

EPPO Datasheet: *Homalodisca vitripennis*

Last updated: 2021-03-09

Homalodisca vitripennis is a highly polyphagous pest that vectors [*Xylella fastidiosa*](#).

IDENTITY

Preferred name: *Homalodisca vitripennis*

Authority: (Germar)

Taxonomic position: Animalia: Arthropoda: Hexapoda: Insecta: Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha: Cicadellidae

Other scientific names: *Homalodisca coagulata* (Say), *Homalodisca triquetra* auctorum, *Tettigonia coagulata* Say, *Tettigonia vitripennis* Germar

Common names: glassy-winged sharpshooter

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EPPO Categorization: A1 list

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EU Categorization: Quarantine pest ((EU) 2019/2072 Annex II A)

EPPO Code: HOMLTR



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Notes on taxonomy and nomenclature

The taxonomic revision that synonymized *Homalodisca coagulata* with *H. vitripennis* is detailed in Takiya *et al.* (2006). *H. coagulata* was used in the scientific literature from 1958 following Young's reinstatement of *H. coagulata* as the valid name for the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Prior to the revision of Takiya *et al.* (2006) a considerable body of work on the ecology, management, and biology of the glassy-winged sharpshooter, published in the 1990s and early 2000s, refer to this pest as *H. coagulata*. As such, literature reviews on the glassy-winged sharpshooter should be conducted using *Homalodisca coagulata* and *Homalodisca vitripennis* as key words. The common name, sharpshooter, refers to species in the tribes Cicadellini (cosmopolitan in distribution but species richness is greatest in the neotropics) and Proconiini (restricted to the New World) within the subfamily Cicadellinae, which is contained in the family Cicadellidae within the Hemiptera.

HOSTS

Homalodisca vitripennis is xylophagous and this insect uses its needle-like mouthparts, specifically the maxillary stylets (Leopold *et al.*, 2003), to penetrate plant material to reach the xylem from which fluids are ingested. Xylem fluids are nutritionally poor and carbohydrates occur in very low concentrations. Amino acids and organic acids are the dominant compounds found in xylem fluid (Andersen *et al.*, 1992). Low quality food and xylem-fluid chemistry that fluctuates seasonally affect concentrations of essential nutrients. This, may in part, drive polyphagy and seasonal host use patterns exhibited by *H. vitripennis* (Andersen *et al.*, 1992). Total amino acids, amides, and glutamine in xylem fluid and xylem tension are correlated with feeding rates (Andersen *et al.*, 1992) which may influence choice of plants to feed on at different times of the year. These factors, especially xylem tension and the associated difficulty of extracting fluids, may have driven the evolution of large size in sharpshooters (e.g. Proconiini) as increasing body size mitigates energetic costs of feeding on this resource (Novotny and Wilson, 1997).

Consequently, *H. vitripennis* has been recorded feeding on more than 100 different hosts (Adlerz, 1980) in at least 37 different families (Hoddle *et al.*, 2003; Rathe *et al.*, 2012; Groenteman *et al.*, 2015; Turner and Pollard, 1959) that span across grasses to plants having woody branches. However, it is not clear how many of these feeding hosts can support the complete development of *H. vitripennis*, and there may be a requirement for nymphs to feed on different host plant species over the course of their lifetime (Andersen *et al.*, 1992; Sorensen and Gill, 1996). The host list of *H. vitripennis* includes some economically important plants (e.g. *Citrus limon*, *C. sinensis*, *Glycine max*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Juglans regia*, *Malus* spp., *Medicago sativa*, *Olea europaea*, *Persea americana*, *Prunus domestica*, *P. dulcis*, *P. persica*

, *Vaccinium* spp., *Vitis vinifera*, *Zea mays*) and some common ornamental species (e.g. *Camellia japonica*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Nerium oleander*).

