Mini data sheet on *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*

Added in 2001 – Deleted in 2008

Reasons for deletion:
A PRA conducted by an EPPO Expert Working Group concluded that the pest *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* was not a risk for EPPO region. In 2008, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Aulacaspis yasumatsui (Homoptera: Diaspididae) – Cycad aulacaspis

Why	The NPPO of France suggested that *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* could be added to the EPPO Alert List, because of its recent introduction and spread in Florida (US). In Florida, it was first described in 1996, although it is suspected that it has been introduced in 1992 by an expedition funded by a botanical garden.
Where	**Asia**: Southeast Asia (recorded in Hong Kong (China), Thailand, but probably present in other countries). **North America**: USA. Florida: first found in Miami in 1996, then spread to many other counties (as of 2000: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Hendry, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Palm Beach, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, Suwanee). First found in 1998 in Hawaii (probably introduced from Florida). **Caribbean**: Cayman Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique. It has been intercepted in France on imported *Cycas* plants.
On which plants	Exclusively cycads in the following genera: *Cycas* (Cycadaceae –preferred genera among cycads), *Dioon*, *Encephalartos*, *Microcycas* (Zamiaceae) and *Stangeria* (Stangeriaceae).
Damage	Infestation usually starts on the underside of the leaflets. Damage initially appears as chlorotic spots. As infestation increases, scales infest the upper surfaces of the leaflets, then petioles and trunks. Highly infested cycads are almost completely coated with a white crust. A particular feature is that *A. yasumatsui* can infest cycad roots. Males and females have been observed on roots of containerized and planted cycads (up to 60 cm deep in the soil). Without control by natural enemies, this species is highly damaging for cycads and often lethal. In addition to direct injury, scales are remarkably persistent, and dead scales disfigure the plants for a very long time.
Pathway	*A. yasumatsui* could be introduced through the import of cycad plants from infested countries. *A. yasumatsui* has a high potential to spread to new areas via plant movements because one or few fecund females hidden between leaf bases, fibrous stems or roots can easily escape detection. Spread over short distances is ensured by wind dispersal of crawlers. *A. yasumatsui* could also be dispersed by people, animals, birds, larger insects…
Possible risks	Cycads are valuable ornamentals plants in the EPPO region. *A. yasumatsui* presents a risk for cycads grown under glass for the whole region, and in gardens for countries of the Mediterranean basin where they are outdoor ornamental plants. In addition, it could threaten the survival of several rare and already endangered species conserved in botanical collections.
Source(s)	Broome, T. The Asian cycad scale. Palm & Cycad Societies of Florida, Inc. http://www.plantapalm.com/vce/horticulture/asiancycadscale.htm CABI (2000) Distribution maps of plant pests. *Aulacaspis yasumatsui,* no. 610, Wallingford, United Kingdom. Etienne J (2007) Pour la sauvegarde des Cycas en Guadeloupe. *L'Entomologiste* **63**(5), 271-275. Germain, J.F. (2002) *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* Takagi : un risque pour les cycas. PHM – Revue Horticole, no. 440, 43-44. Hamon, A. Cycad aulacaspis scale, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* - http://doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/ento/aulacaspis.html Heu, R.A.; Chun, M.E. Sago Palm Scale – New Pest Advisory no. 99-01 – State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture. http://www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/npa.htm Hodgson, C. & Martin, J.H. (2001) Three noteworthy scale insects (Hemiptera: Coccoidea) from Hong Kong and Singapore, including *Cribropulvinaria tailungensis*, new genus and species (Coccidae), and the status of the cycad-feeding *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* (Diaspididae). Raffles Bulletin of Zoology 49: 227-250.

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EPPO RS 2001/130, 2003/032, 2005/076, 2007/220, 2008/100

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