

# Huanglongbing Pandemic: Current Challenges and Emerging Management Strategies

Subjects: [Microbiology](#)

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Huanglongbing (HLB, aka citrus greening), one of the most devastating diseases of citrus, has wreaked havoc on the global citrus industry in recent decades. The culprit behind such a gloomy scenario is the phloem-limited bacteria "*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*" (CLAs), which are transmitted via psyllid. To date, there are no effective long-term commercialized control measures for HLB, making it increasingly difficult to prevent the disease spread. To combat HLB effectively, introduction of multipronged management strategies towards controlling CLAs population within the phloem system is deemed necessary. This entry presents a comprehensive review of up-to-date scientific information about HLB, including currently available management practices and unprecedented challenges associated with the disease control. Additionally, a triangular disease management approach has been introduced targeting pathogen, host, and vector. Pathogen-targeting approaches include (i) inhibition of important proteins of CLAs, (ii) use of the most efficient antimicrobial or immunity-inducing compounds to suppress the growth of CLAs, and (iii) use of tools to suppress or kill the CLAs. Approaches for targeting the host include (i) improvement of the host immune system, (ii) effective use of transgenic variety to build the host's resistance against CLAs, and (iii) induction of systemic acquired resistance. Strategies for targeting the vector include (i) chemical and biological control and (ii) eradication of HLB-affected trees. Finally, a hypothetical model for integrated disease management has been discussed to mitigate the HLB pandemic.

HLB pandemic

citrus greening

*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*

## 1. Introduction

Citrus is the most widely grown specialty fruit crop in the world, containing a variety of health-promoting compounds, including vitamin C. The crop is highly vulnerable to various fungal, bacterial, and viral diseases, owing to its narrow genetic diversity <sup>[1]</sup>. Huanglongbing (HLB, aka citrus greening) is one of the most devastating diseases, which has affected the global citrus industry during last few decades <sup>[2][3]</sup>. The disease was first reported in southern China <sup>[4]</sup>. The discovery of HLB in India was attributed to a citrus dieback in the 1700s <sup>[5][6]</sup>, resulting in a hypothesis that the disease was established in India before spreading to China <sup>[3][7]</sup>. A similar malady was observed in South Africa in 1929 and named "citrus greening disease" based on the poor color development of the stylar end of affected fruit <sup>[8]</sup>. The disease was also confirmed in South America, in the state of Sao Paulo in Brazil in 2004 <sup>[9]</sup>, and in the state of Florida in the USA <sup>[10]</sup>. It has seriously impacted the US citrus industry, with an approximate loss of USD 3.6 billion per year <sup>[11]</sup>. In the USA, the disease was also detected in other states,

including two significant citrus-producing states, Texas [12] and California [13], as well as in South Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana [14]. The disease had also become established in several Caribbean countries such as Cuba [15], Jamaica [16], Belize [17], and Mexico [18]. Other major citrus-growing areas of the Mediterranean Basin and Australia are under threat. The disease also has moved west from Pakistan into Iran [19] and is threatening the neighboring areas. Presently, the disease is distributed in over 58 countries of Asia, America, Africa, Oceania, and the Caribbean. Reports are based on symptomatology, DNA-DNA hybridization with specific probe, PCR followed by *Xba*I restriction digestion of the amplified DNA, electron microscopy, and real-time PCR (Figure 1, Table 1) [20].



**Figure 1.** The world map represents geographical distribution of HLB based on DNA-DNA hybridization with probe, PCR followed by *Xba*I restriction digestion of the amplified DNA, electron microscopy, and symptomatology.

