

Nota Científica

Psyllaephagus trioziphagus (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae), a *Mastigimas anjosi* parasitoid (Hemiptera: Calophyidae)

Valmir Antonio Costa¹, Dalva Luiz de Queiroz², Norivaldo dos Anjos Silva³

¹Instituto Biológico, Rod. Heitor Penteado, km 3, CEP 13092-543, Campinas, SP, Brasil

²Embrapa Florestas, Estrada da Ribeira, km 111, C. P. 319, CEP 83411-000, Colombo, PR, Brasil

³Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Departamento de Biologia Animal, Casa dos Cupins, Av. P. H. Rolfs, s/n, Campus, CEP 36570-000, Viçosa, MG, Brasil

*Autor correspondente:
dalva.queiroz@embrapa.br

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Abstract - *Psyllaephagus trioziphagus* (Howard, 1885) was first observed feeding from *Mastigimas anjosi* Burckhardt et al., 2011 immatures, with just one parasitoid on each insect. This parasitoid was previously reported from Canada to Brazil. Although it is not host-specific, it may be a useful agent to control *M. anjosi* in Brazil.

Psyllaephagus trioziphagus (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae), parasitoide de *Mastigimas anjosi* (Hemiptera: Calophyidae)

Resumo - *Psyllaephagus trioziphagus* (Howard, 1885) foi observado pela primeira vez parasitando imaturos de *Mastigimas anjosi* Burckhardt et al., 2011, com apenas um parasitoide em cada imaturo. Este parasitoide foi previamente reportado desde o Canadá até o Brasil. Apesar de não ser hospedeiro específico, pode representar um agente útil no controle de *M. anjosi* no Brasil.

The Australian Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata* M. var. *australis* Roemer (F. Muell) Bahadur) is a Meliaceae commonly cultivated in Brazil to produce noble wood. Its wood is similar to the Brazilian cedar (*Cedrela odorata* L.) and to other species of *Cedrela* (Meliaceae). Despite being planted in several Brazilian states, few insects were reported as harmful to this essential tree. In 2010 and 2011, however, an intense attack of a psyllid species occurred in leaves and pointers of the Australian cedar trees grown commercially in the states of Minas Gerais (cities of Ouro Branco, Conselheiro Lafaiete and Florestal) and São Paulo (city of Bananal) (Burckhardt et al., 2011). The psyllid was identified as *Mastigimas anjosi* Burckhardt et al., 2011 (Figure 1).

The attack of this psyllid causes winding, deformation, chlorosis, spots and necrosis in leaflets (Figure 2). The leaflets attacked became yellow, withered and fell off. The attack of the psyllids cause the premature fall of the leaflets from the apex to the base of the leaf and the tree. The premature loss of leaves causes excessive lateral sprout, with subsequent loss of the apical dominance and super sprouting of the trees. Besides these damages, the immatures secrete a flocculent wax that accumulates on the leaflets, petioles and young branches. These waxes and sugary excretions expelled by psyllids favor the development of sooty mould, which covers leaves and buds, reducing photosynthesis. Attacked buds become dry and brittle, which facilitates the breakdown of trees by the wind (Queiroz et al., 2013).



Photo: Dalva Queiroz

Figure 1. Adult *Mastigimas anjosi* (lateral view of a male).

In the outbreaks reported in the state of Minas Gerais (Queiroz et al., 2013), predators (Chrysopidae and Syrphidae) and parasitoids were also observed. The predators were observed along the *M. anjosi* colonies and, in some cases, Syrphidae larvae were observed attacking the psyllid nymph.

Some fifth instar *M. anjosi* nymphs were collected in the field in the cities of Ouro Branco and Conselheiro Lafaiete, Minas Gerais, and placed in Petri dishes for parasitoids emergence.

The parasitoids were identified as *Psyllaephagus trioziphagus* (Howard, 1885) (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae) (Figure 3), according to the concept of Noyes & Hanson (1996).



Photo: Valmir Costa

Figure 3. Female parasitoids *Psyllaephagus trioziphagus*.

P. trioziphagus obtained from *M. anjosi*, the face of females is metallic blue; Noyes & Hanson (1996) and Myartseva et al. (2003) referred to it as metallic green, but according to the original description (Howard, 1885) it is Howard (1885) described it as metallic blue. Another observed variation is that the mesh of the cross-linked



Photo: Dalva Queiroz

Figure 2. *Mastigimas anjosi* colonies with wax, on the bottom of the leaves of *Toona ciliata* in Conselheiro Lafaiete, Minas Gerais, Brazil, April 2014.

sculpture of the tegument scutellum is longitudinally reticulate in some areas of the scutum, different than the one mentioned by Myartseva et al. (2003). The copies Parasitoid specimens were deposited in the Collection of Entomophagous Insects “Oscar Monte”, of the Biological Institute, established in Campinas, São Paulo, in the Biological Control Laboratory.

This parasitoid has occurrence records in Brazil (states of Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo), Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, the USA, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Noyes & Hanson (1996) recorded this parasitoids for the following hosts: Calophyidae: “*Mastigimas ernsti* (Schw.)” [= *Mastigimas ernstii* (Schwarz, 1899)] in Cuba and *Mastigimas* sp. in Costa Rica; Triozidae: “*Trioza diospyri* (Asmead)” [= *Baeoalitrionus diospyri* (Ashmead, 1881)] in the USA, “*Trioza* sp. aff. *Maritima*” [= *Trioza* cf. *maritima* Tuthill, 1944] and *Trioza* sp. in Costa Rica, as well as “*Triozoidea* on guava” [= *Triozoidea limbata* (Enderlein, 1918)] in Brazil. This parasitoid was observed in the states of São Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul, in *T. limbata* immatures, in commercial orchards of guava trees (Melo, 2009; Sá & Fernandes, 2015).

Psyllaephagus trioziphagus females (Figure 3) are around 1.3 mm long, and their predominant color is copper-brown, with dorsum of thorax metallic green and scutellum with a coppery or purple sheen. Scape and pedicel black with slight metallic sheen, flagellum brown. Femora dark brown and tibiae yellow; the wings are hyaline. Males are slightly smaller, about 1.0 mm long; they are similar to females in color and have

antennae with shorter pedicel and scape and a flatter flagellum.

Although *P. trioziphagus* is not specific, this parasitoid represents a promising natural enemy for the integrated management of *M. anjosi*.

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