, Switzerland – October 2002 (Poster)  
Towards the positional cloning of *DMI3*, a *Medicago truncatula* gene involved in Nod factor signal transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization. **Lévy J.**, Bres C., Debellé F., Kulikova O., Bisseling T., Rosenberg C., and Dénarié J.
- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Legume Genomics and Genetics: Translation to Crop Improvement. Minneapolis-St Paul, USA - June 2002 (Poster)  
Towards the positional cloning of *DMI3*, a *Medicago truncatula* gene involved in Nod factor signal transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization. **Lévy J.**, Bres C., Debellé F., Kulikova O., Bisseling T., Rosenberg C., and Dénarié J.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Molecular Genetics of Model Legumes – Golm, Germany – September 2001 (**Talk**)  
Genetic and cytogenetic mapping of *DM11*, *DM12* and *DM13* genes of *Medicago truncatula* involved in Nod factor transduction, nodulation and mycorrhization. **Lévy J.**, Ané J-M , Thoquet P., Kulikova O., Debellé F., C. Rosenberg, Huguet T. and Dénarié J.
- New frontier in plant science and plant biotechnology – Toulouse, France– March 2000 (Poster)  
**Lévy J.**, Ané JM, Catoira R, Debellé F, de Billy F, Galera C, Gough C, Huguet T, Jourmet E, , Liebe C, Maillet F, Penmetsa V, Rosenberg C, Cook D and Dénarié J. Genetic analysis of Nod factor perception and transduction.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Plant-Microbiology – Aussois, France – January 2000 (**Talk**)  
Identification and cloning of genes of *Medicago truncatula*, involved in nodulation and mycorrhization. **Lévy J.**, Ané J.M., Liebe C., de Billy F., Catoira R., Galera C., Gough C., Maillet F., Debellé F., Rosenberg C., Dénarié J.
- Plant and Animal genome- San-Diego, USA, January 1999 (poster)  
Genetic analysis of Nod factor perception and signal transduction in *Medicago truncatula*. Galera C, Catoira R, Gough C, Maillet F, **Lévy J.**, Penmetsa V, Cook D, Prospérie J-M, Dénarié J, Rosenberg C.

#### TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- **Instructor** ENTO/HORT 489: Special Topics in **Food Production Systems in France** (3 hours) and ENTO/HORT 489: Special Topics in **French Agriculture and its Heritage** (3 hours). Texas A&M University. (undergraduate level, summer1, 2014)
- **Guest lecturer** Texas A&M University, **ENTO428**: Insects biotechnology. (undergraduate level, 2012, 2013)
- **Guest lecturer** Texas A&M University, **ENTO689 / 489**: Insects as vectors of plant pathogens. (graduate level, 2012)
- **Guest lecturer** Texas A&M University, **HORT689**: Plant Associated Microorganisms. Lectured on genetic and cellular mechanisms of nodulation, rhizobium symbiosis and mycorrhizal symbiosis development. (graduate level, 2010,2013)
- **Instructor** for Genetics introductory, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse III. Mechanism of genes transmission in Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic organisms. (undergraduate, 1999-2003)
- **Instructor** for Biochemistry level: 62h practical class on enzymatic reaction kinetics and equilibrium of enzymatic reaction. (undergraduate, 2001-2002)
- **Ph.D student committee:** Ordorm Huot (since 2011 – Entomology TAMU)

- 2009-present: Supervision of 2 undergraduate students and 2 graduate students.
- 2006 -2007: Mentoring of 2 summer undergraduate interns as part of the NSF, Plant Genome Research Program, Research Experience for Undergraduates. Jose Arevalo - summer 2006 – JA became a research assistant at Dr. Jacobsen’s lab (UCLA). Zack King – summer 2007- ZK became a graduate student, in plant breeding, genetics and genomics at the University of Georgia.
- 2003-2005: Mentoring of a masters student for 8 months.
- 1999-2003: Supervision of 3 undergraduate students for a 3 months period.

#### **PATENT**

- EP1704237: F. Debelle, **J. Lévy**, C. Bres, C. Rosenberg. CCaMK involved in nodulation and endomycorrhization

#### **AWARDS**

- “Découvertes 2004” – French Research Secretary Award (2004)
- EMBO short-term fellowship (2003)
- EPSO (European Plant Science Organisation) fellowship (2002) – Travel fellowship
- ASSEDIS-SO fellowship (2002) – Travel fellowship

#### **GRANTS AWARDED**

- Texas A&M AgriLife Research Zebra Chip Management Program 2014-15 - \$120,000- **PI: J.Levy** co PI: C. Miller and E.A Pierson. Confirmation of “ZC Tolerant” selections and development of molecular markers for the TAMU Potato Breeding and Variety Development Program
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research Zebra Chip Management Program 2014-15 - \$80,000. **PI: C. Tamborindéguy co-PI J.Levy**. Studying effect of LSO haplotypes and psyllids attraction in potato, in the the laboratory.
- AgriLife-SCRI mini grant 2013 – \$31,500 - 1 year.**PI: J. Levy**. Further investigations of putative ZC-tolerant advanced selections under medium-scale field trials in Texas: a multi-year screening program.
- AgriLife-SCRI mini grant 2012 –\$35,000 - 1 year. **PIs: E.Pierson, C. Miller and D. Gross** Collaborators: **J. Levy** and C. Tamborindéguy. Evaluation of commercially acceptable and ZC-tolerant advanced selections: the roles of plant resistance and insect preference in disease avoidance.
- TAMU WGSi - 2012- \$8,400 - 1 year **PIs: Tamborindéguy, Levy**. Illuminating the transcriptional dialogue between an insect vector and the bacterial pathogen it transmits.

#### **GRANTS PENDING**

- National Potato Council 2014: \$10,000. **Pending**

#### **SERVICE**

- Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences committee for departmental seminar, 2013
- Texas A&M Potato Breeding and Variety Development Field Day (2011, 2013)
- Judge at the Horticulture Graduate Council Annual Poster Competition, department of Horticulture Texas A&M, (2012)
- Judge at the Graduate Student Forum, department of Entomology Texas A&M, (2011)
- Peer Review: Plant Disease (2011, 2012, 2013), Journal of Economic Entomology (2013) Current Microbiology (2011)
- Boyce Thompson Institute Outstanding Lecture Series (2008)

- Boyce Thompson Institute Annual retreat (2007)

**SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP** : American Phytopathology Society

**LANGUAGES**

- French: mother tongue
- English: written spoken
- Spanish: written spoken



## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

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Dr. Frederic Debelle

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