NEW ADVANCED INSECT PEST TAXONOMIC TRAINING VIDEOS RELEASED

Amanda Hodges, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida and Joel Floyd, USDA-APHIS-PPQ National Identification Services

During the fall of 2013, Dr. Amanda Hodges and Project Co-PIs Ms. Stephanie Stocks and Dr. Stephen McLean (UF, DPM Alumni and UF Post-Doctoral Associate) successfully concluded a USDA-APHIS-PPQ Farm Bill 10201 Cooperative Agreement entitled “Delivery of Taxonomic Training through Distance Education.”

As a component of the project, two intensive video-filmed workshops were hosted at the University of Florida on Aphididae and Coccoidea (May 2013) and Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha (August 2013). Mr. Joel Floyd, Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator for USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Dr. Greg Hodges, Bureau Chief for Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology at FDACS-DPI; and Dr. Alma Solis, USDA-ARS-SEL Research Leader provided key overall co-ordination and leadership for the project during 2012-2013.

The goal of the project was to provide engaging and interesting hands-on video tutorial for taxonomic groups that are important to USDA-APHIS-PPQ identifiers. The success of the project was highlighted in the annual USDA-APHIS-PPQ-NIS newsletter. These taxonomic videos are intended for PPQ identifiers, state and university taxonomists, and others who may find the information useful in learning to identify aphid, scales, mealybugs, whiteflies, leaf-
hopper and related families, and stinkbug and related families. Released in May, they feature expert lectures and hands-on training by Dr. Ian Stocks, FDACS-DPI; Dr. Greg Evans, USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Mr. John Dooley, USDA-APHIS-PPQ; Dr. Gary Miller, USDA-ARS-SEL; Dr. Susan Halbert, FDACS-DPI; Dr. Charles Bartlett, University of Delaware; Dr. Joe Eger, Dow Agrosciences; and Dr. Stuart McKamey, USDA-ARS-SEL. Additionally, the videos serve as a companion to the Slide Making Videos produced by Gary Miller at ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory.

Each video includes an introduction of the pest groups, terminology, and overview of the taxonomy, plus more detailed information on how to navigate the keys for some representative species. They are broken into 15-20 minute segments for ease of viewing.

The videos can be accessed via NPDN’s Training and Education website at https://firstdetector.org/static/Taxonomic_Training_Videos.html or on the NPDN channel on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/user/npdnchannel.

Read about the project and find direct links to the taxonomic videos on the NPDN training and education website (top left). Screen capture of the videos on the NPDNchannel on YouTube (bottom left) showing one of the diagnostic videos (above).
Update on the Incorporation of the Standard Scientific Name for Fungi into the National Regulatory and Extension Databases and other Nomenclature Support for Safeguarding (otherwise known as the “One Name for Fungi” project) Nancy Gregory, Plant Diagnostic Clinic, University of Delaware

Collaborative efforts of the USDA-ARS SMML lab, CERIS at Purdue, and Nancy Gregory at the University of Delaware have been ongoing, to review fungal names. Software changes are being developed in the stepwise process. The new relational database will allow for growth and queries, with cross-referencing capability. Good progress was made in the spring with Cavan Allen and Amy Rossman working together in Beltsville. Following Amy’s retirement from USDA, Lisa Castlebury has taken up the PI lead there at SMML, and a full time person has been hired for the summer for data entry. Mike Hill updated the NPDN National Database PAC in March, and demonstrated software changes on the development server. Nancy gave a webinar as a part of the GPDN series and it may be viewed at www.gpdn.org/webinar_2014/. The Database Committee is in need of a chairperson in order to move forward, and has not met for a couple of months. Anyone interested in fungal and other pathogen nomenclature is welcome to join!

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NEW Sentinel Plant Network (SPN) "packing slip"

The new SPN packing slip should accompany all SPN samples.

If you are receiving samples with the old form (right), please let the submitter know they need to use the new packing slip.

The packing slip is a fillable web form and can be found in the SPN toolbox on APGA’s website.

If you have questions regarding the Sentinel Plant Network contact Rachel McCarthy, NPDN-SPN Manager, at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu.
**EAB Detected in New Jersey**

On May 21 New Jersey Department of Agriculture officials confirmed that the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, has been found in Somerset County.

A landscaper investigating unhealthy trees in a retail area in Bridgewater alerted the Department. Inspectors took samples and insect larvae were sent to the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Systematic Entomology Laboratory where the specimens were confirmed.

For the past four years the Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (NJDA and DEP) have participated in an EAB survey but none of the beetles were found in the more than 300 traps set up around the state. Emerald ash borer had already been detected in Pennsylvania and New York counties bordering New Jersey.