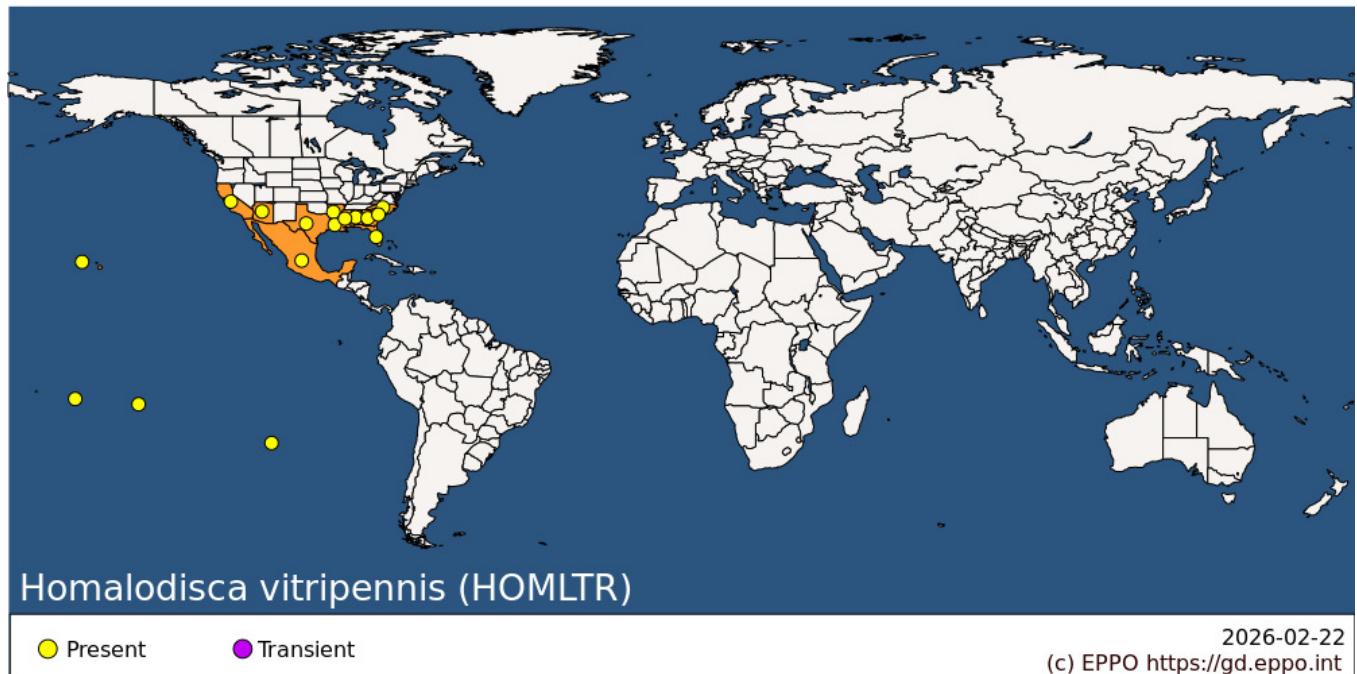
The known host lists that are available may not include plant species that *H. vitripennis* can feed and reproduce on should it invade and establish in new areas. There are three possible ways to proactively determine which novel host plant species *H. vitripennis* could potentially be exposed to and feed on should it invade a new region. Rathe *et al.* (2014) conducted a two-year garden experiment in California (USA), an area with invasive *H. vitripennis* populations, to assess the preference of this pest for native Australian plants that may be at risk of attack should *H. vitripennis* establish in Australia. Groenteman *et al.* (2015) surveyed botanic gardens, arboreta, and landscape plantings in commercial, recreational, and urban areas in California for evidence of *H. vitripennis* associations with native New Zealand plants. Both New Zealand and Australia are concerned about the biosecurity risks this pest poses to horticultural industries and native plants. Studies similar to those conducted by Rathe *et al.* (2014) and Groenteman *et al.* (2015) could also be run within the native range of *H. vitripennis* (i.e. the South-Eastern USA) instead of invaded areas (i.e. California). An alternative approach to field surveys to gauge risk to novel plant species from *H. vitripennis* is to conduct ecological niche modelling (e.g. CLIMEX) that assesses establishment likelihoods based on climate suitability for *H. vitripennis* populations (Hoddle, 2004; Rathe *et al.*, 2012; Charles and Logan, 2013) and degree-days required for development (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014). Predictive maps from models may provide insight into possible novel host plant species *H. vitripennis* would be exposed to should successful incursion, establishment, and spread occur in previously uncolonized areas.

