Intercepted Bark Beetles (Scolytidae) at U.S. Ports of Entry: 1985 – 2000

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Abstract

Since 1985, USDA APHIS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) has maintained an electronic database for all plant pests intercepted at U.S. ports of entry. The database is known as the Port Information Network or PIN. When I accessed the PIN database in August 2001, there were 577,829 insect records of which 73,649 were for Coleoptera and 6992 were for Scolytidae. When I restricted the database to the years 1985-2000, there were 6827 scolytid records. Of the 6827 scolytid interceptions, 5077 (74%) were identified to the genus or species level, while 1750 (26%) were identified to the family level only (i.e., Scolytidae).

Overall, 49 genera of scolytids were identified. The 10 most commonly intercepted scolytid genera were *Hypothenemus* (821 interceptions), *Pityogenes* (662), *Ips* (544), *Coccotrypes* (520), *Orthotomicus* (461), *Hylurgops* (327), *Hylurgus* (266), *Tomicus* (194), *Dryocoetes* (166), and *Hylastes* (142). For the 2740 scolytid interceptions that were identified to the species level (40% of 6827), the 10 most commonly intercepted species were *Pityogenes chalcographus* (565 interceptions), *Orthotomicus erosus* (385), *Hylurgops palliatus* (295), *Ips typographus* (286), *Hylurgus ligniperda* (217), *Ips sexdentatus* (157), *Tomicus piniperda* (155), *Hylastes ater* (75), *Hypothenemus hampei* (62), and *Polygraphus poligraphus* (48).

The intercepted scolytids originated from at least 118 different countries. The top 12 countries were Italy (1090 interceptions), Germany (756), Spain (4570), Mexico (425), Jamaica (398), Belgium (352), France (261), China (255), Russia (247), India (224), UK (151), and Portugal (150).

The scolytids were intercepted at 97 U.S. ports of entry in 35 U.S. states. The top 12 U.S. states were TX (1203 interceptions), FL (1102), GA (612), LA (467), NY (451), MD (421), OH (327), SC (278), CA (240), KY (232), NC (202), and NJ (192). The top 10 port cities were Houston, TX (822 interceptions), Miami, FL (685), Savannah, GA (466), New Orleans, LA (463), Baltimore, MD (421), Brooklyn, NY (353), Toledo, OH (287), Ft. Lauderdale, FL (250), Charleston, SC (244), and Erlanger, KY (227).

Overall, 72% of the scolytids were associated with solid wood packing material, 20% with food or plants, and 8% other or unspecified. Some of the imported products most commonly associated with infested wood packing were tiles, marble, machinery, steel, parts, ironware, granite, aluminum, slate, and iron. Some of the foods and plants that were commonly infested with scolytids were nutmeg, palms, coffee beans, cola nuts, and macadamia nuts. When considering all insect interceptions associated with wood products, beetles (Coleoptera) comprise the bulk of the interceptions, with the scolytids being the most commonly intercepted insect family (Haack and Cavey 1997, 2000).

Currently, 44 species of exotic scolytids are known to be established in North America (Haack 2001), including 2 species of *Ambrosiodmus*, 7 *Coccotrypes*, 1 *Crypturgus*, 1 Dryoxylon, 1 *Euwallacea*, 1 *Hylastes*, 1 *Hylastinus*, 1 *Hylurgops*, 1 *Hylurgus*, 1 *Hypocryphalus*, 11 *Hypothenemus*, 1 *Pityogenes*, 1 *Premnobius*, 3 *Scolytus*, 1 *Tomicus*, 1 *Trypodendron*, 1 *Xyleborinus*, 5 *Xyleborus*, and 3 *Xylosandrus*.

Literature Cited

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