

## OCHROCYDUS HUTTONI IN QUERCUS

The new records section of last month's *Forest Health News* gave brief details of *Ochrocydus huttoni* (kanuka longhorn) in *Quercus palustris* (pin oak). This interesting record deserves elaboration. *Ochrocydus huttoni* is a native species that normally bores in the live stems and larger branches of *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Kunzea ericoides*, and *Nothofagus* spp. The larvae excavate longitudinal tunnels in the host, and make short lateral tunnels to the surface through which frass is ejected. The longitudinal tunnels can exceed 1 m in length and are about 15 mm at their widest point. An accumulation of frass on the lower stem or on the ground is generally an indication of advanced infestation.



*Ochrocydus huttoni* pupa in *Quercus palustris* trunk (photo courtesy of Bruce Johnson).

The oaks in question here are on a golf course and the most severely affected are about 40–60 years old, although much younger trees are also damaged. There are several other species of oak planted on the golf course but the *O. huttoni* damage has been noted only on *Q. palustris*. Interestingly there are no signs of *O. huttoni* damage in *K. ericoides* or *N. solandri* which are also present on the golf course.

The most severely affected *Q. palustris* trees are showing signs of decline; this was first noticed when the trees were flushing in the spring. Such decline has not been noted in *Leptospermum*, *Kunzea*, and *Nothofagus* spp. even with heavy infestations. The



*Ochrocydus huttoni* damage in *Q. palustris* trunk (photo courtesy of Bruce Johnson).

most severely affected trees are being removed and others are being treated by stem injections using a systemic insecticide.

The Forest Health Database and insect collection also have records of *O. huttoni* from *Quercus cerris*, *Q. coccinea*, and *Agonis juniperina*.

John Bain

## SOMETHING TO LOOK OUT FOR HERE?

In March this year *Corythucha ciliata* (Tingidae), the sycamore lace bug, was found in Sydney. This is a new record for Australia. *Corythucha ciliata* is native to eastern North America and was first found as an introduced species in Italy in 1964. Since then it has spread throughout much of southern and central Europe.



*Corythucha ciliata* adults on leaf (photo courtesy of James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestry.images.org](http://www.forestry.images.org))



Lacebug damage on underside of leaf (photo courtesy of Bruce W. Kaufman, Tennessee Dept of Agriculture, www.forestry.images.org)

The usual hosts of *C. ciliata* are *Platanus* spp. (sycamores and plane trees) but in North America it has occasionally been recorded from *Fraxinus* (ash), *Carya* (hickory), and *Morus* (mulberry).

All life stages of the bugs occur together on the undersides of the leaves. The upper surface of infested foliage becomes marked with yellowish chlorotic spots and later with brown necrotic spots. The underside of infested leaves becomes marked with black varnish-like excrement spots, and cast skins of previous developmental stages often remain attached to infested leaves.

In cases of severe infestation trees may be defoliated in late summer and damage is far more severe during dry weather. These heavy infestations are more common in urban areas than natural settings.

In Europe *Corythucha ciliata* is associated with two species of fungi which, in association with the lace bug, can cause decline and death of trees. It is suspected that the lace bugs may serve as vectors for these fungi. Apart from damaging trees, the lace bugs have become a major nuisance in Europe; they are particularly bothersome in open-air cafés and bars that are shaded by sycamore trees. They may also invade houses in large numbers.

*Corythucha ciliata* overwinter as adults, either under the loose bark of the trees, or in nearby cracks and crevices. Although delicate, the adults are very mobile and aided by wind are capable of flying many kilometres.

There are only two members of the family Tingidae found in New Zealand. *Stephanitis rhododendri* has a virtually worldwide distribution and is found mainly on *Rhododendron* spp. It was first recorded in New Zealand in the 1950s. *Tanybyrsa cumberi* is found only in New Zealand. Its host is *Astelia banksii*.

John Bain

#### LOCATIONS IN NEW RECORDS

Over the past few months several people have asked about the regions that are used in the New Records section of *Forest Health News*. For example it has been pointed out that Gisborne is a city and Wairarapa and Otago Lakes are regional names. In 1976 Crosby *et al.* published a paper that subdivided the New Zealand mainland (North, South, and Stewart Islands, plus nearby inshore islands) into 29 approximately equal-sized areas, and defined two-letter codes for each (e.g., AK for Auckland, OL for Otago Lakes). The purpose of this was to facilitate and clarify the recording of locality information. In 1998 Crosby *et al.* published another paper giving codes for the outer islands — Kermadecs, Campbell, etc. The Ensis Forest Health Reference Laboratory, and therefore *FH News*, use these names and codes. They are widely used in the biological literature.

#### References:

- Crosby, T.K.; Dugdale, J.S.; Watt, J.C. 1976: Recording specimen localities in New Zealand: an arbitrary system of areas and codes defined. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 3: 69 + map.  
Crosby, T.K.; Dugdale, J.S.; Watt, J.C. 1998: Area codes for recording specimen localities in the New Zealand subregion. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 25: 175–183.

John Bain

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The editor wishes to remind readers that short notes on topical issues concerning forest health issues are welcomed. This includes discussion of, or other points of view on, any topic appearing in the newsletter. So, get going on that keyboard.

Editor

#### NEW RECORDS

**New distribution record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Arhopalus ferus* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Dunedin; **Host:** See comments; **Coll:** L Bulman, 21/03/2007; **Ident:** J Bain, 11/04/2007; **Comments:** This introduced longhorn beetle was first found in New Zealand in 1963 at Mamaranui (Northland) and this find in Dunedin represents the southernmost record. The beetle was found in a timber stack.

**New host record for New Zealand – Insect:** *Oemona hirta* (Cerambycidae); **Region:** Bay of Plenty; **Host:** *Corylus* sp.; **Coll:** B Rogan, 23/03/2007; **Ident:** J Bain, 04/04/2007; **Comments:** This native green-stem borer has been recorded from a very wide range of native and exotic trees and shrubs.

John Bain