Host list: *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Acer rubrum*, *Albizia julibrissin*, *Alcea rosea*, *Amaranthus hybridus*, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, *Asclepias* sp., *Asparagus officinalis*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Begonia* sp., *Bidens pilosa*, *Bucida buceras*, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, *Callicarpa americana*, *Camellia japonica*, *Campsis radicans*, *Carphophorus odoratissimus*, *Carya illinoensis*, *Cassia* sp., *Casuarina*, *Catalpa bignonioides*, *Catalpa* sp., *Cenchrus purpureus*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Cercis* sp., *Chenopodium album*, *Chrysanthemum x morifolium*, *Citrus* sp., *Citrus x aurantium* var. *sinensis*, *Citrus x limon*, *Clerodendrum indicum*, *Clusia* sp., *Codiaeum variegatum*, *Conocarpus erectus*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Cordyline fruticosa*, *Cotoneaster* sp., *Cycas* sp., *Dysphania ambrosioides*, *Elaeagnus* sp., *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*, *Erechtites hieraciifolius*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Eriobotrya japonica*, *Eucalyptus* sp., *Eupatorium capillifolium*, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, *Ficus benjamina*, *Ficus* sp., *Fortunella* sp., *Fraxinus* sp., *Gardenia* sp., *Gardenia taitensis*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Gladiolus* sp., *Glycine max*, *Gordonia lasianthus*, *Gossypium herbaceum*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Helianthus*, *Heptapleurum actinophyllum*, *Heterotheca subaxillaris*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Ilex glabra*, *Ilex vomitoria*, *Ilex*, *Indigofera hirsuta*, *Ipomoea*, *Jasminum mesnyi*, *Juglans regia*, *Lactuca canadensis*, *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, *Lantana camara*, *Leucadendron* sp., *Ligustrum* sp., *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ludwigia peruviana*, *Macadamia* sp., *Magnolia virginiana*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Mangifera indica*, *Manilkara roxburghiana*, *Medicago sativa*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, *Melaleuca viminalis*, *Melia azedarach*, *Mimosa* sp., *Mirabilis jalapa*, *Momordica charantia*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Myrica cerifera*, *Myrtus communis*, *Nerium oleander*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Oenothera laciniata*, *Oenothera simulans*, *Olea europaea*, *Olea* sp., *Ostrya virginiana*, *Parkinsonia aculeata*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Persea americana*, *Photinia* sp., *Phytolacca americana*, *Pinus* sp., *Pisum* sp., *Pittosporum* sp., *Platanus* sp., *Populus* sp., *Prunus angustifolia*, *Prunus caroliniana*, *Prunus domestica*, *Prunus dulcis*, *Prunus persica*, *Prunus serotina*, *Prunus* sp., *Psidium*, *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pyracantha coccinea*, *Pyracantha* sp., *Pyrus communis*, *Pyrus* sp., *Quercus laevis*, *Quercus* sp., *Quercus virginiana*, *Quercus*, *Rhus* sp., *Ricinus communis*, *Rosa* sp., *Rubus* sp., *Rudbeckia laciniata*, *Salix caroliniana*, *Salix*, *Sambucus canadensis*, *Sansevieria* sp., *Sassafras albidum*, *Schinus terebinthifolia*, *Senna occidentalis*, *Senna tora*, *Sida cordifolia*, *Sida rhombifolia*, *Smilax laurifolia*, *Solidago altissima*, *Solidago fistulosa*, *Solidago* sp., *Sonchus asper*, *Sorghum bicolor*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Spathodea campanulata*, *Swietenia mahagoni*, *Tetragonolobus* sp., *Thuja* sp., *Urena lobata*, *Vernicia fordii*, *Viburnum* sp., *Vigna unguiculata*, *Vitis munsoniana*, *Vitis vinifera*, *Vitis*, *Wisteria* sp., *Xanthium* sp., *Yucca aloifolia*, *Zea mays*, *x Citrofortunella microcarpa*

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Homalodisca vitripennis is native to the South-Eastern USA and North-Eastern Mexico (Triapitsyn and Phillips, 2000). Within this native range there is high variability in *H. vitripennis* abundance, with it being more common in Eastern Texas, Georgia, and Northern Florida, and less common in Central and South Florida and North-Eastern Mexico (e.g. Tamaulipas) (Triapitsyn and Phillips, 2000). Sometime in the 1980s, *H. vitripennis* was accidentally

introduced into Southern California (USA), most likely through the trade in live ornamental plants that originated from the South-East USA (Blua *et al.*, 1999; Sorensen and Gill, 1996). This pest has exhibited high invasion potential since its introduction in California. In 1999, *H. vitripennis* established in Tahiti and rapidly spread through French Polynesia (Grandgirard *et al.*, 2006). In 2004, *H. vitripennis* was recorded from Hawaii, and then from Easter Island and the Cook Islands in 2005 and 2007, respectively (Petit *et al.*, 2008; Rathe *et al.*, 2015). Movement of live plants was the most likely conduit for long distance movement into new areas of the South Pacific. *H. vitripennis* egg masses on the undersides of leaves were probably the life stage that were moved undetected into new areas (Petit *et al.*, 2009). Long distance movement of adult *H. vitripennis* in the absence of host plant material via aircraft may also be possible, but the fitness of surviving females may be compromised as a result of lack of food and low temperature exposure in cargo storage areas (Rathe *et al.*, 2015).



North America: Mexico, United States of America (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas)

South America: Chile (Easter Island)

Oceania: Cook Islands, French Polynesia

BIOLOGY

Feeding Biology

H. vitripennis is a specialist xylem feeder and as a result of this xylophagy this pest exhibits an extremely high rate of feeding on nutritionally poor foods. Adult *H. vitripennis* can ingest up to 100 – 300 times their dry body weight in xylem fluid per day, and the larger-sized females tend to feed more than males (Brodbeck *et al.*, 1993; Redak *et al.*, 2004). Xylem fluids are nutritionally poor, however, extraction of amino acids, organic acids, and sugars ingested by sharpshooters, including *H. vitripennis*, is very efficient, approaching 99% (Andersen *et al.*, 1989), and resulting excreta, which is copious, is primarily water, and is referred to as sharpshooter ‘rain’ (Blua *et al.*, 1999). Sharpshooters engage in labial dabbing as they explore plant surfaces for feeding sites. Should a suitable feeding site be found, stylets are inserted intracellularly, in a nearly straight line, which allows rapid, sometimes within 1-2 minutes on suitable hosts, location of the xylem (Krugner *et al.*, 2019). While probing, sharpshooters release two types of saliva, one type hardens and forms the salivary sheath that encloses the stylets, and the second is a digestive saliva that contains enzymes which loosen the xylem wall allowing access to internal xylem fluids (Krugner *et al.*, 2019).

Host Plant Selection

Movement of *H. vitripennis* in the environment is driven by insect behaviour and host plant quality which varies temporally due to fluctuating xylem chemistry. *H. vitripennis* may use visual cues to initiate landing behaviours, and the presence of conspecifics on host plants may be one such stimulus (Mizell *et al.*, 2012). Host plant quality affects attraction and retention rates with high quality host plants increasing patch residence times for *H. vitripennis* (Northfield *et al.*, 2009). Dispersal capacity and host plant selection has been assessed in the field using mark-recapture techniques. *H. vitripennis* can move about 100-150 m over a 24-hour period (Krugner *et al.*, 2019) and insects may aggregate on preferred host plants. Aggregation may be a response to plant species and vigour, which, with respect to peach trees in the South-East USA, trees in decline appear to induce aggregation by *H. vitripennis* (Krugner *et al.*, 2019). In California, overwintering *H. vitripennis* populations tend to be greatest in citrus. These overwintering aggregations in citrus pose a significant threat to vineyards that are in close proximity to citrus orchards as *H. vitripennis* migrate from overwintering sites into grape production areas and this movement is correlated with outbreaks of Pierce's disease, a lethal disorder of grapes caused by a xylem-dwelling bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa*, that *H. vitripennis* vectors (see section on Pest Significance below). Irvin and Hoddle (2004) speculate that host plant oviposition preferences by *H. vitripennis*, particularly with respect to lemons, may be affected by leaf thickness and leaf surface topography.

Reproductive Behaviour and Biology

Sharpshooters lack pheromones for long range attraction (Krugner *et al.*, 2019) and detection of conspecifics for mating occurs through acoustic communication via vibrational signals that are transmitted through host plant substrates (Nieri *et al.*, 2017). For vibrational communication to be effective, conspecifics need to be on the same plant, or if on separate plants, the plants need to be in contact for signal transmission to occur. Vibrational communications tend to be initiated by female *H. vitripennis* and males respond which results in a communication duet of female-male calls (Nieri *et al.*, 2017). Physical courtship behaviour between males and females takes on average about 6 mins to complete and copulation lasts for about 165 mins (Hix, 2001). Females are receptive to mating 96 hrs post-eclosion, however, some females may not copulate until 14 days post-eclosion. Females mate once and males tend to mate multiple times (Hix, 2001). Following mating, females engage in a variety of behaviours that result in the deposition of a chalky white material, brochosomes, being excreted from the anus, which is then prepared through kneading with tarsi for deposition on the hindwings where it appears as two distinct white spots (Hix, 2001). Following brochosome deposition on wings, females commence searching for suitable oviposition sites. To oviposit eggs, females use the ovipositor to make a slit in the epidermis on the underside of the leaf into which the ovipositor is inserted. Eggs tend to be deposited sequentially in pairs (Hix, 2001) under the epidermis next to the parenchyma (Irvin and Hoddle, 2004) and the oviposition slit in the epidermis is enlarged to accommodate additional eggs (Hix, 2001). Females, on average, oviposit about 12-13 eggs per egg mass (for odd numbers of eggs, a single egg is always deposited last), a process which takes about 48 mins, on average, to complete (Hix, 2001). Each time eggs are laid, the female removes brochosomes from the wings, and this white powder is used to cover the newly oviposited eggs (Hix, 2001). Several functions have been proposed for brochosomes covering sharpshooter egg masses. These potential uses include protection of eggs from desiccation, UV light, egg parasitoids and predators, and entomopathogenic fungi, and possibly to advertise to other females that suitable oviposition sites have already been used (Hix, 2001). It has been demonstrated experimentally that brochosomes are a hindrance to parasitoids that attack *H. vitripennis* eggs (Velema *et al.*, 2005). Interestingly, unmated females do not secrete brochosomes (Hix, 2001). Hummel *et al.* (2006a,b,c) describe female *H. vitripennis* genitalia, reproductive organs, and seasonal patterns of reproductive physiology that can be assessed to determine the probable number of *H. vitripennis* generations per year. In the laboratory at 25°C, reproductively active, females are capable of laying an average of around 214 eggs over their lifetime (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014). *H. vitripennis* overwinter as reproductively inactive adults (Hummel *et al.*, 2006c).

Developmental Biology

H. vitripennis has seven life stages: eggs, five nymphal instars, and adults (males and females). Development times, fecundity, longevity, and stage specific survivorship rates are strongly affected by temperature (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014). The degree-day requirements for *H. vitripennis* development together with estimates of upper, lower, and optimal temperature limits have been determined in the laboratory across a range of constant temperatures (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014). These data have been used to calculate average time in days for developmental stages, stage-specific survivorship rates, adult longevity, and fecundity. These data, in part, allowed the calculation of key life table parameters (e.g. net reproductive rate, R_0) for *H. vitripennis* under constant temperatures in the laboratory (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014; Sétamou and Jones, 2005). Practical application of these data enables estimation of the

number of generations *H. vitripennis* is likely to have in a given area, understanding incursion risk and establishment of year-round populations, and for optimizing laboratory rearing conditions (Pilkington *et al.*, 2014; Sétamou and Jones, 2005).

DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Symptoms

Sharpshooter 'rain' is excreta composed almost entirely of water that is excreted by feeding nymphs and adults. When *H. vitripennis* populations are heavy, 'rain' is easily seen and readily felt landing on skin and hair when standing under infested trees. Video of *H. vitripennis* rain in Tahiti is available [here](#). Copious amounts of excreta can dry on leaves and fruit which results in a chalky white powdery appearance. Adult and nymphal sharpshooters are large and easily visible but tend to move in a quick shuffling like motion around twigs or branches to hide when being observed. Adults readily fly if disturbed unexpectedly and they are attracted to lights at night. High densities of feeding sharpshooters may reduce plant vigour and adversely affect fruit production.

