

THE FALSE-MASTIC PSYLLA (CEROPSYLLA SIDEROXYLI RILEY)¹
(HOMOPTERA:PSYLLIDAE)
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ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: LEAVES OF THE FALSE-MASTIC TREE (SIDEROXYLON FOETIDISSIMUM JACQ.) ARE COMMONLY ATTACKED BY A JUMPING PLANT LOUSE, CEROPSYLLA SIDEROXYLI RILEY. DAMAGE IS OFTEN SEVERE, BUT SINCE THE HOST ITSELF IS NOT HIGHLY COMMERCIALIZED, LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONTROL METHODS.

DIAGNOSIS: PSYLLID NYMPHS ARE FOUND ON THE UNDERSIDE OF A LEAF, EMBEDDED IN SMALL, SCATTERED, CUP-SHAPED EXCAVATIONS, WHICH ON THE UPPER SIDE OF THE LEAF APPEAR AS ROUGH, ELEVATED PUSTULES. A WHITE WAXLIKE (NOT FLOCCULENT) EXCRETION COVERS THE DORSAL SURFACE OF THE NYMPHS AND MAKES THEM VERY CONSPICUOUS (SEE FIGS. 1 AND 2). ADULT PSYLLIDS 4 MM LONG TO TIP OF FOLDED WINGS; GENERAL COLOR GREEN TO YELLOW; FRONT OF HEAD, BETWEEN ANTENNAE, INCLUDING GENAL (=CHEEK) PROCESSES, ANTERIOR 2/3 OF PRESCUTUM AND TWO BROAD STRIPES ON SCUTUM (=BACK), DARK BROWN. ANTENNAE DARK APICALLY. WINGS HYALINE. MICROSCOPIC CHARACTERS OF THE HEAD AND WINGS ARE USED TO SEPARATE THIS PSYLLID FROM OTHER SPECIES. NO OTHER CLOSELY RELATED SPECIES IS KNOWN FROM FLORIDA.