“We have been rigorously monitoring the EAB’s movements and educating the public about what to look for in case the beetle entered our state,” said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher. “Now, we will be informing homeowners about the actions they can take to protect their ash trees from this tree-killing insect.”

EAB is now present in 23 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. It was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since killed tens of millions of trees.

“Since the emerald ash borer has been active just over our borders for quite a number of years, we expected that it would be found in New Jersey eventually,” said State Forester Lynn E. Fleming. “The DEP will work with the Department of Agriculture and other appropriate agencies to educate landowners on how to identify this invasive beetle and mitigate infestations.”


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**New Edition of Hort Tips Posted**

Check out the latest edition of Horts Tips for these and more great pictures of weeds, bugs and pathogens found in the landscape and garden. Hort Tips can be found at [https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/information-library/home-and-garden-information-center-publications#horttips](https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/information-library/home-and-garden-information-center-publications#horttips) (scroll to the bottom of the page) and is put together by Mary Kay Malinoski and Dave Clement.

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Images from top: creeping speedwell, cottony camellia scale and virus symptoms on columbine.

All images © Dave Clement, University of Maryland
New Pests in the West: Channeled Apple Snail (CAS) and Weeping Ficus Thrips

Dick Hoenisch, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California at Davis

Gevork Arakelian, Ph.D., senior biologist with the Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner office and a frequent contributor to the WPDN news, reports two new pests in Los Angeles County, California.

Recently, several adult channeled apple snails (CAS) and their eggs were found in Echo Park Lake, Los Angeles Co. channeled apple snails (*Pomacea canaliculata*) were previously established in California in San Diego, Orange and Alameda counties. It is also established in southeast Texas in the rice producing areas. They are rated “A” and listed among the ‘100 of the World’s Worst Invasive Species’.

Channeled apple snail (CAS) is a freshwater snail native to South America (Argentina, Uruguay). The distribution of CAS has been steadily increasing since its introduction to Asia, primarily as a human food resource, but perhaps also by the aquarium trade. Once introduced to an area, it spreads rapidly through bodies of water such as canals and rivers and during floods. It feeds on aquatic plants and can devastate rice (in Southeast Asia, Spain), taro (in Hawaii) and other aquatic or semi-aquatic crops. It may out-compete native snails and other freshwater invertebrates, feed on native plants and alter natural ecosystem function.

**Identification:** The shell of this apple snail species is globose (like an apple) and relatively heavy (especially in older snails). The five to six whorls are separated by a deep, indented suture (hence the name ‘canaliculata’ or ‘channeled’). The shell opening (aperture) is large and oval to round. The overall shell shape is similar to that of *Pomacea lineata*, except the deeper sutures and more globose shape in *P. canaliculata*. The size of these snails varies from 1.6” to 2.4” wide and 1.8” to 3” high depending on the conditions. The color varies completely yellow and green (cultivated forms) to brown with or without dark spiral bands (wild form). The shell growth of this species occurs mainly in spring and summer, and stagnates in fall and winter.

Weeping Ficus thrips (*Gynaikothrips uzeli*) (Order Thysanoptera, Family Phlaeothripidae) has been found in Los Angeles County, CA, on Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*). It was introduced first into Miami-Dade County, Florida in 2003 and spread quickly throughout the southern US. *G.uzeli* induces galls (leaf folds) which create a safe environment for adults to deposit their eggs and immatures to develop. Feeding causes reddish spots on the damaged foliage. Heavy infestations may retard the growth and lead to defoliation of the host plant. Weeping figs planted in the pots are the most vulnerable. An interesting note: like the words sheep, deer or moose, the word thrips is used for both the singular and plural forms, so there may be many thrips or a single thrips. The word thrips is from the Greek θρίψ, meaning “wood louse”. Adults (0.1” – 0.12” long) have brownish-black bodies and are very similar to Cuban laurel thrips.

Learn more about these two new threats in the spring 2014 edition of the Western Plant Diagnostic Network First Detector News which can be found at [www.wpdn.org/newsletters](http://www.wpdn.org/newsletters).
PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Adult emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, on ash foliage.

Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

www.bugwood.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

August 9–13, 2014
APS-CPS Joint Meeting
Minneapolis, MN

November 16–19, 2014
Entomology 2014
Portland, OR

Training/Workshops

September 29–October 3, 2014
The 19th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Insects
Hendersonville, NC

CONTRIBUTE

Share Tips and News with Your Colleagues
Recently write an article for a trade journal? Do you have a tip, announcement, regional news or network update you would like to include in the NPDN News? Email Rachel McCarthy at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu

Have a tip you would like to share with your fellow diagnosticians? Or a technique you would like to learn more about? Email Gail Ruhl at ruhlg@purdue.edu

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USDA
National Institute of Food and Agriculture