



Forest Threats

Red gum lerp psyllid / Glycaspis brimblecombei

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

Created 17 June 2026

fabinet.up.ac.za

Insect pests

Red gum lerp psyllid / *Glycaspis brimblecombei*

Glycaspis brimblecombei

SYMPTOMS

Low infestations result in leaf wilt and abscission. Heavy infestations may result in leaf drop, branch dieback and tree death. Infested leaves are covered with waxy secretions and honeydew, on which sooty mould grows.

BIOLOGY

Adults are mobile and females are reported to lay up to 700 eggs. The eggs hatch in 10-20 days and the nymphs will pierce the plant tissue with their stylet (mouthparts), feeding on the xylem. The nymphs develop under white, conical structures called lerp which they build from exuded sugars and wax. In Australia there are two to four generations per year.

MANAGEMENT

The parasitic wasp, *Psyllaephagus bliteus*, was reported in South Africa in 2015. Planting of resistant material is also a possible management strategy.

