Recent Occurrence of Forest Insect Pests in Taiwan

Wen-Jer Wu[1,2*], Hung-Chich Wen[2], Ching-Shan Lin[3], and Hou-Feng Li[4]

[1] Department of Entomology, National Taiwan University, Taipei 10617, Taiwan

[2] Research Center for Plant Medicine, National Taiwan University, Taipei 10617, Taiwan

[3] Tsau-Hu Elementary School, Dali District, Taichung City 41263, Taiwan

[4] Department of Entomology, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung 40227, Taiwan

ABSTRACT

The present article summaries survey data and annual population dynamics on a number of common urban forest pests, scolytids and termites, some of which are exotic, that are recently discovered in Taiwan. There are 25 pest species (a pest mite included) that generally pose damage on urban forest in Taiwan, and several species with severer impacts among include *Brontispa longissima*, *Thaia subrufa*, *Macrohomotoma gladiata*, *Kerria lacca*, *Aulacaspis murrayae*, *A. yabunikkei*, *Moricella rufonota*, *Helopeltis fasciaticollis*, *Lymantria xylina*, *Rhipiphorothrip cruentatu*, *Chilades pandava peripatria* and *Odontotermes formosanus*. Moreover, data obtained 1985-2012 indicated 15 common exotic insect pests on urban forest in Taiwan, and *A. yasumatsui*, *Aleurodicus dispersus*, *Tessaratoma papillosa*, *Procontarinia robusta*, *Aleurothrixus floccosus* and *Paracoccus marginatus* are those causing more damage. Another survey in southern Taiwan 2009-2011 with special focus on camphor tree found one mite and 27 insect pests, and seasonal occurrence of major species were also investigated. A field survey conducted in China-fir plantation in Nei-Mou-Pu Tract of the National Taiwan University (NTU) Experimental Forest collected 72 species of scolytids in total, which not only facilitates assembly of baseline information for the pest but also benefits future development of scolytid control in China-fir plantations. Another study looking into termite diversity in Xiaping Tropical Botanical Garden, NTU Experimental Forest discovered five species belonging to three families and four genera. One species of which, *Coptotermes gestroi*, warrants particular attention because of potential threats to tropical tree species via the type and frequency of its damage.

Key Words: forest pest, scolytid, Taiwan, termite, urban forest