



# Forest Threats

*Eucalyptus gall wasp / Ophelimus maskelli*

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

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## Insect pests

### Eucalyptus gall wasp / *Ophelimus maskelli*

*Ophelimus maskelli*

#### SYMPTOMS

Small, blister-like galls on either side of eucalypt leaves (Protasov et al. 2007).

#### BIOLOGY

*Ophelimus maskelli* is a uniparental leaf galler. Adult *O. maskelli* oviposit into the leaf blade of eucalypts. One female can lay an average of 109 eggs and each egg induces a gall. Larvae develop and pupate within the galls, from which the adult wasps emerge. Three generations per year have been reported from Israel (Protasov et al. 2007).

#### MANAGEMENT

Selection of resistant planting material and biological control. The biological control agent *Closterocerus chamaeleon* has already been detected in South Africa, presumable introduced with *O. maskelli*.

