

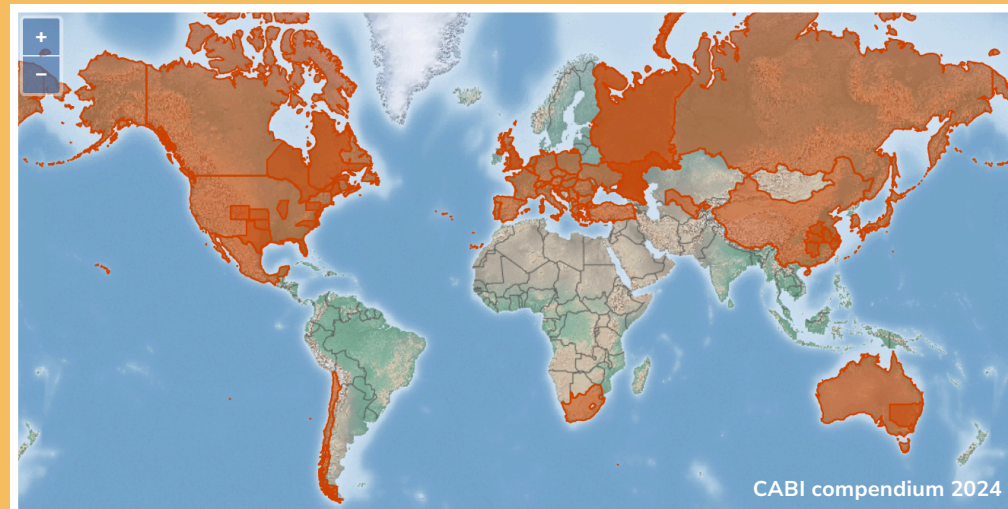
BE AWARE!

Plane lace bug - *Corythucha ciliata*

THE ORGANISM



Plane lace bug is a small insect pest primarily affecting plane trees (*Platanus* species). Native to North America, it has become an invasive in many part of Europe and Asia.



Adults overwinter in bark crevices and leaf litter, with peak populations usually occurring in July. The life cycle takes 30-40 days, allowing 2-3 generations per year. Adults, nymphs and eggs can be found simultaneously on the lower surface of affected leaves.

Overwintering adults on bark



Adults and nymphs on leaf



HOW TO RECOGNISE IT ?

1. APPEARANCE

Adults are about 3-4mm long, with delicate lacy wings that are milk-white with variable brown markings



Nymphs are flattened, wingless, black, spiny and oval shaped, growing to about 2mm long.



2. SYMPTOMS ON PLANTS

Upper leaf surface exhibits yellow-whitish spots, and in more advanced infestation, large yellow-bronze areas



Underside of leaves showing dark, varnish-like spots of excrement.



THE PROBLEM



Threat to collection integrity: Plane lace bug infestations can cause severe damage to plane tree species leaves, leading to reduced photosynthesis, defoliation and potentially stunting growth. Repeat infestations can weaken trees making them more susceptible to other pest and diseases.



Public perception: As plane trees are common in urban settings, infestations can affect the appearance of the specimens and health of street trees and park landscapes.



Public health: Adult bugs can bite humans, although this is rare.

WHAT TO DO?



PREVENTION

1. **Quarantine:** Implement strict quarantine measures for new plant acquisitions to prevent pest introduction.
2. **Awareness raising:** Inform visitors about the pest and management efforts to maintain support for control measures.



DETECTION & MANAGEMENT

1. **Monitoring:** Regularly monitor the collection, especially from late spring to late summer.
2. **Disposal:** Dispose properly potential infested material (leaves, litter, soil, wood, foliage) and do not remove from site.
3. **Biosecurity best practices:** Follow proper biosecurity measures, such as, brushing off clothing and boots, keeping vehicles to hard tracks, disinfecting tools when necessary, etc.
4. **Training:** Train garden staff and volunteers to recognise and report Plane lace bug.
5. **Reporting:** Report sightings to local agricultural or environmental authorities.

For more information:

- [Observatree. Field Identification Guide: Plane lace bug](#)
- [Dominiak & Gillespie \(2009\). *Corythucha ciliata* \(sycamore lace bug\). CABI Compendium, 16264](#)



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