

# Diversity of arthropods associated with *Mikania* spp. and *Chromolaena odorata* (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) in Florida

R. Diaz<sup>1</sup>, S. Romero<sup>2</sup>, A. Roda<sup>3</sup>, C. Mannion<sup>2</sup> and W. A. Overholt<sup>1,\*</sup>

*Mikania micrantha* Kunth (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) is native to Central and South America, and because of its negative impacts in adventive regions, is considered one of the world's worst invasive species (ISSG 2014). It was discovered for the first time in North America in Oct 2009 near Homestead, Florida (Weaver & Dixon 2010), and has since been found at > 50 sites in the same area. Plant managers have raised concerns about the potential spread of *M. micrantha* into natural areas, particularly the Everglades National Park, located just a few miles west of the current infestation. The genus *Mikania* belongs to the tribe Eupatorieae in the family Asteraceae. In North America, this tribe is represented by a large number of native species, including *Mikania scandens* (L.) Willd., *Mikania cordifolia* (L. f.) Willd., and *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M. King & H. Rob. These species can be found in wet areas as well as in uplands throughout central and south Florida (Wunderlin & Hansen 2008). Upon their arrival to an adventive region, exotic plants encounter biotic factors including herbivorous arthropods as well as plant pathogens which could prevent their establishment and spread (Levine et al. 2004). The diversity and impact of natural enemies is predicted to be greater in regions containing native species closely related to the exotic plant (Darwin 1859; Ricciardi & Mottiar 2006). Therefore, the objective of this study was to assess the diversity of arthropods associated with *Mikania* spp. and *C. odorata*.

To find arthropods on these plants, we surveyed natural infestations located in central and south Florida. Sites with *M. micrantha* were located only in Homestead, while sites with *M. scandens*, *M. cordifolia* and *C. odorata* were located in Homestead and Fort Pierce, Florida. The distance between Fort Pierce and Homestead is approximately 200 km. Because it mostly occurs near nurseries, the *M. micrantha* sites were disturbed locations along fences or hedgerows. Sites with *M. scandens* were along canals in Fort Pierce and Homestead, whereas sites with *M. cordifolia* and *C. odorata* were in uplands in natural areas and along roadsides in Fort Pierce and Homestead. The collection of insects and mites was opportunistic and conducted in daylight hours from Jul 2011 to Jul 2013. We did not examine roots, flowers or seeds. Most of the adult insects and mites were hand collected and placed in killing jars or in alcohol. Immature insects were reared to adults inside cages on their host plants. Insect rearing was conducted in walk-in rearing rooms maintained at 25-26 °C, 60-70% RH and 14:10 h L:D photoperiod. Adult parasitoids emerging from insects were placed in alcohol for later identification. Identification of insects and mites was conducted using morphological methods by experts at several institutions including the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS),

Gainesville Florida; the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture; Falkultaet Biologie, Universtaet Bielefeld, Germany; and Agriculture-Agri-Food, Canada. Feeding habits of herbivores were classified as polyphagous, oligophagous and monophagous and were obtained from identification reports of experts and literature.

Results of our surveys revealed the presence of 16, 11, 34 and 18 species of herbivorous arthropods on *M. micrantha*, *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata*, respectively (Table 1). The proportions of monophagous herbivores were 0, 22, 9 and 25% for *M. micrantha*, *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata*, respectively. The combined proportions of oligophagous and polyphagous herbivores were 100, 78, 91 and 75% for *M. micrantha*, *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata*, respectively. Twelve herbivores reared from *M. micrantha* were classified as polyphagous and included mites and insects, and represented new host records in the state of Florida. Feeding habits of the herbivores collected from all plants included scrapers (Acarina), leaf chewers (mostly Lepidoptera), leaf miners (Diptera and Lepidoptera), stem borers (Diptera), gall inducers (Diptera) and sap-suckers (Hemiptera). Of the herbivores collected from *M. micrantha*, 35% were shared with at least one of the sampled native plants (Table 1). The most speciose insect group reared from *M. micrantha* was leafminer flies. *Mikania micrantha* hosted several crop pests including *Tetranychus* sp. (Trombidiformes: Tetranychidae Acarina), *Aphis spiraeicola* Patch (Hemiptera: Aphididae), *Amorbia* sp. (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae: Tortricinae), *Phenacoccus parvus* Morrison (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae), *Nemorimyza maculosa* (Malloch) (Diptera: Agromyzidae) and *Bradybaena similaris* (Férussac) (Gastropoda: Helicoidea: Bradybaenidae). Two new species were discovered during this survey; the leafminer *Bucculatrix* n. sp. (Lepidoptera: Bucculatricidae) (Donald R. Davis, personal communication) was found on leaves of *M. scandens* in Fort Pierce during the summer of 2011, and a second leafminer, *Cremastobombycia chromolaenae* Davis, (Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae) was found on leaves of *C. odorata* in Fort Pierce late in the fall of 2011 (Davis et al. 2013). The stem galler *Phestinia costella* (Hampson) is a monophagous species on *C. odorata* (Solis et al. 2008) and a new US record (Dr. Alma Solis, personal communication). We did not find *Melanagromyza eupatoriella* Spencer (Diptera: Agromyzidae) and *Pareuchaetes insulata* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Erebidae), which are reportedly common herbivores of *C. odorata* in Florida (Zachariades et al. 2011).

