

# A CHECK-LIST OF INSECTS ATTACKING EUCALYPTS IN NEW ZEALAND

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The most recent summary of insects attacking eucalypts in New Zealand is by Clark (1938).† The present list incorporates the insects mentioned by Clark, references from later publications, and information obtained by the entomology research group of the Forest Research Institute. It is up to date as far as possible.

Insects which occur casually on eucalypts but do not feed on them are not included in this list. Most insects which inhabit only severely decayed eucalypt timber are also omitted. Individual host species are not shown.

Where the insect is the subject of a leaflet in the series "Forest and Timber Insects in New Zealand" produced by the Forest Research Institute, the leaflet number is given.

I wish to thank colleagues at the Forest Research Institute for contributing to this list.

## INSECTS ATTACKING EUCALYPTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Insects introduced from Australia are marked with an asterisk, those from other countries with a double asterisk. Unmarked species are indigenous.

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers,  
crickets, etc.)

TETTIGONIIDAE (Long-horned grass-  
hoppers)

*Caedicia simplex* (Walker)

This species feeds on foliage. It is unimportant, but not rare.

PHASMATODEA (Leaf and stick  
insects)

PHASMATIDAE (Stick insect)

*Acanthoxyla* species

*Clitarchus* species

} Defoliators, of no importance but  
} not rare.

ISOPTERA (Termites)

KALOTERMITIDAE

*Kalotermes brouni* Froggatt

Found in dead timbers.

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†Clark, A. F., 1938. A survey of the insect pests of eucalypts in New Zealand. *N.Z. Jl Sci. Technol.*, 19: 750-61.

## HEMIPTERA-HOMOPTERA

(Sapsucking insects, bugs, leaf-hoppers, scale insects, etc.)

## CICADIDAE (Cicadas)

Several species

Cicadas make oviposition scars on twigs, occasionally causing twig die-back.

## FLATIDAE

\**Siphanta acuta* (Walker)  
\**Sephenha cinerea* Kirkaldy

} These sapsuckers are not uncommon on eucalypts, and are of no importance.

## RICANTIDAE

\**Scolytopa australis* (Walker)

Same as above.

## PSYLLIDAE (Jumping plant lice)

\**Eriococcus coriaceus* Maskell

Cause of distortion and die-back of young shoots. Of little significance.

## ALEYRODIDAE (White flies)

\**Aleuroclava eucalypti* Dumbleton

Cause of distortion of young shoots.

## COCCOIDEA (Scale insects)

\**Lepidosaphes eucalypti* (Froggatt)  
\**Eriococcus coriaceus* Maskell

Of no importance, rare.

Attacks usually of short duration. May cause defoliation. Usually well controlled by the ladybird *Rhizobius ventralis* Erichson (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) and to a lesser extent by predatory caterpillars of the moth *Stathmopoda melanochra* Meyrick (Lepidoptera: Tingaegeridae). (Leaflet No. 22)

## COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

## CHRYSOMELIDAE (Leaf beetles)

\**Paropsis charybdis* Stal

Most important defoliator in New Zealand. Adults and larvae feed on foliage. Marked differences in the susceptibility of different eucalypt species. (Leaflet No. 10).

\**Trachymela sloanei* (Blackburn)Recent introduction, spreading slowly. Adults and larvae feed on foliage. No serious damage noted yet. Appears to have host preferences similar to *P. charybdis*

- Eucolaspis brunneus* (Fabricius) These "bronze beetles" attack the other *Eucolaspis* species, and species of related genera young developing shoots in spring and early summer. Can be harmful on small plants.
- CURCULIONIDAE (Weevils)
- \**Gonipterus scutellatus* Gyllenhal Adults and larvae feed on foliage. Usually kept in check by the egg parasite *Patasson nitens* (Girault) (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae). (Leaflet No. 8)
- Eurynotia hochstetteri* (Redtenbacher) Adults feed on foliage. Not common, and when occurring are of minor importance.
- \*\**Asynonychus cervinus* (Boheman) Found in nurseries. Adults feed on foliage, larvae on roots. Of minor importance.
- Cossonids* (several species) Found in decaying wood.
- SCOLYTIDAE (Bark beetles and pin-hole borers)
- \**Xyleborus truncatus* (Erichson) Associated with branch die-back, but also in dying and dead trees and logs. (Leaflet No. 21)
- \*\**Xyleborus saxeseni* (Ratzburg) Found in dying and dead trees and in logs. (Leaflet No. 39)
- PLATYPODIDAE (Pinhole borers)
- Platypus apicalis* White  
*Platypus caviceps* Broun  
*Platypus gracilis* Broun
- All three species attack logs after felling, or dead trees. *P. apicalis* and *P. gracilis* adults attack living eucalypts causing gum veins and pockets, but no brood develops in the living trees. (Leaflet No. 37)
- CERAMBYCIDAE (Longhorn beetles)
- \**Tesssaromma undatum* Newman  
 \**Callidiopsis scutellaris* (Fabricius)  
 \**Phoracantha semipunctata* (Fabricius)  
 \**Coptocercus rubripes* (Boisduval)
- Breed under the bark and larvae enter the wood to pupate; *T. undatum* and *C. scutellaris* are possibly associated with mortality after thinning to waste. (*P. semipunctata* Leaflet No. 4)
- Astetholea lepturoides* Bates }  
*Astetholida lucida* Broun } Dead-wood borers.
- Didymocantha* species } Woodborer.
- Leptachrous strigipennis* Westwood } Dead-wood borer.
- Liogramma zelandica* (Blanchard) Found in dead dry wood.
- Navomorpha lineata* (Fabricius)  
*Navomorpha sulcata* (Fabricius)  
*Oemona hirta* (Fabricius)
- Live-branch borers. (*N. lineata* Leaflet No. 2). (*O. hirta* Leaflet No. 31)

