

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Redgum lerp psyllid

Scientific Name: *Glycaspis brimblecombei*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Psyllidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Slightly less than 1 mm	Eggs are often laid in clusters. They are yellow or cream colored.
Larva/Nymph	Last instar: 1.5 – 2.0 mm	They are yellowish-orange to brownish. Nymphs produce a protective cover called a “lerp” made from honeydew and wax. The lerps range from 1 – 4 mm in diameter, enlarging as the nymph grows. The lerps are white to greyish and resemble an armored scale.
Adult	4 – 5 mm (head to wing tips)	Adults are winged and look like miniature cicadas. They are light green to brownish with some orange and yellow.
Pupa (if applicable)		N/A

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):

The nymphs and adults have straw like mouthparts and feed by sucking plant sap.

Host plant/s:

The nymphs are known to infest and feed on over two dozen species of *Eucalyptus* trees. They are reported to prefer the red river gum, the flooded gum and the forest red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E. rudis* and *E. tereticornis* respectively).

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Redgum lerp psyllids suck the plant sap of *Eucalyptus* trees. Large populations can cause premature leaf drop and weaken trees, making them more susceptible to other insects and disease. In severe cases, death of the tree may result. Excessive honeydew produced by nymphs will accumulate on cars, patio furniture and other items below trees. It can also result in growth of unsightly dark sooty mold. Fallen leaves and honeydew may attract other insects, providing food and harborage. Notably, yellowjackets seeking honeydew may become problematic to people in the area.

References:

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