**Table 1.** Worldwide distribution of HLB disease.

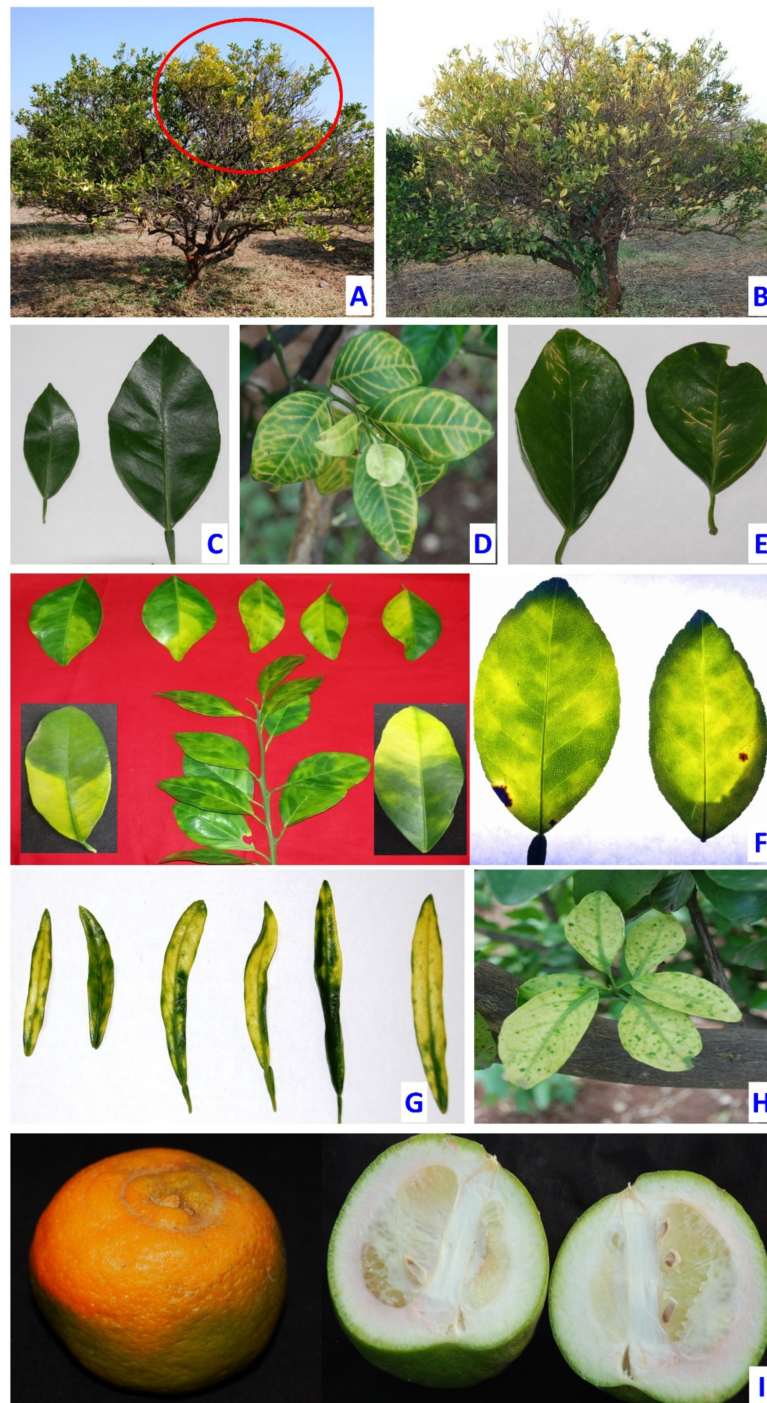
Sr. No	Continent/Country/Region	Distribution of HLB	Causal Organism	Reference
Asia				
1	Bangladesh	Present	Ca. <i>Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[21]
2	Bhutan	Present	Ca. <i>Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
3	Cambodia	Present	Ca. <i>Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[23]
4	China	Present	Ca. <i>Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]

Sr. No	Continent/Country/Region	Distribution of HLB	Causal Organism	Reference
5	India	Present, Widespread	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[24]
6	Indonesia	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[25]
7	Iran	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[26]
8	Japan	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[27]
9	Laos	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[23]
10	Malaysia	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[24]
11	Myanmar	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[23]
12	Nepal	Present, Widespread	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[28]
13	Oman	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
14	Pakistan	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[29]
15	Philippines	Present, Widespread	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[29]
16	Saudi Arabia	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[30]
17	Sri Lanka	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
18	Taiwan	Present, Widespread	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
19	Thailand	Present	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[31]
20	Vietnam	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[32]
21	Yemen	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[30]
	North America		<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	
22	Barbados	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
23	Belize	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[17]
24	Costa Rica	Present, Localized	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]
25	Cuba	Present, Widespread	<i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	[22]

Sr. No	Continent/Country/Region	Distribution of HLB	Causal Organism	Reference
26	Dominica	Present, Few occurrences	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
27	Dominican Republic	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
28	El Salvador	Present	Unknown	[33]
29	Guadeloupe	Present, Localized	Unknown	[34]
30	Guatemala	Present	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
31	Honduras	Present	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
32	Jamaica	Present, Widespread	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
33	Martinique	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[34]
34	Mexico	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
35	Nicaragua	Present	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
36	Panama	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
37	Puerto Rico	Present	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
38	Trinidad and Tobago	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
39	U.S. Virgin Islands	Present, Few occurrences	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
40	United States	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
	South America			
41	Argentina	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
42	Brazil	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter americanus and Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[9]
43	Colombia	Present, Few occurrences	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22]
44	Paraguay	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[35]
45	Venezuela	Present	Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[36]
	Africa			

Sr. No	Continent/Country/Region	Distribution of HLB	Causal Organism	Reference
46	Burundi	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[37]
47	Cameroon	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[37]
48	Central African Republic	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[37]
49	Comoros	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[22]
50	Eswatini	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[38]
51	Ethiopia	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus and Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[37]
52	Kenya	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[29]
53	Madagascar	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[38]
54	Malawi	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[41][42][37]
55	Mauritius	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus and Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	[22][44][45][46]
56	Rwanda	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[37]
57	Somalia	Present [47]	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[22]
58	South Africa	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[39]
59	Tanzania	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[2][38]
60	Uganda	Present	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[40]
61	Zimbabwe	Present, Localized	Ca. Liberibacter africanus	[29][2][48]

een, with localized outbreak [43]. Trees such as infected trees developed symptoms of their most preferred (C. no known vector is more common initially

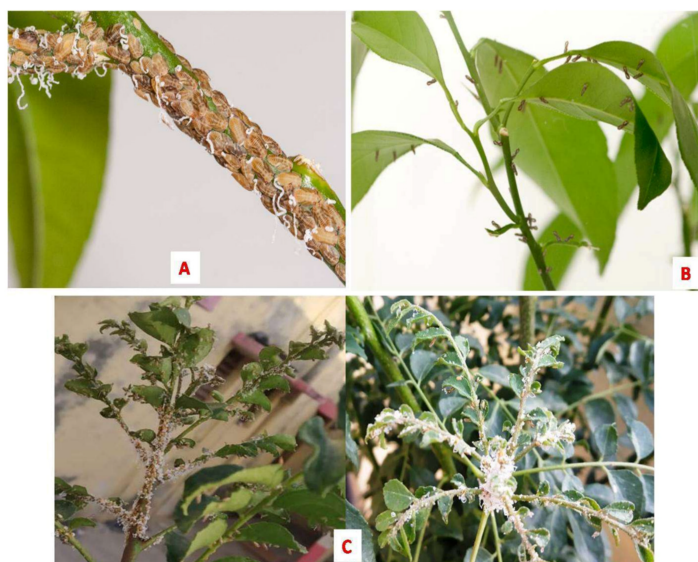


**Figure 2.** (A) HLB-infected sweet orange plant in the field showing characteristic yellow shoot symptoms at initial stage. (B) HLB-infected sweet orange in the field at severe stage. (C) Healthy leaf. (D) Vein yellowing and corking. (E) Vein corking. (F) Blotchy mottle (a random pattern of chlorosis). (G) Narrow leaf with blotchy mottle. (H) Green island. (I) HLB-affected with color inversion and misshapen sweet orange fruit (lopsided) with aborted seeds.

## 2. Causative Agent, Genomics, and Pathogenesis Mechanism

The pathogen associated with HLB was initially thought to be a mycoplasma-like organism. Subsequent electron microscopic studies confirmed that the causative organism is a bacterium. The fastidious nature of the pathogen was an impediment in traditional taxonomical classification like the study of morphology and growth characteristics. The phloem-limited causal agent was classified based on the 16S rRNA gene sequence and grouped under the  $\alpha$ -subdivision of proteobacteria, genus *Candidatus Liberibacter* in the family *Rhizobiaceae* [49][50]. So far, three species of bacterium are known to be associated with citrus greening disease: '*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*' (CLas), '*Candidatus Liberibacter africanus*' (CLaf), and '*Candidatus Liberibacter americanus*' (CLam). To date, no successful attempts have been made to grow these bacteria in culture.