<i>Stenopotes pallidus</i> Pascoe	Breeds under bark, pupates in wood. (Leaflet No. 6)
<i>Xuthodes punctipennis</i> Pascoe	Found in branches, not common.
<i>Prionoplus reticularis</i> White	Occasionally found in very decayed wood (habitat usually softwoods). (Leaflet No. 35)
<i>Somatidia grandis</i> Broun	} Dead-wood woodborers.
<i>Somatidia</i> species	
<i>Tetrorrea discedens</i> Sharp	
LYCTIDAE (Powder-post beetles)	
** <i>Lycytus brunneus</i> (Stephens)	Larvae breed in some eucalypt timbers. (Leaflet No. 33)
ANOBIIDAE	
** <i>Anobium punctatum</i> (de Geer)	Woodborer, rare in eucalypt timbers. (House borer). (Leaflet No. 32)
<i>Derophtilinus granicollis</i> Lea	Woodborer, rare in eucalypt timbers.
<i>Hadrobregmus magnus</i> (Dumbleton)	Woodborer, rare in eucalypt timbers. (Leaflet No. 1)
Other species	Woodborers, in dead branches, rare and of little importance.
MELOLONTHIDAE (Chafers, grass-grubs)	
<i>Costelytra zelandica</i> (White)	Larvae feed on roots, adults on foliage. Defoliation is never severe.
<i>Odontria</i> species	Damage by larvae feeding on roots in nurseries can be harmful.
<i>Pyronota festiva</i> (Fabricius)	Adults feed on young foliage.
HYMENOPTERA (Wasps, bees, etc.)	
EULOPHIDAE	
* <i>Rhiconopeltella eucalypti</i> Gahan	Cause of gnarled twigs and pimple galls on leaves. (Leaflet No. 15)
LEPIDOPTERA (Moths and butterflies)	
HEPIALIDAE	
<i>Aenetus virescens</i> (Doubleday)	Woodborer. Attacks by larvae on branches and main stem are usually abortive, but may cause extensive gum defects in timber. Young larvae usually enter wood through damaged areas and where branches have been pruned flush with the stem. (Leaflet No. 16)

*Wiseana* species

Found in nurseries. Larvae are root feeders.

TORTRICIDAE (Leaf- and needle-tyers, leafrollers)

*Capua plagiata* (Walker)  
*Ctenopseustis obliquana* (Walker)

\**Epiphyas postvittana* (Walker)  
*Planotortrix excessana excessana* (Walker)

*Planotortrix notophaea* (Turner)

\**Spilonota macropetana* (Meyrick)

Attack on young foliage by the larvae of any of the species can be severe.

The larvae of this species attack flowers and fruit capsules, and reduce seed production.

PSYCHIDAE (Case moths, bag moths)

*Liothula omnivora* Fereday

The feeding by the larvae is usually of minor importance.

NOCTUIDAE (Night-flying moths)

*Heliocoverpa armigera conferta* (Walker)

(= *Heliothis armigera* Hubner)

Cutworms *Melanchra* species, and species of other genera.

Defoliator on young plants. Cosmopolitan species. (Leaflet No. 9)

Found in nurseries. (The species which attack eucalypts have still to be sorted out.)

GEOMETRIDAE

*Cleora scriptaria* (Walker)  
*Gelonia dejectaria* (Walker)  
*Pseudocoremia suavis* (Butler)  
(= *Selidosema suavis* (Butler))  
*Pseudocoremia suavis fenerata* (Felder)  
*Declana floccosa* (Walker)

The geometrids usually cause only minor damage. (*S. suavis* Leaflet No. 11)

SATURNIIDAE (Emperor moths)

\**Antheraea eucalypti* Scott

The larvae of the gum emperor moth can cause severe defoliation. (Leaflet No. 7)