



## **Temperature-Dependent Development and Host Range of Crapemyrtle Bark Scale, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* (Kuwana) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae)**

Authors: Wang, Zinan, Chen, Yan, and Diaz, Rodrigo

Source: Florida Entomologist, 102(1) : 181-186

Published By: Florida Entomological Society

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1653/024.102.0129>

---

BioOne Complete ([complete.BioOne.org](https://complete.BioOne.org)) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at [www.bioone.org/terms-of-use](https://www.bioone.org/terms-of-use).

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

---

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

# Temperature-dependent development and host range of crapemyrtle bark scale, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* (Kuwana) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae)

Zinan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Yan Chen<sup>2</sup>, and Rodrigo Diaz<sup>1,\*</sup>

---

## Abstract

The crapemyrtle bark scale, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* (Kuwana) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae), is an invasive pest of crapemyrtles, *Lagerstroemia* spp. L. (Lythraceae) in the southeastern USA. Information about its temperature-dependent development and host range is limited. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the effects of temperature on the immature development of *A. lagerstroemiae*, and to determine plant species suitable for immature development and reproduction. Developmental time and survival of eggs were evaluated at 7 constant temperatures from 17.5 to 32 °C, and of nymphs at 20, 25, and 30 °C. Results suggested that 27.5 °C was the optimum temperature for egg hatching with the shortest time (10 d) and the highest hatching rate (95%). The developmental time for *A. lagerstroemiae* from nymph to prepupa and gravid female was 56 d and 68 d at 30 °C, respectively. Five plant species besides crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* × *fauriei* L.) were able to support the immature development and reproduction of *A. lagerstroemiae* under no-choice conditions, including *Lawsonia inermis* L., *Heimia salicifolia* Link, *Punica granatum* L., *Lythrum alatum* Pursh (all Lythraceae), and *Callicarpa americana* L. (Lamiaceae). At wk 12 from inoculation, the density of gravid females was 482 ± 92 (mean ± standard error) on *L. indica* × *fauriei*, 200 ± 70 on *C. americana*, and < 150 on other species. Using data from developmental time and host range, integrated pest management (IPM) practitioners can implement preventive strategies for *A. lagerstroemiae*.

Key Words: alternative hosts; developmental time; immature development; temperature effects; no-choice test

## Resumen

La escama de la corteza del crespón, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* (Kuwana) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae), es una plaga invasiva del crespón, *Lagerstroemia* spp. L. (Lythraceae) en el suereste de EE. UU. Hay muy poca información sobre el desarrollo de la escama a diferentes temperaturas o sobre su rango de hospederos. Los objetivos de este estudio fueron evaluar los efectos de la temperatura en el desarrollo de inmaduros de *A. lagerstroemiae*, y determinar las plantas capaces de sostener desarrollo de inmaduros y reproducción. El tiempo de desarrollo y sobrevivencia de huevos fueron evaluados a 7 temperaturas constantes desde 17.5 a 32 °C, y de ninfas a 20, 25, 30 °C. Los resultados sugieren que 27.5 °C es la temperatura óptima para la eclosión de huevos debido a su corto tiempo (10 d) y alta tasa de eclosión (95%). El tiempo de desarrollo de *A. lagerstroemiae* de ninfa a prepupa y a hembra gestante fue 56 d y 68 d a 30 °C, respectivamente. Cinco especies de plantas adicionales al crespón (*Lagerstroemia indica* × *fauriei* L.) pudieron sostener el desarrollo de inmaduros y reproducción de *A. lagerstroemiae* bajo condiciones de no-elección, incluyendo *Lawsonia inermis* L., *Heimia salicifolia* Link, *Punica granatum* L., *Lythrum alatum* Pursh (Lythraceae), y *Callicarpa americana* L. (Lamiaceae). En la semana 12 desde la inoculación, la densidad de hembras gestantes fue 482 ± 92 (promedio y error estándar) en *L. indica* × *fauriei*, 200 ± 70 en *C. americana*, y < 150 en otras especies. Usando datos del tiempo desarrollo y rango de hospederos, trabajadores en (MIP) pueden implementar estrategias de prevención de *A. lagerstroemiae*.

Palabras Clave: hospederos alternativos; desarrollo de inmaduros; efectos de temperatura; test de no-elección; tiempo de desarrollo.

