Wiki reference pages available for new First Detector Entomology Training Project
Mike Ferro, Louisiana State University AgCenter

Most people are not professional entomologists, but they still have to deal with insects as part of their work or home life (e.g. homeowners and termites; restaurant owners and cockroaches; gardeners and caterpillars; pet owners and fleas; hotel owners and bedbugs; even a wedding planner might need to coordinate a butterfly release). In addition, the first people to encounter a new invasive species are virtually never professional entomologists but usually homeowners or gardeners.

In response to this, the First Detector Entomology Training Project was designed to be a general entomology introduction course for master gardeners and homeowners. This course will provide First Detectors with training so that they can 1) recognize the common arthropods (pests and non-pests); 2) confirm the identification of pest problems; and 3) recognize and report suspect unusual, exotic, or invasive species.

The educational material provided in the training discusses topics such as what insects are, their basic anatomy and life cycles, how they fit into the tree of life, and how they are related to other arthropods. It also includes practical advice on photographing, collecting, and even preserving insects for identification. All major insect groups are discussed and specific examples of some commonly encountered native and exotic pest as well as some beneficial representatives from each group are featured.

The First Detector Entomology Training Project is still in development, but its content will be made available in three different formats: wiki pages, scripted presentations, and e-learning modules. The wikipages have been deployed first and they can be accessed by clicking here.

The scripted presentations and e-learning modules will be made available this summer and will be housed on the First Detector Training site. As the scripted presentations are developed for use by First Detector Trainers, they can be found here. The self-study e-learning modules developed for master gardeners and homeowners, on the other hand, will be found after the login page.

This project is being developed in collaboration with LSU AgCenter, North Carolina State University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, and NPDN.

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- Tri-ology – news from the “ologies” of Florida’s Division of Plant Industry
- CPHST announces release of Flat Mites of the World identification tool
- APHIS expands regulated area for Asian citrus psyllid in California
The Division of Plant Industry (DPI) is a regulatory agency of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS) which works to detect, intercept and control plant and honey bee pests that threaten Florida’s native plant and agricultural resources. DPI’s Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology (the Botany Section is included in this Bureau) publishes Tri-ology to report detection activities from plant nursery inspections and requests for identification of plants and pests from the public.

Each section within the Bureau provides information about new hosts and first finds within a county, the state, the country and larger areas, including the hemisphere. Entomology staff frequently identify arthropods new to Florida and, regularly, to the United States. Reports of pest interdictions from our Interstate Inspection Stations are also included. Plant pathologists report plant diseases on new hosts or in new locations, as well as those that might have been found before, but are of interest for a reason other than being a new record. DPI nematologists share interesting pest and host information from their inspection and certification work. Botanists occasionally see plants that are new to a county or the state, but their reports focus on plants of interest that have been sent for identification, without regard to how familiar

continued on next page

**Tri-ology – news from the “ologies” of Florida’s Division of Plant Industry**

Patti Anderson, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

From July-August 2011, volume 50, number 4 - documentation of *Ophiomyia kwansonis*, an exotic leaf miner from Japan and Taiwan was reported during inspections of two daylily nurseries in Florida.

Daylily image courtesy of wikimedia commons. Adult fly and leaf miner damage images courtesy of Gary Steck, FDACS-DPI.
Collaborators at the University of Maryland, Queensland Museum (Australia), and USDA Agriculture Research Service in cooperation with CPHST’s Identification Technology Program have developed an identification tool for flat mites (at least to the genus level and, in some cases, to the species level). This tool has interactive keys to identify flat mites, diagnostic fact sheets, and an image gallery of the 36 genera of flat mites present throughout the world.

Flat mites (which are in the family Tenuipalpidae) are an economically important acarine group. They are all phytophagous causing direct damage through feeding on host plant tissue which means they have the potential to cause damage to agricultural crops, ornamental crops, and even timber crops. In addition, they can transmit plant viruses (such as citrus leprosis). Examples of flat mite pests are *Brevipalpus californicus*, *B. obovatus* and *B. phoenicis*.

