

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-56  
November 7, 2007

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Monroe County, Pennsylvania

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On October 1, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of one female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. This woodwasp was collected from a trap placed on private property in nearby proximity to the Indian Mountain Lake community. Monroe County is within the State's Pocono Mountains region and is adjacent to Warren and Sussex Counties, New Jersey. This detection is associated with a 600-trap survey effort being conducted cooperatively by APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program and Pennsylvania's Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources throughout central areas of the State. This survey area within Pennsylvania is part of a multi-state detection and delimiting survey that is ongoing in high-risk areas throughout the United States.

*S. noctilio* is present in some parts of the United States. To date, cooperative State and Federal survey efforts have detected *S. noctilio* in 6 Pennsylvania counties, 1 Michigan county, 29 New York counties, and 1 Vermont county. This pest is also known to be present in Ontario Province, Canada.

Sirex woodwasp is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. In other countries affected by *S. noctilio*, biological and cultural control programs have been developed to mitigate the impact of this forest pest.

PPQ's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the United States. APHIS is currently considering its regulatory options to address *S. noctilio*.

For more information about *S. noctilio*, please contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, PPQ's *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator at (301) 734-7228.

/s/ **Michael A. Lidsky for**

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