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## First Report of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' Associated with Huanglongbing on *Citrus latifolia* in Martinique and Guadeloupe, French West Indies

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### ABSTRACT

Huanglongbing is an unculturable vascular citrus pathogen transmitted from infected to healthy plants through grafting or by citrus psyllids *Diaphorina citri* and *Trioza erytreae*. Three species are associated based on the 16S rDNA sequence analysis: *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Las); *Ca. L. africanus* (Laf); and *Ca. L. americanus* (Lam). Despite the fact that Reunion Island has successfully controlled Las by introducing a psyllid parasitoid *Tamarixia radiata*, this was less effective or reproducible within other territories. *D. citri* was first detected in Guadeloupe in 1998 and in Martinique in 2012. A survey was organized by French National Plant Protection Organizations following report of symptoms in citrus orchards in Martinique and Guadeloupe, French West Indies. DNA extraction and PCR detection was performed on midribs using the species-specific A2/J5 and GB1/GB3 primers. Amplification fragment of 703 bp was sequenced and annotated by BLAST as Las specific. This confirms the presence of Huanglongbing in Martinique and Guadeloupe and represents the first report of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in the French West Indies.