You can access this identification tool here.

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**NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System**

The North American Plant Protection Organization’s (NAPPO) Phytosanitary Alert System is featured in this newsletter every month. Remember that this a great resource to keep up to date on the latest pest detections and quarantine information. The website features both official reports and unofficial alerts of pests for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

They also have free subscriptions that are available for periodic email notifications of new postings on their website. Be sure to check it out regularly!
APHIS expands regulated area for Asian citrus psyllid in California
Stephanie D. Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

APHIS in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has expanded the area for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) regulation. Because of the recent detection of ACP in an area of Orange County (San Clemente), regulated areas now include Camp Pendleton and the surrounding area (in San Diego County) as well as all of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties and (more) parts of San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Santa Barbara counties.

An updated list of all areas in the U.S. and its commonwealths that are under quarantine for ACP and citrus greening click here.

In light of the recent detection of citrus greening in Texas (which is a devastating disease transmitted by ACP), First Detectors are being called upon to look for ACP in areas where it is not known to occur already (particularly in counties that grow citrus in California and Arizona) and report any sightings to your local county agent.

Protect U.S. has produced a scripted presentation for educators and an e-learning module that can be used by First Detectors on citrus greening and ACP. This educational material covers everything from identifying ACP and the symptoms of citrus greening, to scouting for all life stages of ACP to management suggestions for control of ACP (biological, chemical, and cultural recommendations). You can access this material from the Protect U.S. website under the Educational Materials tab.

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About NPDN:
The NPDN is a network of state and federal officials, land grant universities, and First Detectors whose mission is to detect, diagnose, and disseminate information regarding high consequence plant disease or pests. The NPDN was established in 2002 in response to a need for greater agricultural security.

Over the past eight years the NPDN has grown into an internationally respected consortium of plant diagnostic laboratories.

The five regions that make up the NPDN are the: NEPDN, SPDN, NCPDN, GPDN, and WPDN.

Please feel free to browse the links to the various regions to get a better idea of what is going on in your part of the country.

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Upcoming Meetings:

- March 22-24, 2012 - the Alabama Master Gardener Conference will be held in Birmingham, AL - click here for more details.

- April 13-15, 2012 - the West Virginia Master Gardeners Conference will be held in Fairmont, WV - click here for more details.

- April 17, 2012 - Florida Sentinel Plant Network Training will be held at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens in Miami, FL - contact Colette Jacono at Colette.C.Jacono@aphis.usda.gov for more details.

- April 20-21, 2012 - the Georgia Master Gardeners Association Conference will be held in Canton, GA - click here for more details.

- May 1-4, 2012 - the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference will be held in Natchez, MS - click here for more details.

- May 3-5, 2012 - the Texas Master Gardener Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX - click here for more details.

- May 20-23, 2012 - the North Carolina Master Gardener Conference will be held in Asheville, NC - click here for more details.

- June 6-7, 2012 - the New Mexico Master Gardener Conference will be held in Las Cruces, NM - click here for more details.

- If you would like your meeting listed in the newsletter, let us know.

First Detector Training Opportunities:

- March 28-29, 2012 - Southern Regional Sentinel Plant Network meeting will be held in Charlotte, NC - click here for more details.

- March 29, 2012 - First Detector Training will be held in Pullman, WA - click here for more details.

- April 23, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in Berlin, VT - click here for more details.

- April 25, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in Bennington, VT - click here for more details.

- May 2, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in St. Albans, VT - click here for more details.

- If you are hosting a First Detector Training Session, please post these on the NPDN First Detector Training website so that they can be listed here.

Do you tweet?

- Click here for updates.

Employment Opportunities:

- Please click here for more information.

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To submit news items in future editions of the newsletter, contact: clharmon@ufl.edu or sstocks@ufl.edu or achodges@ufl.edu

You can include a short descriptive paragraph, links, and related images or documents – don’t forget to include author and image credits though.