Among them, CLas is the most destructive, widely prevalent, highly divergent, and has caused significant economic loss in citrus production globally [51]. CLam and CLaf are only present in Brazil and Africa, respectively. CLam, originally identified in Brazil, was the major species, but later CLas became the most prevalent species [52]. This intracellular plant pathogen acts as an insect symbiont and is transmitted by two sap-sucking insect species, *Diaphorinacitri* and *Triozaerytrae*. *D. citri* is also known as the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) (Figure 3). The ACP is responsible for the spread of CLas and CLam in Asia as well as in the Americas [53]. The ACP is heat-tolerant and can withstand high temperatures (up to 45 °C) but is sensitive to high humidity (above 90%) [54]. On the other hand, *T. erytrae*, African citrus psyllid (AfCP), the vector for spread of CLaf in Africa [29], is heat-sensitive. The adult and juvenile forms grow in a cool, moist environment and cannot withstand temperatures above 32 °C [55]. The rapid spread of HLB throughout the globe sparked research interest in understanding the genomics, transcriptomics, and proteomics of the host/vector/pathogen virulence and diversity.



**Figure 3.** (A) ACP nymph on a citrus plant in the field. (B) ACP adults feeding on the leaf. (C) Infestation of ACP nymph and adults on curry leaf plants.

Despite the unculturable nature of CLas, the complete circular genome sequence was generated from CLas-infected psyllid by metagenomics, which became the foundation platform for further research in functional genomics [56]. Presently, 42 complete isolate sequences of CLas are available in GenBank. Ten genomes are fully

assembled in a single scaffold: psy62 [56], gxpsy [57], Ishi-1 [58], A4 [59], JXGC [60], AHCA1 [61], JRPAMB1 [62], TaiYZ2 [63], CoFLP1 [64], and ReuSP1 [65] (Table 2). A total of 4.5% and 8% of genes are involved in cell motility and active transport mechanism, respectively, and they might contribute to its virulence activity in the citrus plant phloem system [56]. Bacterial plant pathogens use the secreted proteins (effectors) in their defense mechanism to suppress plant immunity and create a favorable environment for colonization and proliferation [66][67]. The CLas genome consists of all Type I secretion system genes that encode proteins involved in multidrug efflux and toxin effectors: HlyD (membrane fusion protein, CLIBASIA\_01355), PrtD (ABC transporter, CLIBASIA\_1350), and TolC (outer membrane export protein, CLIBASIA\_04145). However, CLas lacks type III, type IV, and type VI secretion systems and typical degradative enzymes, which are required for its free-living state [67][68][69].

CLas also possesses the general Sec secretion system/Sectransloconcapable of pathogenicity to the host plants by secreting effectors directly outside bacterial cells. CLas secretory proteins CLIBASIA 05315, CLIBASIA 03875, CLIBASIA 00460, and CLIBASIA 04025 have been reported as Sec-dependent secretory proteins engaged in starch accumulation, cell death, and host plant infections [67][68][69][70][71]. Different peroxidase enzymes, such as SC2\_gp095 and CLIBASIA\_RS00445, have been identified as non-classical secretory proteins in CLas, which counter the reactive-oxygen-species (ROS)-mediated defense-signaling response, including H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, used by plants to combat disease progression [69]. This indicates that CLas may have developed a non-classical secretion pathway to release virulence proteins to combat the host. According to secretome analysis, the CLas genome contains a total of 27 non-classically secreted proteins (ncSecPs), the majority of which are involved in suppressing early plant defense mechanisms by diminishing the hypersensitive response [69]. The peroxiredoxin (Prx) superfamily proteins are ubiquitous cysteine-based non-heme peroxidases present in CLas. For example, bacterioferritin comigratory protein (BCP) is involved in the oxidative stress defense system of CLas due to its ROS scavenging activity [72]. Lipopolysaccharides (LPS), the most important outer membrane module of CLas encoded by 21 genes, not only play a critical role in maintaining the robust structural integrity to the bacterial cell, but also play a role in the virulence mechanism. However, there are some differences between CLas, CLaf, and CLam for type I secretion system, and LPS production has been reported [67][73].

