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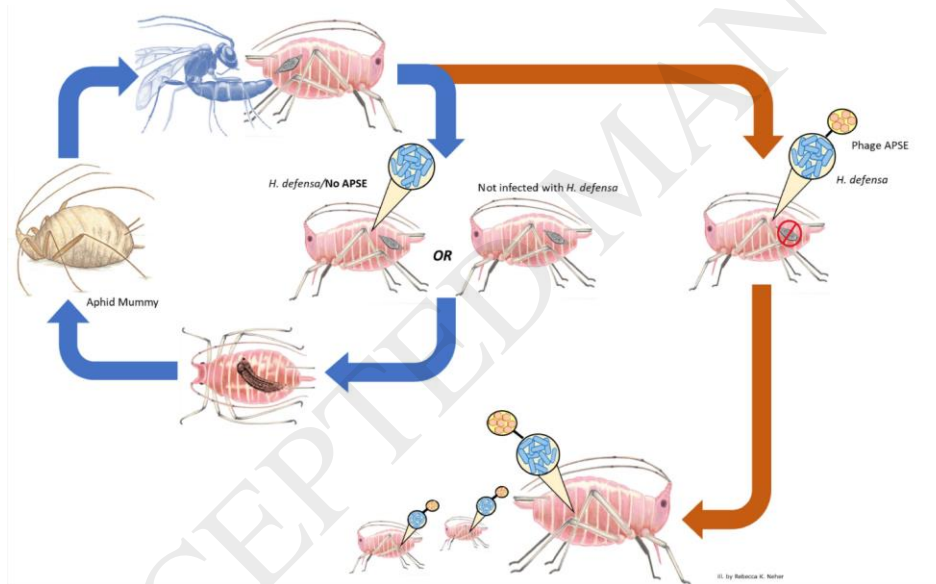
## Variations on a protective theme: *Hamiltonella defensa* infections in aphids variably impact parasitoid success

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### Graphical abstract



### Highlights

- *Hamiltonella defensa* is a bacterial symbiont protecting aphids against parasitoids
- APSE viruses infect *H. defensa* and play key roles in the defensive symbiosis
- Distinct *H. defensa* strains share similar gene inventories except mobile elements
- Defense levels are highly variable and depend on aphid, wasp and symbiont genotypes
- Range of factors limit *H. defensa* protection under ‘real-world’ conditions.

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