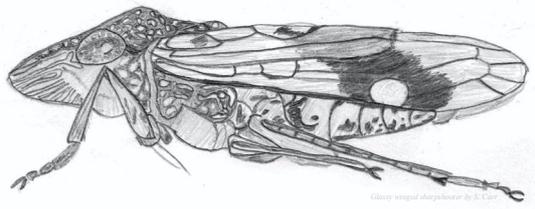


# San Diego County Entomology Newsletter



FALL 2021

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## Invasive Pest Alert — Pine Tortoise Scale

Pine tortoise scale (*Toumeyella parvicornis*, Hemiptera: Coccidae), is a soft scale native to the Eastern United States and was recently detected in San Diego as a new County and State record. It feeds on several Pine tree species, impacting growth, causing dieback, and eventually leading to tree mortality. The females resemble tortoise shells and produce up to 500 eggs underneath their body. The immature crawlers migrate away from their hatching site and settle in the pine shoots or needles, and are naturally dispersed by wind. The males mature into short-lived, winged adults while the females become immobile. Human activity contributes to the artificial spread of this pest through the movement of infested plant material—such as Christmas trees. CDFA has assigned a Q-rating, with proposed A-rating: [blogs.cdфа.ca.gov/Section3162/?p=1954](https://blogs.cdфа.ca.gov/Section3162/?p=1954).



Pine tortoise scale; clockwise from top left: eggs, adult male, and adult female with immature crawler. Photo: S. Wolf.

## Apiary Program Updates



County Apiary Inspectors assessing honeybee hive health. Photo: J. Garza

The County hosted a regional Apiary Inspector training day run by CDFA's Bee Safe Program. Inspectors attended from Riverside, Orange and San Diego counties to learn about apiary pest and disease identification, state beekeeping regulations, and field safety. Thank you to Chaparral Honey for hosting the field component and sharing beekeeping expertise.

Apiary registration renewal packets have been sent to all beekeepers in the county. State law requires that beekeepers register colony numbers and locations with the county Agricultural Commissioner by January 1<sup>st</sup> each year or within 30 days of acquiring a bee colony. Registration can be completed by postal mail, email or Bee-Where website: [beewhere.calagpermits.org](http://beewhere.calagpermits.org)

## Lab Updates & Outreach Events

Visit our new interactive lobby exhibit developed in conjunction with the COC Demonstration Garden. Peer through the microscope or into the terrarium for a closer look at some local beneficial insects and invasive pests, and learn what steps you can take to protect our agricultural environments: [sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/lueg/food-system-initiative/about-the-garden.html](https://sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/lueg/food-system-initiative/about-the-garden.html)

Agricultural Scientist Dr. Bodil Cass presented at the *San Diego South American Palm Weevil Symposium* hosted by the Western Integrated Pest Management Center and the *Professional Tree Care Association Annual Conference* for licensed arborists. Topics covered included county entomology lab and apiary program updates, options for plant pathology diagnostics, South American palm weevil response plan, and seven new pest alerts.

The inaugural European Corn Borer trapping program has concluded for this season, and samples have begun to arrive to the lab from the new Invasive Shot Hole Borer monitoring program. We participated in the Spotted Lanternfly, Asian Citrus Psyllid/HLB, Black Fig Fly, and Cotton Seed Bug response and extension efforts. We are excited about the COC lab renovation project and microscope upgrades underway at COC, SMO, Chula Vista and Vista offices.



Interactive lobby display. Photo: B. Walsh

## Favorite Samples & Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who has submitted potentially invasive pest samples for identification, and to Narriman McNair, Grant Hassinger and Katie French for contributing interesting insect specimens to the entomology reference and outreach collection. We are grateful for your help!



Mealybug, adult male (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae). Photo: S. Wolf



Cotton seed bug (*Oxyarenus hyalinipennis*, Hemiptera: Lygaeidae). Photo: S. Wolf



Black fig fly (*Silba adipata*, Diptera: Lonchaeidae). Photo: T. Tkachuk



Caterpillars in corn (left) and crab apple (right) shipments intercepted by the County Dog Teams. Photos: B. Cass



## Contact the Lab or Apiary Program

Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov

Lab: 858-614-7738 [sandiegocounty.gov/awm/entomology.html](https://sandiegocounty.gov/awm/entomology.html)

Apiary Program: 1800-200-BEES (2337) [sandiegocounty.gov/awm/bees.html](https://sandiegocounty.gov/awm/bees.html)

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