---

The crapemyrtle bark scale, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* (Kuwana) (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae), is an invasive pest of crapemyrtles, *Lagerstroemia* spp. L. (Lythraceae) (Wang et al. 2016). Native to Asia, this pest was first reported in Richardson, Texas, USA, in 2004 (Merchant et al. 2014), and it is currently present in 11 other states including Louisiana (EDDMapS 2017). *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* is a sexual dimorphic with the adult female being sessile on the bark for most of her lifetime (Wang et al. 2016). Honeydew secreted by this scale facilitates sooty mold accumulation on the crapemyrtles, thus reducing aesthetic values as well as producing limited photosynthesis (Gu et al. 2014). Crapemyrtles are ornamentals with the highest economic value in the southeastern US (USDA NASS 2014). With more

than 130 cultivars, *Lagerstroemia* spp. have a wide range of plant size, flower, foliage, and bark color (Chappell et al. 2012). Before the arrival of *A. lagerstroemiae*, crapemyrtles were valued as an ornamental with low pest problems (Knox 2003; Chappell et al. 2012). Current management of *A. lagerstroemiae* relies on insecticides such as imidacloprid, cypermethrin, and dinotefuran both in China (He et al. 2008; Zhang 2011) and the US (Gu et al. 2014; Robbins 2014), though most of these chemicals have been prohibited on bee-attractive plants including crapemyrtle (Riddle & Mizell 2016).

Temperature is one of the most important abiotic factors influencing the survival and development of insects and consequently population growth (Ratte 1984; Amarasekare & Savage 2011; Régnière et al.

---

<sup>1</sup>Louisiana State University, Agricultural Center, Department of Entomology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, USA, E-mail: RDiaz@agcenter.lsu.edu (R. D.); wangzina@msu.edu (Z. W.)

<sup>2</sup>Louisiana State University, Agricultural Center, Hammond Research Station, Hammond, Louisiana 70403, USA, E-mail: YaChen@agcenter.lsu.edu (Y. C.)

\*Corresponding author; E-mail: RDiaz@agcenter.lsu.edu

2012). For *A. lagerstroemiae*, most of its phenology comes from field observations both in the native range and the US (Gu et al. 2014). In China, the number of generations of *A. lagerstroemiae* increased latitudinally from 2 to 4 generations from 32 to 26 °N (Jiang & Xu 1998; Luo et al. 2000; He et al. 2008; Ma 2011). Despite the importance for the development of phenological models, there is no information on the immature survival and developmental times of *A. lagerstroemiae* at constant temperatures. By understanding the developmental time of a pest, effective management plans can be developed, such as better timing of insecticide applications, delivering preventive strategies, or releasing biological control agents (Waage et al. 1985; May et al. 1988; Tang et al. 2010).

Understanding the host range of exotic pests is critical to determine potential risks and economic losses (Venette et al. 2010; Zalucki et al. 2012). In Asia and Hungary, *A. lagerstroemiae* was reported to attack 13 species of ecological and economic importance (Hoy 1963; Hua 2000; Kozar et al. 2013). Some of the reported hosts of this scale are also important crops in the US, including pomegranate, *Punica granatum* L. (Lythraceae), persimmon, *Diospyros kaki* Thunb. (Ebenaceae), and edible fig, *Ficus carica* L. (Moraceae) (USDA NASS 2012). In addition, polyphagous pests including *A. lagerstroemiae* may expand or shift the host range in the adventive area (Strong 1979). These changes in the host range have been reported for invasive scales in different regions (Hemiptera: Coccoidea) (Cham et al. 2011; Culik et al. 2013; Silva et al. 2017). However, there are no studies in the US of the host range of the population of *A. lagerstroemiae*.

The purpose of this study was to understand the temperature-dependent development and host range of *A. lagerstroemiae*. The specific objectives were (1) to assess the effects of temperature on the development and survival of immature stages; and (2) to determine the host range of the scale under no-choice conditions. Temperature-dependent development was evaluated at constant temperatures in the laboratory. Thirteen plant species from 7 families were tested under no-choice conditions. Preventive strategies and improvement of IPM plans for this scale are discussed.

## Materials and Methods

### INSECT AND PLANT COLONIES

Branches of crapemyrtles infested with different stages of *A. lagerstroemiae* were collected in Shreveport (32.5500°N, 93.7800°W), Louisiana, USA, from Apr 2016 to Jul 2016. Upon arrival at the laboratory, infested branches were immediately placed in a growth chamber at 25 ± 1 °C with a photoperiod of 12:12 h (L:D). Experiments were conducted 1 or 2 d after the field collection to ensure that the insects were alive.

Crapemyrtles, *Lagerstroemia indica* × *fauriei* 'Natchez White' (Lythraceae) in 1 L pots were purchased from local nurseries in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Other plant species were purchased from local nurseries or were obtained from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSUAC) Hammond Research Station, Hammond, Louisiana, with container sizes ranging from 1 to 3.8 L. All plants were placed under full sun, fertilized every 3 mo with 14 g of a controlled release fertilizer (OsmocotePlus®, 15N-9P-12K; The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Marysville, Ohio, USA), and watered daily.

