Regional Concurrent Outbreaks of Ash Leaf Curl Aphid, *Prociphilus fraxinifolii* (Riley) (Hemiptera: Aphididae: Eriosomatinae), and the Invasive Predator, *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), in Northeastern Mexico

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Most aphidophagous coccinellids are beneficial predators in agriculture. The multicolored Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas), is exotic in North America, and during the last few decades has become an abundant and important predator in agriculture there. However, it outcompetes and negatively impacts native lady beetles, which have become less abundant than *H. axyridis* at many locations (Roy and Wajnberg 2008). The dynamics of native and invasive sympatric lady beetles is a topic of interest with implications for biological control of pests.

The ash leaf curl aphid, *Prociphilus fraxinifolii* (Riley), is a Nearctic species that causes conspicuous damage (leaf curling known as leaf-nest galls, and shoot deformation) to species of New World ashes, *Fraxinus* L. (Cranshaw 2004, Petrović-Obradović et al. 2007, Pérez-Hidalgo and Mier-Durante 2012). The damage is frequent in and around urban areas of Saltillo (State of Coahuila) and Monterrey (State of Nuevo León) (together these urban areas include 12 municipalities) in northeastern Mexico. However, the aphid species has not been identified. Ash trees (like Berlandier ash, *Fraxinus berlandieriana* DC., and other species) are important in urban, rural, as well as natural areas of northeastern Mexico (Lelito et al. 2013). Aphids affect new growth, stunt, and possibly weaken trees in this semiarid region.

A regional outbreak of leaf curl aphids involving hundreds of *Fraxinus* trees was observed in April-June 2015 throughout the municipalities of Ramos Arizpe and Saltillo (Coahuila), and also at the municipalities of García, Monterrey, San Nicolás, San Pedro, and Santa Catarina (Nuevo León), encompassing a distance of at least 100 km. Associated with the aphids, large numbers of lady beetles (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) of all stages were observed on leaf-nest galls and shoots through the region. We were interested in the identity of ash leaf curl aphids, and the species and abundance of coccinellids associated with infestations of these aphids, which can act as a source of predatory insects against other aphid species. In May 2015, aphids were identified to species with the aid of a microscope. Also in May 2015, we sampled coccinellids on randomly selected aphid-infested ash shoots and curled leaves at Saltillo, and identified the species of beetles. In June 2015, we counted (timed visual searches; Hesler and Kieckhefer 2008) and identified the species of coccinellids from pupal exuviae on aphid-damaged ash shoots and curled leaves at a municipal park in San Nicolás in the Monterrey urban area. Finding coccinellid