

Note on *Glycaspis brimblecombei* Moore (Hemiptera Psyllidae): A new pest of *Eucalyptus* in Greece*

Antonios E. Tsagkarakis^{1#}, Argyro P. Kalaitzaki², Georgios N. Balotis³

¹Laboratory of Agricultural Zoology and Entomology, Agricultural University of Athens, Athens, Greece;

[#]Corresponding Author: atsagarakis@aua.gr

²Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Chania, Greece

³Institute of Agronomical Sciences, Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Kifissia, Greece

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ABSTRACT

Leaves of eucalyptus infested by *Glycaspis brimblecombei* Moore were found on river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and blue gum (*E. globulus*) trees in Attiki and Chania region, Greece. The psyllid is recorded for the first time in Greece. Brief information about this psyllid is provided.

KEYWORDS

Red Gum Lerp Psyllid; First Record; *Eucalyptus globulus*; *E. camaldulensis*

The red gum lerp psyllid, *Glycaspis brimblecombei*, is one of the 137 species of the genus *Glycaspis* Taylor, which is associated with *Eucalyptus* spp. [1]. Having origin from Australia [2], it uses several eucalyptus species as hosts, with a preference on *E. camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis* [3-6]. In the late 1990's and during 2000's, it was introduced into a number of countries in the Americas: USA in 1998 [6], Mexico in 2000 [6], Chile in 2002 [7], Brazil in 2003 [8], Argentina [9], Ecuador [10], Venezuela [11], Peru [12]. Later on it was detected in Europe: The Iberian Peninsula [13-15] and Italy [16].

The exact time of arrival of *G. brimblecombei* in Greece is not known. This species, as mentioned above, is present in Italy [16] and probably was accidentally brought in from the above mentioned country. It was added to the EPPO Alert List in 2002, but deleted in 2006 (the alert had been given for 3 years and no further action was taken) [16].

*During publishing of the present manuscript, an article on the presence of *Glycaspis brimblecombei* was published by Bella and Rapisarda, 2013.

Eucalyptus leaves infested by *G. brimblecombei*, with crystal-white coverings on them (**Plate 1**), were collected from Attiki, Central Greece (Pefki, 01.06.13; Amaroussion, 21.06.13; Plaka, 29.06.13) and Chania, Crete (Chrysosopigi, 01.07.13). The infested trees, which belong to *E. camaldulensis* and *E. globulus* species, were covered with honeydew excretions and were visited by numerous honeybees in order to collect them.

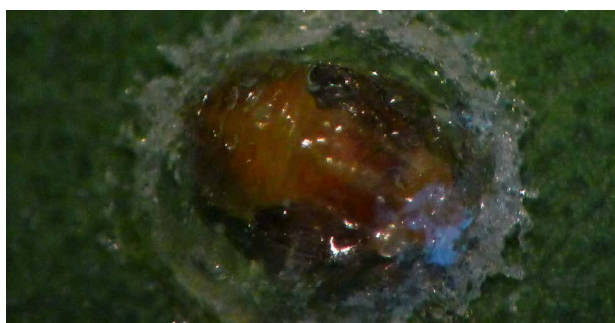
Glycaspis brimblecombei is the only psyllid known to feed on *Eucalyptus* in Greece. Infestations of *G. brimblecombei* are most easily recognized by the conical white coverings (lerps) secreted by the nymphs (**Plate 2(a)**). The psyllid nymphs are reddish bronze with darker wing pads that have bright white spots (**Plate 2(b)**).

Adults are yellow to green in color and are winged and highly mobile (**Plate 3**). The anterior part of the head of the adults has a pair of curious long projections called genae.

Females lay eggs randomly on the leaves or in clusters of 50 - 75 eggs, usually at an angle or perpendicular to the plant surface. Eggs are about 1 mm in length, yellow



Plate 1. *Eucalyptus* leaves infested by *G. brimblecombei*.



(a)



(b)

Plate 2. (a) Crystal-white lerp covering a 4th instar nymph of *G. brimblecombei*; (b) *G. brimblecombei* nymphs.



Plate 3. Adult of *G. brimblecombei*.

or cream coloured (**Plate 4**). Detailed descriptions of *G. brimblecombei* have been published by Moore [2], Halbert *et al.* [17] and Olivares *et al.* [7].

Brennan and Gill [18] refer the host range of *G. brimblecombei* in *Eucalyptus* species: *E. blakelyi* Maiden, *E. brassiana* Blake, *E. bridgesiana* Baker, *E. camaldulensis* Dehnh., *E. camphora* Baker, *E. dealbata* Cunn. Ex Schauer, *E. mannifera* ssp. *maculosa* Baker, *E. nitens* Deane & Maiden, and *E. teriticornis* Smith, *E. diversicolor* F. Muell, *E. globulus* Labill and *E. sideroxylon* Cunn.

Glycaspis brimblecombei is referred in North America as more damaging than other eucalyptus psyllids, because it can cause defoliation of infested trees, and it has a relatively broad host range among *Eucalyptus* species [18].



Plate 4. Eggs of *G. brimblecombei*.

The work on life history and relationships of the red gum lerp psyllid and the survey of its distribution in Greece are continuing, together with research on natural enemies, predators and parasitoids, which will contribute to the control of that pest.

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