### TEMPERATURE-DEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT

The immature development and survival of *A. lagerstroemiae* were examined at 7 constant temperatures (17.5, 20, 22.5, 25, 27.5, 30, and

32.5 ± 1 °C) in environmental growth chambers (Series 101, Percival Scientific®, Perry, Iowa, USA) set at 12:12 h (L:D) photoperiod. Short branches (< 5 cm) containing gravid females were placed inside Petri dishes (9 cm diam) and monitored for the presence of eggs. Recently deposited eggs (< 1 d old) were gently removed using a pin, and transferred to new Petri dishes containing dry filter paper. One Petri dish was assigned to each temperature, and 40 eggs laid by at least 3 females were pooled at each temperature. A single egg was considered a replicate. All Petri dishes were examined daily under a microscope, and the numbers of crawlers were counted and recorded until all eggs had hatched or died.

For nymphal development, 50 newly hatched crawlers (< 1 d old) were inoculated on a potted crapemyrtle plant, and 4 plants (replicates) were used per temperature (20, 25, and 30 ± 1 °C; photoperiod 12:12 h [L:D]). Each infested plant was kept inside a 49 L plastic wastebasket (20 × 30 × 45 cm; Mainstays™, Kenmore, Virginia, USA) that was modified by removing the plastic material from each of the 4 sides and the bottom, then covering with fine mesh. The fine mesh served to maintain air ventilation and humidity inside the container and prevented the crawlers from escaping. The top of the basket was covered with transparent plastic wrap. Because of the minute size and similar morphology among different *A. lagerstroemiae* instars (Wang et al. 2016), it was difficult to differentiate each molting during the nymphal stages. However, the presence of white waxy coverings of male prepupa and gravid female was considered in this study to be the end of the nymphal stage for male and female, respectively. Because females produce a white covering when they are ready to lay eggs, the developmental time for female nymphs measured in this study could be overestimated. All plants were examined daily, and individuals with the presence of white coverings were recorded and marked with a permanent marker on the bark. Because most nymphs cannot finish their development at 20 °C, we harvested all plants at 7 mo. For the nymphs that were left on the plant, we confirmed the mortality under a microscope by leg movement. Developmental time and survival per observed life stage were compared among temperatures using 1-way analysis of the variance (ANOVA) in PROC MIXED (SAS Version 9.3; SAS Institute 2011), and the LSMEANS were compared using Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) test at α = 0.05.

### HOST RANGE TEST

The immature development and reproduction of *A. lagerstroemiae* reared on different plant species were examined under no-choice conditions. A total of 13 plant species were selected based on 3 criteria: (1) plants previously were reported as hosts (reviewed in Wang et al. 2016), (2) plants are closely related as determined by the centrifugal phylogenetic method (Wapshere 1989), and (3) *Callicarpa americana* L. (Lamiaceae) that was observed infested with *A. lagerstroemiae* in the field (Wang et al. 2016) (Table 1). Plant species reported as hosts in Asia and found in the United States were *Buxus microphylla* Siebold & Zucc. (Buxaceae), *Celtis laevigata* Willdenow (Combretaceae), *Diospyros kaki* Thunb. (Ebenaceae), *Ficus carica* L. (Moraceae), *Punica granatum* L. (Lythraceae), and *Rubus fruticosus* L. 'Kiowa' (Rosaceae). According to the phylogenetic analysis of Lythraceae (Myrtales) (Graham et al. 2005), another 4 plant species were selected including *Cuphea ignea* A. DC., *Heimia salicifolia* Link, *Lawsonia inermis* L., and *Lythrum alatum* Pursh. Four plants (replicates) of each species were used in this study, and *Lagerstroemia indica* × *fauriei* 'Natchez White' was considered the control. Plants were inoculated by tying infested branches (8–10 cm in length) to the main stem of test plants for 1 wk. Then each plant was placed inside a cage (61 × 61 × 91 cm) (BioQuip® Compton, California, USA) and allowed to grow under greenhouse conditions.

**Table 1.** Plant species as host candidates of *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* used in no-choice tests.

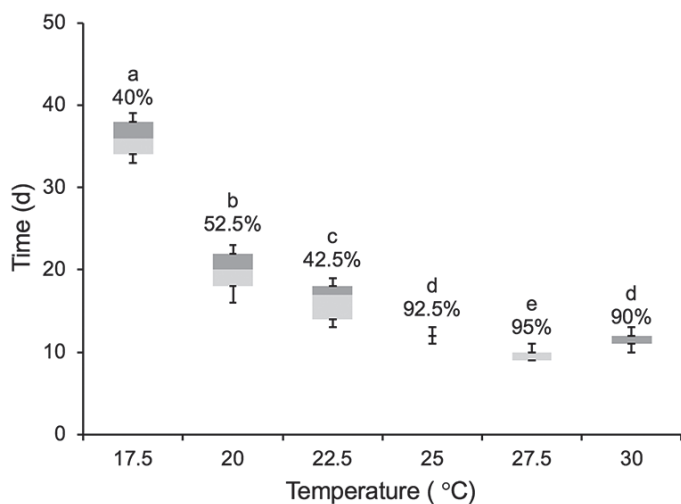
Scientific name	Variety	Common name	Order	Family
<i>Buxus microphylla</i> Siebold & Zucc.	'Japonica'	Japanese boxwood	Buxales	Buxaceae
<i>Diospyros kaki</i> Thunb.	Wild variety	Japanese persimmon	Ericales	Ebenaceae
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> L.	—	Beautyberry	Lamiales	Lamiaceae
<i>Celtis laevigata</i> Willdenow	—	Sugarberry	Myrtales	Combretaceae
<i>Cuphea ignea</i> A. DC.	'Strybing Sunset'	Cigar flower	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Cuphea ignea</i> A. DC.	'Dynamite'	Cigar flower	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Cuphea ignea</i> A. DC.	'Vermillionaire'	Cigar flower	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Heimia salicifolia</i> Link	—	Sinicuichi	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> × <i>fauriei</i>	'Natchez White'	Crapemyrtle	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	—	Henna	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Lythrum alatum</i> Pursh	—	Winged loosestrife	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	'Wonderful'	Pomegranate	Myrtales	Lythraceae
<i>Ficus carica</i> L.	'Tiger'	Edible fig	Rosales	Moraceae
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L.	'Kiowa'	Blackberry	Rosales	Rosaceae

Gravid females, recognized by the white ovisacs found on each plant, were counted and recorded every wk for a total of 14 wk. The experiment was conducted from Apr to Oct 2016. Plant species that supported complete life cycle development from egg to adult and the reproduction of adults were defined as host plants of *A. lagerstroemiae* (Heard 1997). When no gravid females were found after 4 wk of inoculation, plants were re-infested using the same protocol to confirm the non-host status. The total number of gravid females by wk 12 were compared among host plants using 1-way ANOVA in PROC MIXED (SAS Version 9.3; SAS Institute 2011), and the LSMEANS were separated using Tukey's HSD test at  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

## Results

### TEMPERATURE-DEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT

Developmental time differed among temperatures for eggs ( $F = 1076.0$ ;  $df = 5,159$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ; Fig. 1), male nymphs ( $F = 84.9$ ;  $df = 2,48$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ), and female nymphs ( $F = 350.2$ ;  $df = 1,65$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ; Table



**Fig. 1.** Box plot of the developmental time in d of *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* eggs at 6 constant temperatures. The lines within each box plot corresponds to the median value, the box length to the interquartile range, and the lines emanating from the box (whiskers) extend to the smallest and largest observations. Different letters indicate significantly different developmental times among temperatures at Type I error = 0.05. The number above the box plot is the percent survival of eggs.

2). Mean developmental time for eggs decreased from 36 d at 17.5 °C to 10 d at 27.5 °C, and then increased to 11 d at 30 °C (Fig. 1). Development time from nymph to male prepupa increased from 56 d at 30 °C to 154 d at 20 °C, and the time from nymph to gravid female was 68 and 137 d at 30 and 25 °C, respectively.

Survival was different for eggs (Fig. 1) and nymphs at different temperatures ( $F = 7.4$ ;  $df = 2,9$ ;  $P < 0.01$ ; Table 2). Lower egg survival ( $\leq 55\%$ ) was recorded for temperatures lower than 25 °C, and most eggs hatched ( $\geq 90\%$ ) when the temperature ranged from 25 to 30 °C (Fig. 1). No eggs hatched at 32 °C. For nymphs, the highest survival rate (30%) was found at 25 °C and the lowest (16%) at 20 °C (Table 2).

### HOST RANGE

Results under no-choice conditions indicated that *La. inermis*, *H. salicifolia*, *P. granatum*, *Ly. alatum*, and *C. americana* supported nymphal development and reproduction of *A. lagerstroemiae*. The number of females on all hosts was lower than 100 after the first 6 wk, then increased to different levels (Fig. 2). The number of gravid females at wk 12 also differed among species ( $F = 8.5$ ;  $df = 5,19$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ; Fig. 2). Crapemyrtle (*L. indica* × *fauriei*) had the highest number of gravid females ( $482 \pm 92$ ; mean  $\pm$  SE), followed by *C. americana* ( $200 \pm 70$ ), and lower numbers ( $< 150$ ) were obtained on the other 4 plants (Fig. 2). Sooty mold accumulated on all these plant species, and the amount of accumulation varied with the density of *A. lagerstroemiae*. Branch dieback was reported for *L. indica* × *fauriei* and *C. americana*.

## Discussion

The developmental time and survival for *A. lagerstroemiae* eggs and nymphs varied among temperatures. The optimum temperature

**Table 2.** Mean ( $\pm$  SE) developmental time (d) and nymphal survival (%) of *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* at 3 constant temperatures. Means within each row followed by different letters are significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ; Tukey's HSD).

