Possible insect vectors of *Piper yellow mottle virus* disease infecting black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) and *Cacao Swollen shoot virus* (Sri Lankan Strain) disease

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Piper yellow mottle virus disease and *Cacao swollen shoot virus* disease are important viral problems affecting black pepper and cocoa cultivations in Sri Lanka. Studies were conducted to find out the insect vectors, which are responsible for the spread of these two diseases under natural conditions. Among common insects found in black pepper fields, black pepper lace bug, *Diconocoris distanti* (Drake), Tingidae and the citrus mealy bug, *Planococcus citri* (Risso), Pseudococcidae were confirmed as the vectors of PYMV disease. Both insects transmitted the disease in a persistent manner. PYMV transmission by lace bugs and mealy bugs were confirmed by immunosorbant electron microscopy and by Polymerase chain reaction respectively.

The citrus mealy bug, *Planococcus citri* (Risso) was confirmed as the vector of *Cacao swollen shoot virus* disease by obtaining the typical symptoms, such as oak leaf pattern and stem swellings on test plants. As the citrus mealy bug transmitting two important diseases of black pepper and cocoa, it has to be considered an important pest of export agricultural crops.

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