Quorum sensing is a cell-to-cell signaling cascade where chemical-based regulatory communications occur among bacterial populations for their motility, biofilm formation, and virulence mechanism [11]. The mechanism of quorum sensing is regulated by two genes: *luxI* and *luxR*. The *luxI* gene encodes different quorum-sensing molecules, acyl-homoserine lactone (AHL), which induce biofilm formation by activation of *luxR* genes [68]. As CLas has a solo LuxR system but lacks LuxI [56], there is currently no evidence on how the CLas pathogen employs a quorum-sensing-based mechanism to cause the pathogenicity in citrus plants, although it is speculated that the disease is established like other phytopathogens [74][75]. It has been hypothesized that the communication among the CLas, endosymbiont, and psyllid is based on *luxR* and *luxI* genes [74]. CLas potentially communicates with the endosymbiont (*Wolbachia* spp.) and psyllid after adhering in the saliva sheath. Proteins like Mucin-5AC protein (23.46 kDa) were identified in *D. citri* saliva in a proteome study, which might be involved in the formation of the salivary sheath. Studies have shown that the down-regulation of Mucin 5AC results in reduced bacterial pathogen acquisition by inhibiting bacterial adhesion to the insect gut [76]. It has been reported that some proteins of psyllid (haemocyanin protein and myosin protein) and CLas (phosphopantothienoylcysteine synthetase and pantothenate

kinase) interact with each other after the acquisition of CLas [76]. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of the quorum-sensing system in CLas and the interaction with the citrus and the vector with respect to co-evolved protein interaction networks may provide a target for combating HLB by hampering acquisition, growth, and biofilm formation of CLas.

**Table 2.** Details of sequenced genomes of CLas, CLam, and CLaf.

Sr. No	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter spp.	Strain	Host	Sample Origin	Genome Size (Mb)	Number CDS Present in the Genome	Reference
1	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	A4 (CP010804.1)	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	China: Guangdong	1.23025	1067	[59]
2	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	Gxpsy (CP004005.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	China: Guangxi	1.26824	1094	[57]
3	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	JRPAMB1 (CP040636.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	USA: Florida	1.23716	1072	[62]
4	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	TaiYZ2 (CP041385.1)	<i>Citrus maxima</i>	Thailand: Songkhla	1.23062	1067	[77]
5	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	psy62 (CP001677.5)	-	USA: Florida	1.22732	1049	[56]
6	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	JXGC (CP019958.1)	Citrus	China: Jiangxi	1.22516	1033	[60]
7	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	Ishi-1 (AP014595.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	Japan: Ishigaki	1.19085	1001	[58]
8	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	AHCA1 (CP029348.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	USA: California	1.23375	1056	[61]
9	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	FL17 (JWHA00000000.1)	Citrus	USA: Florida	1.22725	1019	[78]
10	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter	YNJS7C (QXDO00000000)	Citrus	China: Yunnan	1.25898	1102	[79]

Sr. No	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter spp.	Strain	Host	Sample Origin	Genome Size (Mb)	Number CDS Present in the Genome	Reference
		asiaticus					
11	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	YCPsy (LIIM00000000)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	China: Guangdong	1.233647	1037	[80]
12	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	LBR19TX2 (VTMA00000000)	-	USA: Texas	1.20275	1008	[67]
13	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	LBR23TX5 (VTMB00000000)	-	USA: Texas	1.20347	1009	[67]
14	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	AHCA17 (VNFL00000000)	Citrus maxima	USA: California	1.20862	1036	[81]
15	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	YNXP-1 (VIGA00000000)	Cuscuta	China: Yunnan	1.20707	1031	-
16	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	SGCA16 (VT LZ00000000)	-	USA: San Gabriel	1.20994	1015	[67]
17	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	JXGZ-1 (VIQL00000000)	Cuscuta	China: JiangXi	1.21799	1040	-
18	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	DUR1TX1 (VTLT00000000.1)	-	USA: Texas	1.20629	1011	[67]
19	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	Mex8 (VTLU00000000.1)	-	Mexico: Mexicali	1.24313	1042	[67]
20	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	SGCA5 (LMTO00000000.1)	Orange citrus	USA: San Gabriel	1.20138	1001	[80]
21	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	CHUC (VTLV00000000)	-	China	1.20845	1032	[67]

