

Pest Fact Sheet

Introduction: This species was first detected in California in September of 2021 on a stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) in San Diego County, and since has been found on multiple stone pines and on Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) in several cities of the same County.

Distribution: Native to the eastern United States (reported from most states east of the Mississippi River and west to North Dakota, Colorado, and Texas), Canada, and Mexico. It has been introduced to France, Italy, and the Caribbean.

Description: Adult females are hemispherical, oval when feeding on the bark to elongate when on the needles, reddish-brown with black or dark brown stripes or speckled with dark spots to uniform dark brown at maturity, and superficially resemble other soft scales on pine trees in California. Microscopically they can be recognized by the presence of dorsal pore plates with bilocular pores in clusters and spiracular setae not differing from marginal setae.

Biology: Reproduction is sexual, females have three nymphal instars and males four. The number of annual generations depends on the climate; in temperate areas there is one and females overwinter under the bark, in warmer areas two to four, and in tropical areas five or more.

Hosts and economic importance: Known to feed on multiple pine tree species (*Pinus*, Pinaceae). It produces copious amounts of honeydew which covers needles and trunks and gives rise to sooty mold growth, weakening the trees and causing yellowing and premature fall of the needles, branch die back, health decline, and death of susceptible trees. It is contributing to the decline and mortality of stone pines in Europe, and is causing 95% tree mortality and changing the ecology in large areas of the Caribbean islands.

References:

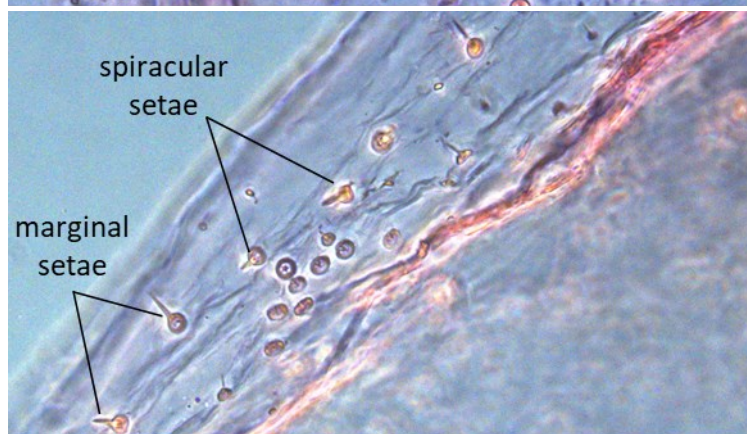
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Adult females on a pine tree in San Diego Co. (N. Orsi)



dorsal pore plates



spiracular setae

marginal setae