

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-58  
November 09, 2007

SUBJECT: Detection of *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Hymenoptera: Siricidae) (Sirex woodwasp) in Cortland County, New York and On-going Biocontrol Efforts in the State.

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On November 5, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of a single female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp collected from a trap placed on private property in Cortland County, New York. Cortland County is located in south central New York State and is adjacent to previously reported *S. noctilio* positive counties. In 2007, more than 200 traps were set as part of a survey effort for *S. noctilio* conducted by APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine program in New York counties that had not previously reported positive detections of the pest. This recent *S. noctilio* confirmation brings the total number of known infested counties in New York to 29. APHIS has also confirmed *S. noctilio* detections in one county in Michigan, six counties in Pennsylvania, and one county in Vermont. More than 20 counties in the Province of Ontario, Canada, are known to be affected by *S. noctilio*.

In other countries, where *S. noctilio* has been inadvertently introduced, biological control programs have been developed for this wood boring pest of *Pinus* spp. The first North American pilot study involving a controlled release of the *Sirex* biocontrol nematode (*Beddingia siricidicola*) was conducted in 2006 in New York State. These nematodes were imported from Australia.

A second controlled release of the *Sirex* biocontrol nematode was made in central New York on October 1-3, 2007. PPQ personnel in New York and from the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) cooperated to fell and inoculate 95 trees with nematodes across four sites in Oswego and Onondaga Counties. One site contained red pine, while the others had Scots pine. All trees inoculated in this effort showed signs of heavy attack by *S. noctilio*. These nematodes were reared in CPHST's Pest Survey Detection and Exclusion Laboratory in Cape Code, Massachusetts. As in the initial pilot study, all trees in the second study will be removed from the field before insect emergence so as to prevent the nematodes from escaping into the environment. The APHIS Environmental Service group prepared a Biological Assessment and an Environmental Assessment in support of this work.

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

***John H. Payne for***

Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine