

The other neighbouring areas have been found to be free of this pest for the time being. However, insect pest are known to spread very fast. The main aim of this pest alert is to request members of the public and Forest Department staff to report immediately when they observe such symptoms on their host species. The report should be made to the Director, KEFRI.

The Pest Management Methods

KEFRI recommends the following immediate measures to be undertaken to control the spread of this pest



Repeatedly attacked shoot showing stunted growth

- Movement of seedlings should be restricted in the areas of infestation.
- Cultural control methods like cutting back the seedlings in the nursery and burning all the affected foliage material.
- No affected seedlings should be planted.

KEFRI is working with the relevant authorities in developing a long-term solution to this problem.

This pest alert leaflet has been released with permission of :

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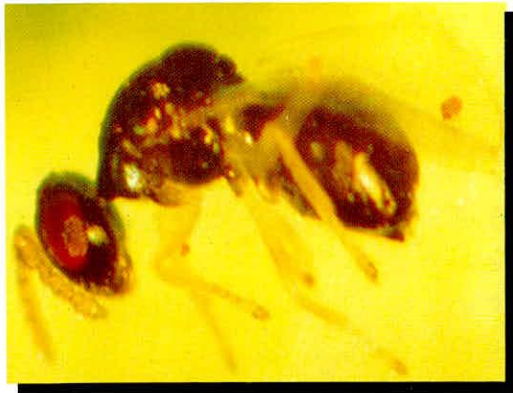
PEST ALERT

The Pest

A pest of Eucalyptus species has been identified in western Kenya region. The pest known as Blue Gum Chalcid (Hymenoptera; Eulophidae; Tetrastichinae) belongs to a new genus and species. The scientific name will be released soon after authoritative identification. The adult is a wasp, black in colour, transparent wings and measures about 1.0 to 1.5 mm. Adult cannot be seen with naked eyes and thus only symptoms of attack described below can be used for detection of infestation.

Pest Host Range

The pest has been observed attacking two major Eucalyptus species in the field. These are *Eucalyptus camandulensis* and *E. saligna*. These are the two widely grown species of eucalyptus in the country. The pests attack nursery seedlings, young trees (up to 5 years old) and young coppices.



Adult Blue Gum Chalcid

Host damage

This pest causes formation of galls on young twigs, leaf petiole and leaf midrib.



Galls on leaf petiole



Galls on lateral growing twigs and deformed shoots

On heavily infested host plants, galls are found on lateral and terminal growing shoots. Repeated attacks on the leaves lead to gnarled (twisted and rugged) appearance. The leaves are deformed. On some infested twigs it is possible to observe holes. Growing shoots become stunted.

Infested areas in Kenya

Since the pest was reported in Kenya in December 2002, a survey carried out in May 2003 shows that the pest is now in Kisumu, Busia and Vihiga districts.



Galls on leaf mid-rib and petiole