Morphology

Eggs

Female *H. vitripennis* lay eggs on the underside of leaves. The ovipositor is used to make a slit in the epidermis and eggs are deposited underneath the epidermis. Eggs are approximately 2mm in length (Hummel *et al.*, 2006b), and are laid in batches of around 12-13 eggs (Hix, 2001). Eggs laid in a batch are collectively referred to as an egg mass.

Nymphs

H. vitripennis has five nymphal instars and undergo four moults to reach the fifth instar. Nymphs tend to be greyish with reddish eyes. Nymphs are flightless and wing pads enlarge after each successive moult. Sétamou and Jones (2005) provide measurements for head capsule widths, hind tibia and body lengths for nymphs.

Adults

Adults are mottled brown/black in coloration and approximately 1cm in length (Sétamou and Jones, 2005). Young adults tend to have reddish wings which darken as they age, and this phenomenon may be useful for estimating adult age (Timmons *et al.*, 2011). Mated females anoint their hindwings with white brochosomes and these appear as vivid white dots (Hix, 2001).

Detection and inspection methods

Egg masses, nymphs and adults can be detected via visual inspections of plants. However, this is time-consuming and movement of foliage will disturb nymphs and adults causing them to abandon plants. Egg masses covered with white brochosomes are easier to detect visually than egg masses that lack brochosomes. Adult *H. vitripennis* are attracted to yellow sticky cards and cards are an excellent passive method of detection. Sweep netting of foliage will capture adults and nymphs.

PATHWAYS FOR MOVEMENT

The highest risk pathway for movement of *H. vitripennis* eggs, nymphs, and adults is the movement of live plants which has almost certainly resulted in the accidental translocation of *H. vitripennis* over vast distances into new areas. Adults may be moved to new areas inside of aircraft, but this is probably a lower risk pathway when compared to live plant movement (Rathe *et al.*, 2015).

PEST SIGNIFICANCE

Economic impact

The most significant economic problem associated with *H. vitripennis* is the vectoring of xylem-dwelling bacteria that cause scorch-like diseases in economically important crops (e.g. grapes) and ornamental plants (e.g. oleander). A notorious example is *Xylella fastidiosa*, the causative agent of Pierce's Disease of grapes, which is vectored by *H. vitripennis*.

With respect to Pierce's Disease in California, *H. vitripennis* increased disease severity because high density populations increased vectoring capacity. Its natural dispersal capabilities are substantially greater than smaller native sharpshooter species (e.g., *Graphocephala atropunctata*), it exploits a diverse array of native and exotic plants for feeding and reproduction than native vectors, and adult *H. vitripennis* have been demonstrated to engage in plant-to-plant spread of *X. fastidiosa* that results in rapid bacterial spread and disease outbreaks (CDFA, 2019).

In response to the threat the *H. vitripennis*-*X. fastidiosa* combination poses, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has implemented a rigorous management program to contain the spread of *H. vitripennis* that could be accidentally moved on ornamental and nursery stock plants that originate in Southern California and are shipped to Northern California where wine grape production is concentrated (CDFA, 2019). This program has been ongoing for more than 20 years and is comprised of five major components: (1) containing spread of *H. vitripennis* from infested areas into non-infested regions, (2) statewide survey and detection programs for incursions, (3) rapid response reactions to confirmed detections (18 incipient *H. vitripennis* populations have been eradicated as part of this program), (4) research into *H. vitripennis* and *X. fastidiosa* management (34.3 million USD has been used to fund 225 research projects), and (5) environmental compliance reviews to ensure that management activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner (CDFA, 2019).

