In 2009 in Slovenia, an uncultivable cell-wall-less pathogenic bacterium of the class Mollicutes - a phytoplasma belonging to the 16SrV (Elm yellows) group was found in the mosaic leafhopper (Orientus ishidae) [Hemiptera, Cicadomorpha: Cicadellidae]. Molecular analyses showed that the phytoplasma isolates from O. ishidae resembled those of flavescence dorée (FD) phytoplasma strains, which are present in European grapevines. FD phytoplasmas in Europe are classified as quarantine organisms and are associated with the most important grapevine yellows disease flavescence dorée. FD's only known natural vector is the leafhopper Scaphoideus titanus [Hemiptera: Cicadellidae].

Molecular characteristics of phytoplasmas associated with Flavescence dorée in elm and grapevine and preliminary results on the role of Dicytaphara europaea as a vector. 

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