



## *Sirex noctilio* F and Exotic Woodwasp Capable of Killing Trees

On February 19, 2005, a *Sirex noctilio* F. woodwasp was collected in conjunction with a pest survey for exotic woodborer and bark beetles in the state of New York. It was collected in a Lindgren funnel trap and is the trap being used in the MFC survey. A pest alert was issued for this insect during June 2005 [http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/sirex\\_woodwasp/sirexwoodwasp.htm](http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/sirex_woodwasp/sirexwoodwasp.htm).

Beginning in June 2007 MFC began surveying, along with other southern states, for this potential pest. In total 48 Lindgren funnel traps have been placed throughout the state with nine to ten traps in each of the five districts of the commission.

The sirex woodwasp is considered a secondary pest in its native range. However, it is a major pest in exotic pine plantations of the Southern Hemisphere. Females carry a fungus that they deposit in trees when laying their eggs. This fungus and the mucus injected by the wasp rapidly weaken and kill host trees, and the developing larvae feed on the fungus. This pest is attracted to stressed trees that are often used to make solid wood packing material.

Since the life cycle can take a year or more, the insect is transported easily in pallets or other softwood packing material and not readily detected at a port. For this reason

the MFC trap locations selected for 2007 are in high import areas. Trapping will continue until mid-October. To date no sirex woodwasps have been detected and the hope is that none will be. But it is extremely important that we are proactive in this detection process so that in the event sirex is detected control measures can be implemented and the species eradicated before it can become established as it has in the northeastern US.

For additional information contact:

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Figure 2: SIREX noc female ovipositing  
Kevin Dodds



Figure 1: Sirex trap in Forrest County, MS.