2008 Washington State Surveys for Apple Clearwing Moth, an Old World Bark-feeding Sesiid New to North America

Eric LaGasa\textsuperscript{1}, James Marra\textsuperscript{2}, John Garman\textsuperscript{3}, Sue Welch\textsuperscript{3}, Diane MacLean\textsuperscript{3}, Steve Erbs\textsuperscript{3}, Ed Lissowski\textsuperscript{4}, Skip Steinmetz\textsuperscript{5}, and Don Brunnsen\textsuperscript{3}

Background

The first established population of the apple clearwing moth (ACM), \textit{Synanthedon myopaeformis} Borkhausen (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) (Figure 1.) in North America was identified in 2005, in British Columbia, Canada. Since then, distribution of ACM has been determined to include areas east and west of the Cascade Mountains in southern B.C. as well as in Whatcom County in Northwestern Washington State, the first U.S. occurrence of this exotic species.

ACM is a European pest of apple and other Rosaceous trees, damaging host plants via larval feeding in the bark on the trunk and branches. Larval development usually takes two years in our climate, and attacks are usually associated with entry sites around pruning wounds, mechanical damage, or graft unions. Larval frass is kept in larval galleries (not extruded) and external signs of infestation may be inconspicuous.

In 2008, two USDA APHIS Cooperative Ag Pest Survey (CAPS) surveys were funded to determine the extent of ACM occurrence in Washington State.

2008 Project Objectives

1. Delimit the currently infested area in Northwestern Washington.
2. Detect ACM presence in selected counties and at commercial nurseries that imported foreign apple stock in recent years.

Project Methods and Materials

Pherocon 2\textsuperscript{®} type (diamond) sticky-traps were used, baited with pheromone-lures provided by the USDA APHIS Otis Methods Development Center. Lures consisted of 1 mg of Z3,Z13-18:AC (peach tree borer lure) on a hexane-rinsed grey septa, and were changed every four weeks or less.

Pheromone-lure-baited traps were placed at a total of 603 locations statewide, including; Whatcom County and contiguous counties south to King, Okanogan County, bordering on known ACM-infested areas of B.C., Canada, and at commercial nurseries with a history of importation of foreign apple stock (Table 1). Trap sites were in roadside, residential yard, or commercial apple trees (\textit{Malus spp.}). Traps were placed in May or June and inspected about every two to three weeks until late August or September.

All field data in this survey was recorded on Treo650\textsuperscript{®} cellphones with PalmOS\textsuperscript{®} capability, using SmartList\textsuperscript{®} vers.3.0 and Cetus vers.2.1 connected by Bluetooth\textsuperscript{®} to a PalmOne\textsuperscript{®} GPS receiver and sent to WSDA managing offices via email (as attachments).

Table 1. 2008 ACM Traps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th># of Trap Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whatcom</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skagit</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okanogan</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakima</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Total</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Project Results and Discussion

ACM was not detected in any location outside of Whatcom County in this 2008 survey. Distribution of sites trapped in Eastern and Western Washington is presented in Figures 2 and 3 respectively.

In Whatcom County, ACM adults were captured in the northeastern portion of the populated area of the county, with total moths captured at positive sites ranging from 1 to a high of 53 (Figure 3).

Examination of apple trees at positive ACM sites in Whatcom County did find ACM larvae present in callous tissue around corky graft-unions on abandoned orchard trees (Figure 5), which is consistent with larval damage seen in B.C., Canada.

Identification of clearwing moths captured in this survey was somewhat complicated by the diversity of species attracted to the peachtree borer lure used in this survey, several of which are similar in overall appearance. Species captured are listed in Table 2, and among the non-target species recorded, the Birch and alder borer, which is the most similar species (to ACM), was also the most abundant.

A single specimen of the eastern apple tree pest, Dogwood borer (Synanthedon scitula), was also detected at one of the nursery sites surveyed, and followup detection/delimiting survey is planned for the site. Dogwood borer, native to Eastern North America, is not known to occur in the west.

Diagnostic resources for identification of ACM and the various non-target species collected in this survey are included as appendices at the end of this report, as are larger format versions of survey maps.

Table 2. Sesiid Species Collected in 2008 ACM Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Total Collected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacria</td>
<td>liliae</td>
<td>Cottonwood crown borer</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>albicornis</td>
<td>Willow stem borer</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>oliviaformia</td>
<td>Birch and alder borer</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>exilis</td>
<td>Peachtree borer</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>mycopsisformia</td>
<td>Apple clearwing moth</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>novaroriae</td>
<td>Douglas-fir pitch moth</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>polypori</td>
<td>Buckwheat root borer</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synanthedon</td>
<td>scitula</td>
<td>Dogwood borer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pertinent Literature / References


ACM in B.C., Canada;
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/clearwing.htm

Distribution / Content Note

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1 Eric LaGasa, Chief Entomologist
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Pest Program / Plant Protection Division
P.O. Box 42560 - 1111 Washington Street
Olympia, Washington 98504-2560
(360) 902-2063  FAX (360) 902-2094
elagasa@agr.wa.gov

2 James Marra, Managing Entomologist
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Pest Program / Plant Protection Division
3939 Cleveland Avenue
Olympia, Washington 98501
(360) 586-8456  FAX (360) 586-8509
jmarra@agr.wa.gov

3 Entomology Techs (temp) - WSDA Pest Program, Olympia and Yakima, WA
4 Pest Biologist 2 - WSDA Pest Program, Yakima, WA
5 Pest Program Field Supervisor - WSDA Pest Program, Yakima, WA
(All can be contacted via the senior authors).
Appendix 1. Synanthedon species male genitalic identification characters.
Appendix 2. *Synanthedon myopaeformis* and *S. culiciformis* (male) identification characters.
Appendix 3. 2008 Washington State Apple Clearwing Moth Survey Sites