Sr. No	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter spp.	Strain	Host	Sample Origin	Genome Size (Mb)	Number CDS Present in the Genome	Reference
22	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	TX2351 (MTIM00000000)	Asian citrus psyllid	USA: Texas	1.252	1129	[82]
23	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	GFR3TX3 (VTLR00000000)	-	USA: Texas	1.20932	1013	[67]
24	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	HHCA16 (VTLY00000000)	-	USA: Hacienda Heights	1.20705	1012	[67]
25	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	MFL16 (VTLX00000000)	-	USA: Florida	1.19922	1012	[67]
26	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	DUR2TX1 (VTLS00000000)	-	USA: Texas	1.21232	1009	[67]
27	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	CRCFL16 (VTLW00000000)	-	USA: Florida	1.20828	1028	[67]
28	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	HHCA (JMIL00000000.2)	<i>Citrus</i> sp.	USA: Hacienda Heights	1.15062	867	[59]
29	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	TX1712 (QEWL00000000)	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	USA: Texas	1.20333	0	[83]
30	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	SGpsy (QFZJ00000000.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	USA: San Gabriel	0.769888	0	[61]
31	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	SGCA1 (QFZT00000000.1)		USA: San Gabriel	0.233414	557	[61]
32	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter asiaticus	YCPsy (LIIM00000000)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	Guangdong, China	1.233647	-	[80]
33	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter	PA19 (WOXD01000000)	Kinnow mandarin	Pakistan	1.224156	1059	[84]

Sr. No	Candidatus Liberibacter spp.	Strain	Host	Sample Origin	Genome Size (Mb)	Number CDS Present in the Genome	Reference
	asiaticus						
34	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	PA20 (WOUN01000000)	Kinnow mandarin	Pakistan	1.226225	1062	[84]
35	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	CoFLP1 (CP054558.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	Colombia: Municipio Dibulla	1.231639	1048	[64]
36	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	9PA (JABDRZ000000000.1)	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Brazil (South America)	1.231881	-	[85]
37	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	MFL16 (VTLX00000000)	Citrus	USA: Florida	1,199,225 bp	-	[67]
38	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	CRCFL16 (VTLW00000000)	Citrus	USA: Florida	1,208,280 bp [89]	-	[67] [90]
39	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	ReuSP1 (CP061535.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	France: La Reunion	1.230064	1043	[65]
40	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Tabriz.3(JAKQYA000000000.1)	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Iran: East Azerbaijan, Tabriz [88][90]	1.22409	589	-
41	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	YNHK-2 (WUUB01000000.1)	Citrus	China: Yunnan	1.08957	-	[86]
42	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	A-SBCA19 (JADBIB01000000.1)	<i>Diaphorinacitri</i>	USA: California, San Bernardino County	1.18688	1067	[87]
43	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter americanus</i>	Sao Paulo (NC_022793)	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Brazil	1.1952 [93]	945	[73]
44	<i>Candidatus Liberibacter americanus</i>	PW_SP	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Brazil: Sao Paulo	1.17607	924	-

response to exogenous SA [95]. The secretion and transport of the effector proteins in the host plant cells is one of the most important virulence factors of the bacterial pathogen [66]. The virulence factor CaLas5315 (Sec-delivered effector 1) hinders the papain-like cysteine protease's activity to suppress the defense mechanism of citrus. It also induces the callose deposition inside the vascular tissue, starch formation, chlorosis, and plant cell death after localization in the chloroplast of *Nicotiana benthamiana* [69][71][96]. Ying et al. (2019) have assessed 60 total putative virulence factors of CLAs and identified four candidates (detrimental virulence factors) which are responsible for

Sr. No	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter spp.	Strain	Host	Sample Origin	Genome Size (Mb)	Number CDS Present in the Genome	Reference
45	<i>Candidatus</i> Liberibacter africanus	PTSAPSY	Psyllid	South Africa: Pretoria	1.19223	1036	-

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