Stage/variable	Temperature (°C)		
	20	25	30
Nymph to male prepupa (d)	154.0 $\pm$ 6.6 a	122.0 $\pm$ 3.8 b	55.5 $\pm$ 5.1 c
Nymph to gravid female (d)	NA	136.7 $\pm$ 2.4 a	68.3 $\pm$ 2.7 b
Nymphal survival (%)	16.0 $\pm$ 0.8 b	30.0 $\pm$ 4.7 a	22.5 $\pm$ 1.8 ab

NA indicates no gravid female developed successfully.

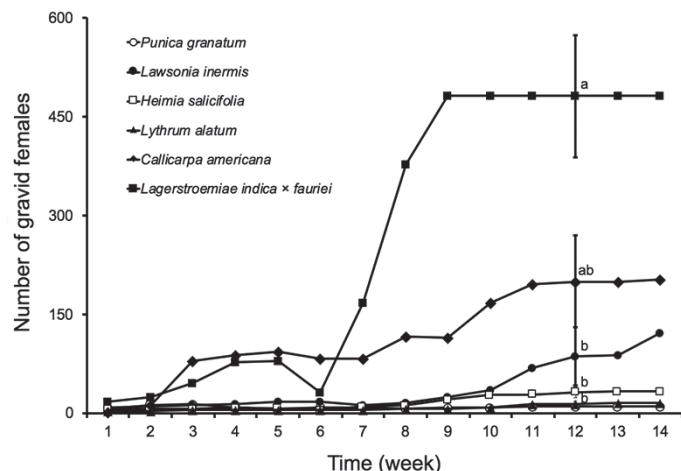


Fig. 2. Number of *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* gravid females on 6 host plant species for 14 wk. Different letters represent statistically different means at wk 12 adjusted by Tukey's HSD method at Type I error = 0.05, and bars are standard errors for comparisons at wk 12.

for egg hatching is 27.5 °C, which was determined by the shortest hatching time and highest hatching rate. Constant temperatures below 25 °C resulted in lower egg hatching whereas temperatures above 32 °C led to complete mortality. However, the ovisacs of scales could prevent heat and moisture exchanges and maintain a relatively stable microenvironment inside (Gullan & Kosztarab 1997); thus, air temperature may not represent the best predictor for temperature inside the ovisac. Nymphs of *A. lagerstroemiae* have a much slower growth rate than other scales. The development from crawler to gravid female was 137 d at 25 °C for *A. lagerstroemiae*, but 54 d for *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* (Targioni-Tozzetti) (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) (Erkiliç & Uygun 1997), 65 d for *Hemiberlesia rapax* (Comstock) (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) (Blank et al. 2000), and 24 d for *Phenacoccus solani* Ferris (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) (Nakahira & Arakawa 2006). Nymphal survival of *A. lagerstroemiae* was lower (< 35%) compared to other scales (70–90%), including *P. solani* (Nakahira & Arakawa 2006), *Paracoccus marginatus* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) (Amarasekare et al. 2008), and *Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) (Prasad et al. 2012). Another factor that may lead to the slower development and lower survival in this study could be less favorable conditions with artificial light and constant temperatures inside the growth chamber (Colinet et al. 2015).

The developmental time of *A. lagerstroemiae* estimated in this study can be used to understand the phenology of this pest in the field. The time for *A. lagerstroemiae* to complete 1 generation is about 4 mo at 25 °C and 3.5 mo at 30 °C, and could be shorter at relatively warmer temperatures. Nymphs of *A. lagerstroemiae* stayed quiescent and did not reach the reproductive stage at constant 20 °C. According to the National Climatic Data Center (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>), the daily average temperatures in subtropical areas such as Louisiana and Texas increase above 20 °C from mid-Apr to Oct and decrease to lower than 20 °C from Oct to mid-Apr, suggesting the potential time of crawler emergence and beginning of overwintering for *A. lagerstroemiae*. Therefore, *A. lagerstroemiae* should have more than 2 generations per yr in Louisiana and Texas. The information obtained from this study could help build models combined with data collected by our collaborators to predict the population dynamics in different locations (Yurk & Powell 2010), as demonstrated for the population growth of *P. solenopsis* (Fand et al. 2014), and for crawler

emergence of *Unaspis yanonensis* Kuwana (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) (Kim & Kim 2013).

