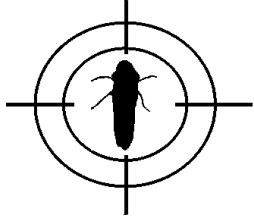

Kern-Tulare

GWSS Update



*A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties.
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Web sites: www.kernag.com/kpp.htm and www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

June 15, 2002

Mission, Texas station makes progress in rearing new species of

GWSS natural enemies

Nine consecutive generations of glassy-winged sharpshooters (GWSS) have been produced in Mission, Texas, since February-March 2001. Several experiments are underway to better understand the reproductive biology of this insect pest and help improve some more aspects of our rearing technique.

Six independent cultures of the native parasitoids *Gonatocerus ashmeadi*, *G. triguttatus* and *G. morrilli* are currently maintained in Mission. One of these species has not been formally identified yet.

The wasps originate from California, south Texas and northeast Mexico. Several generations (one to five) of each species have already been produced in our laboratory using GWSS eggs. Two more species should be received from researcher David Morgan as soon as production is high enough to allow it.

Species collected in Argentina. In addition, several exotic parasitoid species are being cultured in quarantine. Three species originate from Tafi Viejo, Argentina. They were collected in late March 2002 (two shipments) and have now reproduced for four to five generations on GWSS eggs. Serguei Triapitsyn recently provided a formal identification for one of these species. The other two still lack a name but are morphologically different, and therefore recognizable. Thanks to Triapitsyn's help, we were able to eliminate any mixed species colonies and one duplicate colony.

Parasitoids from Peru. A shipment was also received in May from La Merced, Peru. Even though the biomailer was lost for two weeks and materials arrived in very bad conditions, we were able to save what seem to be two different parasitoid species. These wasps also attacked GWSS and are now undergoing the second generation. Efforts are being made to propagate these species to numbers that will allow parasitoid identification.

A series of preliminary tests have been performed in order to adjust experimental methodologies. Studies of the biology and behavior of these natural enemies of GWSS are expected to initiate without further delays.

—Isabelle Lauzière, Entomologist, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Find GWSS program maps online

Maps for the Kern Pilot Project and Area-wide Management Program are available online at:
<ftp://ftp.netxn.com/pub/agcom/gwss/fromCDFA/>. (FYI: These are large files.)

New e-mail address for Kern's ag department

The Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards has a new e-mail address: agcomm@co.kern.ca.us

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