Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants and Extension Personnel

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Insect Spectacular Workshop and Collection Trip

June 27-28, 2008

The 2008 Insect Spectacular Entomology Workshop will be held in Larned, Kansas. The Workshop is open to anyone interested in insects – 4-Hers, Scouts, Teachers, project leaders, etc.

Friday, June 27: Registration will begin at 4:00 p.m. There will be a Judging Contest available. Also reference books, an insect collection, and personnel will be available to help with insect identification. Insect equipment will be available for purchase. We will begin the evening at 5:30 p.m. with a general meeting followed by a hamburger feed. Evening activities will include games, a class on Trapping Insects, a Basic Pinning class, and a night collection trip.

Saturday, June 28: Breakfast is on your own. Registration will resume at 8:00 a.m. A general meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Mixer. Morning activities will include Insect Jeopardy, a class on Insect Identification, and games. After Lunch, activities will include classes on Entomology 4-H Records, Filling out Kansas Award Applications (KAA's) for Entomology, and a collection trip.

The complete schedule and Registration Forms are on the web at:
http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/pawnee/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=19

Early registration fee (due by May 20, 2008)

Phil Sloderbeck

Sunflower Insect Report

Status of overwintering sunflower stalk insects, Hays Kansas, April 28.

Sunflower bud moth – emergence has begun.

Sunflower stem weevil – majority in pupal stage.

Dectes texanus – still in larval stage.

J.P. Michaud

Horsehair (Gordian) Worms

A sample of "horsehair (sometimes called Gordian) worms" was received from Lyon Co. on 8 April. According to Brian Rees, the worms were collected from a county road. These are nematodes (round worms) and are parasitic on many invertebrates, including insects. There is not much information regarding these parasites. All of the specimens we have seen or received prior to this sample came from grasshoppers in the August – September time frame. Apparently, these worms enter into the grasshopper and spend the summer utilizing it as their host. Toward late summer the nematode will exit the grasshopper through the exoskeleton, which kills the grasshopper. This is not considered a form of biological control, by this type of nematode at least, because the grasshoppers die at that time of the year naturally.

Jeff Whitworth Holly Davis

Weekly Report from the Kansas State University

Insect Diagnostic Laboratory:

The following samples were submitted to the Insect Diagnostician Laboratory from April 23rd to May 1st.

April 24 2008: Greeley County - Katydid eggs on Red Maple

April 25 2008: Clay County – Cynipid larvae

April 25 2008: Osage County – Winged ants

April 25 2008: Leavenworth County – Termite damage

April 29 2008: Leavenworth County – Subterranean termites

April 30 2008: Kingman County – Pine with Eastern Fivespined Ips and round-headed borer damage

If there are any questions regarding these samples or about the identification of any arthropod please contact the Insect Diagnostician at (785) 532-4739 or GotBugs@ksu.edu.

Holly Davis

Clover Mite

Clover mite, *Bryobia praetiosa* populations may be present crawling around in homes, apartments, and office buildings. They can in fact invade buildings in large numbers. Clover mites typically enter buildings from the sunny side, the south or southwest exposure. They are primarily a nuisance pest since they don't bite humans. However, clover mites will leave a red stain when accidentally or purposely crushed.

Clover mite populations are made up of only females since no males have been found. Adult clover mites are slightly larger than a pinhead (1/30-inch long), red in color, with extremely long, pink front legs. They primarily overwinter as eggs in protected locations. There is usually one generation per year. Clover mite adults feed on over 200 plant types including clover, grasses, ivy, honeysuckle,

apple, and elm. Clover mites will build-up to extensive numbers in well-fertilized turfgrass, and their feeding will cause turfgrass to appear silvery or frosty. Clover mite inquires have increased recently, which may be associated with housing developments and installation of well-fertilized turfgrass growing near the foundation of homes.

Potential management options to avoid dealing with clover mites include 1) remove turfgrass near building foundations; 2) place an 18 to 36-inch wide band of an inorganic mulch around the foundation; 3) mow and trim turfgrass as short as possible; 4) avoid over-fertilizing turfgrass, especially with soluble nitrogen-based fertilizers, located near building foundations; 5) remove any weeds growing near the foundation of buildings; 6) remove ivy or other host plants growing around the foundation and walls; 7) use foundation plants that are not typically attractive to clover mites such as marigolds, petunia, geranium, arborvitae, and/or yew; 8) caulk or seal cracks or openings in the foundation. Clover mites detected inside can be vacuumed up; however, be careful to not crush them. Soapy water will kill clover mites on contact. Consult a professional pest control operator for recommendations regarding perimeter treatments to keep clover mites from entering homes or buildings.

Submitted by:
Raymond A. Cloyd

Sincerely,

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