*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* is polyphagous, and can develop and reproduce on at least 5 species from different genera and families. Four out of the 5 plant species are phylogenetically related to the crapemyrtle (Lythraceae), but the American beautyberry (*C. americana*; Lamiales) is relatively distant to Lythraceae phylogenetically (AGP II 2003). Reasons for the polyphagy of *A. lagerstroemiae* are unknown but one speculation is that these plant species could share somewhat similar plant chemistry (Ehrlich & Murphy 1988; Erbilgin et al. 2014), or simply that *A. lagerstroemiae* has the adaptations to overcome the chemical defense of plants in multiple families and orders (Dicke 2000; Harrison et al. 2016). The phylogenetic relationship of scales in *Acanthococcus* (= *Eriococcus*; Eriococcidae) is still ambiguous (Cook et al. 2002; Kozar et al. 2013), and the host ranges for these scales are poorly investigated. However, several phylogenetically related species to *A. lagerstroemiae* including *Acanthococcus* (= *Eriococcus*) *macedoniensis* Fetyko & Kaydan, *Acanthococcus* (= *Eriococcus*) *melnikinensis* (Kuwana), and *Acanthococcus* (= *Eriococcus*) *onukii* (Kuwana) were collected from several families and orders of plants (Kozar et al. 2013). Furthermore, the host species of *A. lagerstroemiae* found in this study are different from reports in Asia, except for pomegranate (*P. granatum*) (Wang et al. 2016). Considering the potential of a wider host range, additional plant species having been reported to be suitable in the native range, or phylogenetically related to confirmed hosts, should be evaluated.

Prevention should be the primary approach to manage *A. lagerstroemiae* in nurseries growing potential host plants. Host species of *A. lagerstroemiae* found in this study are economically and ecologically important. Pomegranate (*P. granatum*) is a fruit crop produced in 13,309 ha in the US as recorded in 2012 (USDA NASS 2014), with a value of about US \$184 million reported in California alone (CDFA 2016). American beautyberry (*C. americana*) (Wiersema & Leon 2016) and winged loosestrife (*L. alatum*) (Clute 1901) are important native plants that also are grown as ornamentals in nurseries. Siniuchi (*H. salicifolia*) is valued for its medicinal traits (Baxter et al. 2001). Though not commercially planted in the US, henna (*L. inermis*) is an economically important crop in India and several other countries for its medicinal and cosmetic uses (Kumar et al. 2005; Semwal et al. 2014). On all these host species the density of *A. lagerstroemiae* increased over time, with injuries appearing, including accumulation of black sooty mold and branch dieback. If not detected and controlled in time, *A. lagerstroemiae* could exert severe impacts on these plant species. Scouting is recommended for all plants in the host range of *A. lagerstroemiae*, and immediate responses, such as spraying insecticides or removing infested plants, should be carried out to prevent further spread of this invasive scale (Kim et al. 2006; Zalucki et al. 2012).

In summary, temperature-dependent development of *A. lagerstroemiae* can help to time the delivery of control tactics on development of population growth models. Five out of 13 plant species chosen from different genera and families were found as suitable host species of *A. lagerstroemiae*. Inspections in all potential host plants are recommended with appropriate treatments in order to prevent the spread of *A. lagerstroemiae* and potential economic losses.

## Acknowledgments

We thank Joey P. Quebedeaux and Gina Dimm Hebert of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Hammond Research Station, Hammond, Louisiana, for providing test plants, and Otto Castillo of

the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Entomology Department, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for maintaining plant conditions in the greenhouse. This work was funded in part by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, under award number 2014-70006-22632, and by the Louisiana State University Department of Entomology.

