

UPDATE ON *SIREX NOCTILIO* IN CANADA

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ABSTRACT

In 2007, surveys for the *Sirex* woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) were conducted in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. To date, the *Sirex* woodwasp has not been found in Quebec, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick. However, in Ontario, there are now 25 counties/districts where *S. noctilio* is known to occur. It is generally associated with Scots pine and present within the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence forest region.

It is unclear whether *S. noctilio* poses a serious threat to pine in Canada. Scientists in Canada are studying the ecology of *Sirex* within pine ecosystems. Studies include the investigation of the spatial distribution of all insects and parasites associated with *S. noctilio*. Fungal interactions between *Amylosterum areolatum* and the

fungal species vectored by pine bark beetles are also being studied.

The nematode *B. siricidicola*, a proven biocontrol agent in managing populations of *S. noctilio* in the Southern Hemisphere, was confirmed in Canada during the summer of 2007. Further research is required to confirm if these nematode populations are effective in managing *S. noctilio*.

A second round of consultation meetings is being organized with various industry groups in Canada in an effort to provide information on the biology of *Sirex* woodwasp and its current known range in Canada and to seek stakeholder input into future mitigation options and regulations that will reduce the spread of *S. noctilio*.