

A dispenser for monitoring of eucalyptus gall wasp, *Leptocybe invasa*



Leptocybe invasa

Technology Description

Eucalyptus gall wasp, *Leptocybe invasa* is known as an important pest on the coppices and nurseries of eucalyptus. The present technology can easily capture the wasps through the volatiles. The volatiles were identified from the susceptible eucalyptus clones.

Background

Eucalyptus spp. occupies around 8.0 million ha in India, mainly due to its use in paper manufacturing. Eucalyptus gall wasp, *Leptocybe invasa* was reported in Karnataka in 2001 and subsequently reported from a few pockets in Tamil Nadu and places where eucalyptus grown in India. The pest has created havoc in forest nurseries and young plantations. The insect form galls on leaf midrib, and stems of seedlings as well as coppice shoots resulting in stunted growth. Galls also weaken the plants when their abundance is more. There is great variation in the susceptibility of *Eucalyptus* clones to *L. invasa*. Some clones are highly susceptible. There was a search for an attractant which will make it possible for the early detection of *Leptocybe* to plan for our release of biological control agents. This technology has important volatiles identified from the susceptible eucalyptus clones.



Pheromone dispenser

Benefits /Utility

The lures will help in the monitoring of population of *Leptocybe* in various regions of the country where the incidence is likely to occur. Besides, the lures can also be used for mass trapping.

Scalability

The technology can be extended to any scale.

Business and commercial potential

The lures can be manufactured and used in all the eucalyptus nurseries and forest plantations for monitoring and mass trapping. Great scope for export potential of the lures in all the countries where the threat of *Leptocybe* looms over. The technology can be well integrated with biological control practices for effective management of *L. invasa*.

Financial requirement

Cost of each lure is Rs 3.00

Target Market/Customer

- All the commercial producers of pheromones/lures

Social impact of the technology

- Through the application for monitoring and mass trapping the pest can be effectively managed.