## References Cited

- AGP II. 2003. An update of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group classification for the orders and families of flowering plants: APG II. *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 141: 399–436.
- Amarasekare KG, Chong JH, Epsy ND, Mannion CM. 2008. Effect of temperature on the life history of the mealybug *Paracoccus marginatus* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology* 101: 1798–1804.
- Amarasekare P, Savage V. 2011. A framework for elucidating the temperature dependence of fitness. *American Naturalist* 179: 178–191.
- Baxter BJ, Baxter H, Harborne JB, Williamson EM [eds.]. 2001. *Chemical Dictionary of Economic Plants*. John Wiley & Sons, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
- Blank RH, Gill GSC, Kelly JM. 2000. Development and mortality of greedy scale (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) at constant temperatures. *Environmental Entomology* 29: 934–942.
- CDA (California Department of Food and Agriculture). 2016. California county agricultural commissioners' reports: crop year 2014–2015. (online) [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/California/Publications/AgComm/2015/2015cropyearcactb00.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/AgComm/2015/2015cropyearcactb00.pdf) (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Cham D, Davis H, Obeng-Ofori D, Owu E. 2011. Host range of the newly invasive mealybug species *Paracoccus marginatus* Williams and Granara De Willink (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) in two ecological zones of Ghana. *Zoological Research* 1: 1–7.
- Chappell MR, Kristine BS, Williams-Woodward J, Knox G. 2012. Optimizing plant health and pest management of *Lagerstroemia* spp. in commercial production and landscape situations in the southeastern United States: a review. *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* 30: 161–172.
- Clute WN [ed.]. 1901. *The American Botanist: Devoted to Economic and Ecological Botany*, Volumes 16–20, W. N. Clute & Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.
- Colinet H, Sinclair BJ, Vernon P, Renault D. 2015. Insects in fluctuating thermal environments. *Annual Review of Entomology* 60: 123–140.
- Cook LG, Gullan PJ, Trueman HE. 2002. A preliminary phylogeny of the scale insects (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Coccoidea) based on nuclear small-subunit ribosomal DNA. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 25: 43–52.
- Culik MP, Fornazier MJ, dos Santos Martins D, Zanon JC, Ventura JA, Peronti ALB, Zanon JC. 2013. The invasive mealybug *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*: lessons for its current range expansion in South America and invasive pest management in general. *Journal of Pest Science* 86: 387–398.
- Dicke M. 2000. Chemical ecology of host-plant selection by herbivorous arthropods: a multitrophic perspective. *Biochemical Systematics and Ecology* 28: 601–617.
- EDDMapS. 2017. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. (online) <https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=80722> (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Ehrlich PR, Murphy DD. 1988. Plant chemistry and host range in insect herbivores. *Ecology* 69: 908–909.
- Erbilgin N, Ma C, Whitehouse C, Shan B, Najar A, Evenden M. 2014. Chemical similarity between historical and novel host plants promotes range and host expansion of the mountain pine beetle in a naïve host ecosystem. *New Phytologist* 201: 940–950.
- Erkilic L, Uygun N. 1997. Development time and fecundity of the white peach scale, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, in Turkey. *Phytoparasitica* 25: 9–16.
- Fand BB, Tonnang HE, Kumar M, Kamble AL, Bal SK. 2014. A temperature-based phenology model for predicting development, survival and population growth potential of the mealybug, *Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae). *Crop Protection* 55: 98–108.
- Graham SA, Hall J, Sytsma K, Shi SH. 2005. Phylogenetic analysis of the Lythraeaceae based on four gene regions and morphology. *International Journal of Plant Science* 166: 995–1017.
- Gu M, Merchant M, Robbins J, Hopkins J. 2014. Crape Myrtle Bark Scale: A New Exotic Pest. (online) <https://www.eddmaps.org/cmbbs/Resources/TAMU-CrapemyrtlebarkscaleEHT-049.pdf> (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Gullan PJ, Kosztarab M. 1997. Adaptations in scale insects. *Annual Review of Entomology* 42: 23–50.
- Harrison JG, Gompert Z, Fordyce JA, Buerkle CA, Grinstead R, Jahner JP, Mikel S, Nice CC, Santamaria A, Forister ML. 2016. The many dimensions of diet breadth: phytochemical, genetic, behavioral, and physiological perspectives on the interaction between a native herbivore and an exotic host. *PLoS ONE* 11: e0147971. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0147971]
- He D, Cheng J, Zhao H, Chen S. 2008. Biological characteristic and control efficacy of *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*. *Chinese Bulletin of Entomology* 45: 812–814.
- Heard T. 1997. Host range testing of insects, pp. 77–82 *In* Julien M, White G [eds.], *Biological Control of Weeds: Theory and Practical Application*. ACIAR Monograph Series, Canberra, Australia.
- Hoy JM. 1963. Catalogue of family Eriococcidae, pp. 99 *In* Owen RE [ed.], *A Catalogue of the Eriococcidae (Homoptera: Coccoidea) of the World*. New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Hua L. 2000. *List of Chinese Insects, Volume 1*. Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen) University Press, Guangdong, China.
- Jiang N, Xu H. 1998. Observation on *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana. *Journal of Anhui Agriculture University* 25: 142–144.
- Kim SB, Kim DS. 2013. Temperature-dependent fecundity of overwintered *Unaspis yanonensis* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) and use of degree-days for the prediction of first crawler. *Crop Protection* 43: 60–64.
- Kim C, Lubowski RN, Lewandowski J, Eiswerth ME. 2006. Prevention or control: optimal government policies for invasive species management. *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* 35: 29–40.
- Knox G. 2003. Crape myrtle in Florida. (online) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg266> (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Kozar F, Kaydan MB, Benedicty ZK, Szita E [eds.]. 2013. *Acanthococcidae and Related Families of the Palaearctic Region*. Plant Protection Institute, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary.
- Kumar S, Singh Y, Singh M [eds.]. 2005. *Henna: Cultivation, Improvement and Trade*. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, India.
- Luo Q, Xie X, Zhou L, Wang S, Zongyi X. 2000. A study on the dynamics and biological characteristics of *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana population in Guiyang. *Acta Entomologica Sinica* 43: 35–41.
- Ma J. 2011. Occurrence and biological characteristics of *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana in Panxi district. *South China Fruits* 40: 12–14.
- May RM, Hassell MP, Neuenschwander P, Rogers DJ, Southwood TRE. 1988. Population dynamics and biological control and discussion. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series B, Biological Science* 318: 129–169.
- Merchant ME, Gu M, Robbins J, Vafaie E, Barr N, Tripodi AD, Szalanski AL. 2014. Discovery and spread of *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae), a new invasive pest of crape myrtle, *Lagerstroemia* spp. (online) <https://bugwoodcloud.org/resource/pdf/ESAPosterDiscovAndSpread2014.pdf> (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Nakahira K, Arakawa R. 2006. Development and reproduction of an exotic pest mealybug, *Phenacoccus solani* (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) at three constant temperatures. *Applied Entomology and Zoology* 41: 573–575.
- Prasad Y, Prabhakar M, Sreedevi G, Rao GR, Venkateswarlu B. 2012. Effect of temperature on development, survival and reproduction of the mealybug, *Phenacoccus solenopsis* Tinsley (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) on cotton. *Crop Protection* 39: 81–88.
- Ratte HT. 1984. Temperature and insect development, pp. 33–66 *In* Hoffmann KH [ed.], *Environmental Physiology and Biochemistry of Insects*. Springer, Berlin, Germany.
- Régnière J, Powell J, Bentz B, Nealis V. 2012. Effects of temperature on development, survival and reproduction of insects: experimental design, data analysis and modeling. *Journal of Insect Physiology* 58: 634–647.
- Riddle TC, Mizell III RF. 2016. Use of crape myrtle, *Lagerstroemia* (Myrtales: Lythraceae), cultivars as a pollen source by native and non-native bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae) in Quincy, Florida. *Florida Entomologist* 99: 38–46.
- Robbins J, Hopkins J, Merchant M, Gu M. 2014. Crape myrtle Bark Scale: A New Insect Pest, <https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/fsa-7086.pdf> (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- SAS Institute. 2011. *Base SAS® 9.3 procedures guide*. SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina, USA.
- Semwal RB, Semwal DK, Combrinck S, Cartwright-Jones C, Viljoen A. 2014. *Lawsonia inermis* L. (henna): ethnobotanical, phytochemical and pharmacological aspects. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 155: 80–103.
- Silva VCPD, Nondillo A, Galzer ECW, Garcia MS, Botton M. 2017. Effect of host plants on the development, survivorship, and reproduction of *Pseudococcus viburni* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae). *Florida Entomologist* 100: 718–724.
- Strong Jr DR. 1979. Biogeographic dynamics of insect-host plant communities. *Annual Review of Entomology* 24: 89–119.
- Tang S, Tang G, Cheke RA. 2010. Optimum timing for integrated pest management: modelling rates of pesticide application and natural enemy releases. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 264: 623–638.

