Mini data sheet on Ctenarytaina spatulata

Added in 2005 - Deleted in 2008

Reasons for deletion

Ctenarytaina spatulata rapidly spread on eucalyptus within the EPPO region and no efficient phytosanitary measures could be identified. In 2008, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Ctenarytaina spatulata (Homoptera: Psyllidae - Eucalyptus psyllid)

Why The Eucalyptus psyllid, Ctenarytaina spatulata, came to our attention because it

was recently introduced into several European countries.

Where *C. spatulata* originates from Australia but it has then spread to other parts of the

world. In Europe, it was first found in Portugal and later in other Mediterranean $\,$

countries.

EPPO region: France (Var in 2003), Italy (Liguria in 2003), Portugal (central part in 2002, widespread in 2003), Spain (Galicia in 2003, Extremadura and Andalucía

n 2004).

North America: USA (California in 1991). South America: Brazil (1992), Uruguay (1994). Oceania: Australia, New Zealand (1990).

On which plants

C. spatulata has been observed on many different species of Eucalyptus (e.g. E. camaldulensis, E. globulus, E. grandis, E. parvifolia, E. viminalis). In France and Italy, it was only seen on E. parvifolia which is cultivated for cut foliage. In Spain

it was found on *E. globulus*.

Damage

Adults and nymphs feed on plant sap. They are mainly found on mature shoots, especially in the apical part of the tree, in contrast with C. eucalypti which prefers young shoots. Attacked shoots show small necrotic lesions, proliferation of lateral shoots, leaf distortions. C. spatulata produces large amounts of honeydew on which sooty moulds can develop. In Brazil, it is suspected that C. spatulata could be involved in a growth disorder of E. grandis called 'seca dos ponteiros' (lateral sprouting, foliar spots, cankers at petiole insertion, tip dieback). This psyllid has several overlapping generations per year. First observations showed that C. spatulata is mainly present during winter and beginning of spring. In Galicia, 6 to 8 generations per year have been observed, each generation lasting approximately 50 days. For the moment, economic impact is difficult to assess, but in Liguria some producers had part of their production of cut foliage refused for selling or exporting because of the presence of honeydew and sooty mould. In Brazil and Uruguay, it is reported that severe damage is caused by both C. spatulata and C. eucalypti. C. spatulata is similar to C. eucalypti, but using a binocular several morphological characteristics can distinguish them.

Pictures of *C. spatulata* can be viewed on Internet: http://www.nzffa.org.nz/Eucalypt_pest_control/psyllids_text.html

Dissemination

Although data is lacking on the biology of *C. spatulata*, it can be assumed that winged adults can fly from plant to plant and that psyllids can also be dispersed by the wind. Over long distances, trade of infested plants and cut foliage can ensure *C. spatulata* dissemination.

Pathway Plants for planting, cut foliage of *Eucalyptus*.

Possible risks

Eucalyptus are widely planted for forestry and ornamental purposes around the Mediterranean Basin. No data is available on chemical control for *C. spatulata*. In southern France and northern Italy, it is noted that *C. eucalypti* is usually well controlled by an introduced hymenopteran parasitoid *Psyllaephagus pilosus*. But no data on the efficacy of this parasitoid against *C. spatulata* is available. Although, the economic impact of *C. spatulata* has not been assessed yet, it seems desirable to avoid whenever possible any further spread of this type of pest. It can also be added that other Eucalyptus psyllids are currently reported as

invasive species (e.g. *Glycaspis brimblecombei* (EPPO Alert List), *Blastopsylla occidentalis*).

Source(s)

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