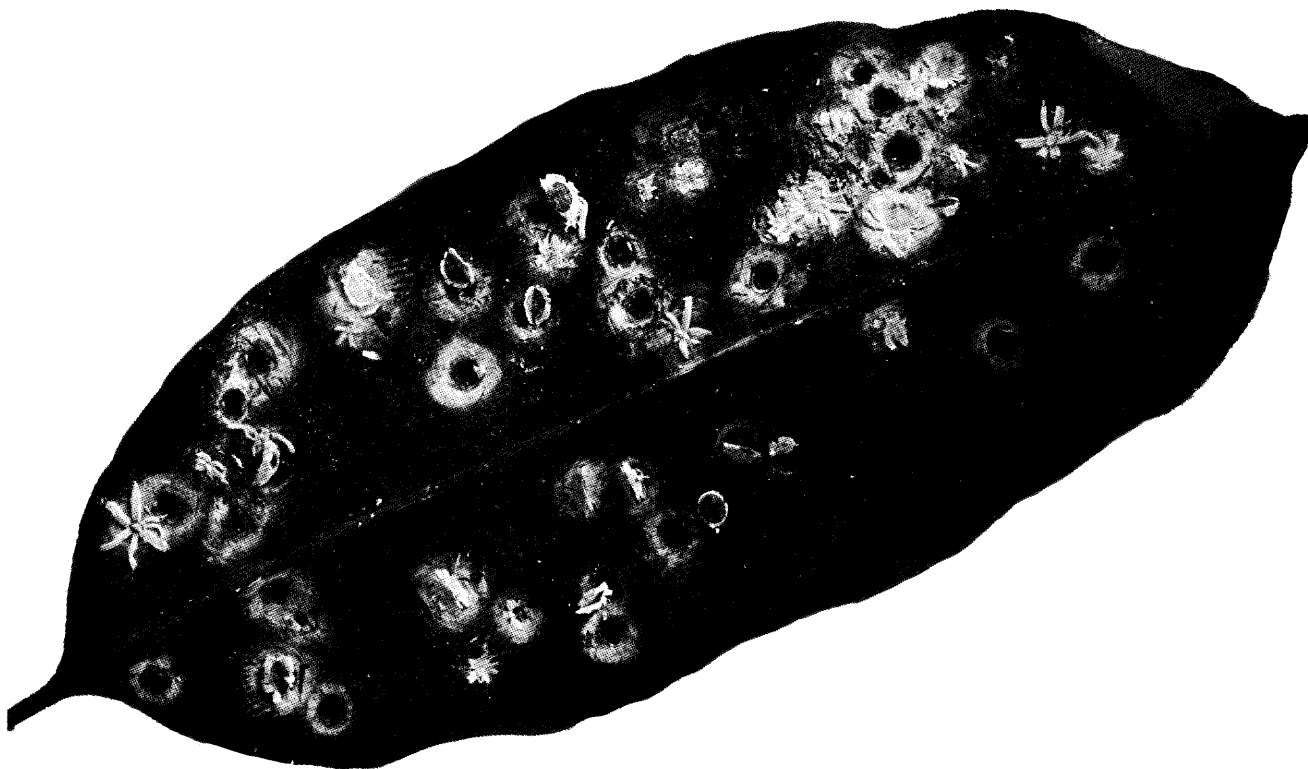


FIG. 1

NYMPHS OF CEROPSYLLA SIDEROXYLI RILEY ON FALSE-MASTIC LEAF (X2).

PHOTOGRAPH OF SPECIMEN FROM WEST PALM BEACH BY THE LATE DR. E. W. BERGER, STATE PLANT BOARD OF FLORIDA.

¹CONTRIBUTION No. 39, ENTOMOLOGY SECTION

DISTRIBUTION: THIS PSYLLID WAS ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED FROM LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA, IN 1885 BY C. V. RILEY. SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM OTHER LOCALITIES IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA, PRINCIPALLY ALONG THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD FROM CAPE CANAVERAL (=CAPE KENNEDY) SOUTH TO KEY WEST (SEE FIG. 3) AS WELL AS IN ZACATULA, GUERRERO, AND ESMERELDA, CHIAPAS, MEXICO. MOST OF THE FLORIDA LOCALITIES ARE TAKEN FROM THE HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED RECORDS IN THE FILES OF THE DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

THE HOST PLANT SPECIES, ACCORDING TO LITTLE (1953), RANGES FROM SOUTHERN FLORIDA, INCLUDING THE FLORIDA KEYS, NORTH ON THE EASTERN COAST TO CAPE CANAVERAL. ALSO, IT IS FOUND IN THE WEST INDIES, AND A VARIETY IS FOUND IN YUCATAN PENINSULA OF MEXICO AND BRITISH HONDURAS. LITTLE LISTS MASTIC AND WILD OLIVE AS OTHER COMMON NAMES AND GIVES SIDEROXYLON MASTICHODENDRON AND MASTICHODENDRON FOETIDISSIMUM AS SYNONYMS. THE SPECIFIC EPITHET REFERS TO THE VERY ILL-SMELLING, CHEESELIKE ODOR OF THE NUMEROUS FLOWERS.

REFERENCES:

LITTLE, E. L., JR. 1953. CHECK LIST OF NATIVE AND NATURALIZED TREES OF THE UNITED STATES. USDA Agr. HANDBOOK 41:405.
 TUTHILL, L. D. 1944. THE PSYLLIDS OF AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO (PSYLLIDAE:HOMOPTERA). IOWA STATE COLL. J. Sci. 17(4):443-660.



FIG. 2
 A
 B
 C

NYMPHS OF CEROPSYLLA SIDEROXYLI RILEY.
 A-- SPLIT NYMPHAL SKIN, ADULT READY TO EMERGE.
 B-- EMPTY NYMPHAL SKIN, ADULT EMERGED AND GONE.
 C-- PIT VACATED BY NYMPH.

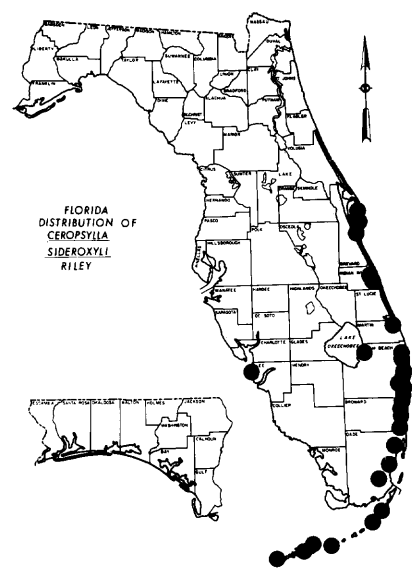


FIG. 3
 FLORIDA DISTRIBUTION OF
CEROPSYLLA SIDEROXYLI.