- USDA NASS (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service). 2012. 2012 Census of Agriculture. (online) [https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_State\\_Level/Mississippi/st28\\_1\\_039\\_039.pdf](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Mississippi/st28_1_039_039.pdf) (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- USDA NASS (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service). 2014. 2014 Census of horticultural specialties. (online) [https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online\\_Resources/Census\\_of\\_Horticulture\\_Specialties/](https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Census_of_Horticulture_Specialties/) (last accessed 11 Dec 2018).
- Venette RC, Kriticos DJ, Magarey RD, Koch FH, Baker RH, Worner SP, Raboteaux NN, McKenney DW, Dobesberger EJ, Yemshanov D. 2010. Pest risk maps for invasive alien species: a roadmap for improvement. *BioScience* 60: 349–362.
- Waage JK, Hassell MP, Godfray HCJ. 1985. The dynamics of pest-parasitoid-insecticide interactions. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 22: 825–838.
- Wang Z, Chen Y, Gu M, Vafaie E, Merchant M, Diaz R. 2016. Crapemyrtle bark scale: a new threat for crapemyrtles, a popular landscape plant in the US. *Insects* 7: 78. doi: [10.3390/insects7040078]
- Wapshere A. 1989. A testing sequence for reducing rejection of potential biological control agents for weeds. *Annals of Applied Biology* 114: 515–526.
- Wiersema JH, Leon B [eds.]. 2016. *World Economic Plants: A Standard Reference*, 2nd edition. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, USA.
- Yurk BP, Powell JA. 2010. Modeling the effects of developmental variation on insect phenology. *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology* 72: 1334–1360.
- Zalucki MP, Shabbir A, Silva R, Adamson D, Sheng SL, Furlong MJ. 2012. Estimating the economic cost of one of the world's major insect pests, *Plutella xylostella* (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae): just how long is a piece of string? *Journal of Economic Entomology* 105: 1115–1129.
- Zhang Y. 2011. Effects of different insecticides on *Eriococcus lagerstroemiae* Kuwana (Hemiptera: Eriococcidae) in Changzhou District, Jiangsu. *Hunan Agriculture Science* 14: 32–33.