This high level of investment has been needed because of the enormous economic value of crops that are at risk from strains of *X. fastidiosa* that *H. vitripennis* is capable of vectoring. With respect to grapes in California, Pierce's disease threatens a crop with production value of 6.25 billion USD and associated economic activity (e.g. vineyard tours and associated wine-related tourism) of approximately 57.6 billion USD. Other crops such as almonds (5.47 billion USD) and citrus (1.12 billion USD), stone fruits (885 million USD), and ornamental shade trees are also at risk, either from the strains of *X. fastidiosa* found in California, or from related strains found elsewhere in the world that could accidentally enter, establish, and be spread by *H. vitripennis* in California (e.g. citrus variegated chlorosis caused by *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* (CDFA, 2019). Economic forecasting studies suggest that failure to contain and control *H. vitripennis* would cost the grape industry more than 180 million USD annually (Alston *et al.*, 2013). Additionally, costs to industries, such as producers of ornamental plants, to mitigate *H. vitripennis* movement and to meet quarantine regulations for shipping plants, have been substantial (Jetter *et al.*, 2014).

In French Polynesia, high density uncontrolled *H. vitripennis* populations caused significant social and environmental problems. At night adult sharpshooters invaded houses in the hundreds by flying through open windows in response to being attracted to lights. A regular morning routine was the sweeping up and removal of dead adults littering floors and verandas. Other annoyances were caused by adult sharpshooters landing on exposed skin and 'biting' people as sweat glands were probed and auditory irritation caused by flying adults 'buzzing' around ears and heads, especially at night when home invasions occurred. Production (quality and quantity) of some fruit species (e.g., mangoes) reportedly declined due to large feeding populations of *H. vitripennis*. These purported impacts on fruit production were not quantified.

Alarmingly, *H. vitripennis* was documented as having a negative impact on native spider populations in French Polynesia. Lab and field studies indicated that *H. vitripennis* adults and nymphs were toxic to some species of spider that consumed them. The mechanism underlying this putative toxic effect is unknown (Suttle and Hoddle, 2006).

Control

A variety of control options are available for managing *H. vitripennis*. Insecticides are effective, especially low rates of systemic insecticides. However, excessive use over long periods of time results in resistance development (Andreasen *et al.*, 2018). Cultural control approaches have investigated the use of barriers to reduce immigration rates of *H. vitripennis* into vineyards (Blua *et al.*, 2005). Attempts at behavioural control have used vibrational

interference to reduce the likelihood of mating success in vineyards (Krugner and Gordon, 2018). Significant permanent control of high density invasive *H. vitripennis* populations has been rapidly achieved through importation (= classical) biological with the mymarid egg parasitoid *Cosmocomoidea ashmeadi* (Girault) (formerly *Gonatocerus ashmeadi* Girault) (Grandgirard *et al.*, 2008). This natural enemy is a key component that is necessary for sustainable control of *H. vitripennis*.

Phytosanitary risk

H. vitripennis is a significant phytosanitary risk primarily because it vectors xylem-dwelling bacteria, such as *Xylella fastidiosa*, that have the potential to cause significant scorch-like plant diseases (e.g. Pierce's Disease of grapes, almond leaf scorch, oleander leaf scorch, and diseases of olives). As *X. fastidiosa* outbreaks have been detected in the EPPO region, the possible introduction of a polyphagous and effective vector such as *H. vitripennis* would further complicate disease management.

PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Phytosanitary measures to mitigate invasion risk need to revolve around the managing hazards associated with the trade and exchange of live plants which have the potential to move *H. vitripennis* from areas where it is established into regions where it is not currently present. If not already covered by specific phytosanitary requirements, it can be generally recommended that plants to be used in planting programs and are known hosts of *H. vitripennis* should come from areas that are free of the pest, or that have been produced and transported under conditions that significantly reduce the likelihood of accidental pest infestation.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This datasheet was prepared in 2021 by Mark Hoddle, University of California, Riverside. His valuable contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

How to cite this datasheet?

EPPO (2026) *Homalodisca vitripennis*. EPPO datasheets on pests recommended for regulation. Available online. <https://gd.eppo.int>

Datasheet history

This datasheet was first published online in 2021. It is maintained in an electronic format in the EPPO Global Database. The sections on 'Identity', 'Hosts', and 'Geographical distribution' are automatically updated from the database. For other sections, the date of last revision is indicated on the right.



Co-funded by the
European Union