

MAIN PESTS INTRODUCED IN GALICIA AFFECTING EUCALYPTUS TREES

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Eucalyptus is the non-native forest species which presents the largest distribution in Galician forests. Its spread was favoured by its easy adaptation to a wide range of conditions and because it had not been subjected to pests or diseases that could affect its development for several years after its introduction. However, in the 70's the first pest reported on eucalyptus, the psyllid *Ctenarytaina eucalypti* Mask, was detected producing no important damage on stands, but during certain seasons high densities of population occur. Ten years later the xylophagous *Phoracantha semipunctata* F. is detected but causing no important damage due to the climatic conditions of the region, being its damage more important in hotter regions in Southern Spain. The eucalyptus snout beetle *Gonipterus scutellatus* Gyll. was found in 1991 and was reported to show voracity and to have a rapid widespread dissemination. When control measures were performed the damages caused by the snout weevil had already been apparent. It mainly produced a growth inhibition of eucalyptus trees growing in harsh conditions (high altitudes, shallow soils). Our last report about pests on eucalyptus was a new psyllid, *Ctenarytaina spatulata* Taylor, whose importance is still unknown.

¹ IUFRO CONFERENCE “EUCALYPTUS IN A CHANGING WORLD”; Aveiro, PORTUGAL 2004