



Forest Threats

Shell lerp psyllid / Spondylaspis cf. plicatuloides

Tree Protection Co-operative Programme

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Insect pests

Shell lerp psyllid / *Spondylaspis cf. plicatuloides*

Spondylaspis cf. plicatuloides

SYMPTOMS

Leaf purpling on the opposite side of the lerps, chlorosis, leaf necrosis, and defoliation.

BIOLOGY

Adults lay eggs in clusters on the leaf surface and eggs incubate for 11 days. The nymphs develop under brown scalloped shelters for 23 days, and females reach reproductive maturity 2 days after eclosion, laying an average of 16 eggs. The total life cycle from egg to adult death spans 37 days (Makunde et al. 2023).

MANAGEMENT

Although not much is known, the parasitic wasp *Psyllaephagus bliteus*, known to parasitize other lerp-forming psyllids, has been found parasitizing the shell lerp psyllid. Planting resistant material is also a potential management strategy.