<sup>1</sup>Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, Indian River Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Fort Pierce, Florida

<sup>2</sup>Tropical Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Homestead, Florida

<sup>3</sup>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Miami, Florida

\*Corresponding author; E-mail: billover@ufl.edu

**Table 1.** Arthropod herbivores collected from *M. micrantha* (exotic), *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata* in Florida during 2011-2013.

Order: Family	Species	Plant host <sup>2</sup>					Reared? <sup>3</sup>	Feeding habits <sup>4</sup>	Host Range <sup>5</sup>	Reference for host range	
		Distrib. <sup>1</sup>	Mi	Cor	Sca	Odo					
Trombidiformes: Tarsonemidae	<i>Polyphagotarsonemus latus</i> (Banks)	HO	+				Yes	Sucking-scraping	P	Gerson 1992	
Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae	<i>Brevipalpus californicus</i> (Banks)	HO			+		Yes	Sucking-scraping	O	Childers et al. 2003	
	<i>Brachytdeus formosa</i> Cooreman	HO			+		Yes	Sucking-scraping	O	Da Silva et al. 2014	
	<i>Brachytdeus</i> sp.	HO			+		Yes	Sucking-scraping	U		
	<i>Tetranychus</i> sp.	HO				+	Yes	Sucking-scraping	P		
Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae	<i>Exema dispar</i> Lacordaire	FP			+		No	leaf chewer	P	Karren 1966	
Coleoptera: Bruchidae	<i>Acanthoscelides tenuis</i> Bottimer	FP			+		No	leaf chewer	U		
	<i>Artipus floridanus</i> Horn	FP			+		No	leaf chewer	P	McCoy et al. 1985	
Coleoptera: Curculionidae	<i>Conotrachelus coronatus</i> LeConte	HO			+		No	leaf chewer	U		
	<i>Lachnopus floridanus</i> Horn	HO			+		No	leaf chewer	P	Carrillo 2007	
	<i>Lixus</i> sp.	FP				+	No	leaf chewer	O		
	<i>Myliocerus undecimpustulatus undatus</i> Marshall	FP			+		No	root and leaf chewer	P	O'Brien et al. 2006	
	<i>Naupactus</i> sp.	HO			+		No	root and leaf chewer	P		
	<i>Notalomus basalis</i> LeConte	FP			+		No	leaf chewer	U	Fontes et al. 1994	
	<i>Sibriopsis</i> sp.	FP			+		No	seed feeder	U		
	Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae	<i>Euphoria sepulcralis</i> (Fabricius)	FP				+	No	leaf chewer	P	Woodruff 2006
		<i>Strigoderma pygmaea</i> (Fabricius)	FP				+	No	leaf chewer	P	Bader 1992
	Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae	<i>Bothrotes canaliculatus</i> (LeConte)	FP			+		No	leaf chewer	U	
<i>Calycomyza mikaniae</i> Spencer		HO			+		Yes	leafminer	O	Cock 1981	
Diptera: Agramyziidae	<i>Calycomyza eupatorivora</i> Spencer	FP				+	Yes	leafminer	M	Zachariades et al. 2002	
	<i>Calycomyza platyptera</i> (Thompson)	FP, HO			+		Yes	leafminer	O	Gratton and Weiler 2001	
	<i>Liriomyza eupatorii</i> Kaltentbach	HO			+		Yes	leafminer	O	Spencer and Steyskal 1986	
	<i>Liriomyza</i> sp.	FP				+	Yes	leafminer	U		
	<i>Melanagromyza</i> sp.	FP				+	Yes	stem borer	U		
	<i>Nemorimyza maculosa</i> (Malloch).	HO				+	Yes	leafminer	P	CABI 1999	
	<i>Mycoplasmosis</i> sp.	FP				+	Yes	feeds on rust	M	Gagné 2010	
	<i>Neolasioptera perfoliata</i> (Feit)	FP				+	Yes	gall maker	O	Gagné 1989	
	<i>Xanthaciura chrysur</i> (Thompson)	FP				+	Yes	flower-feeder	O	Prado and Lewinsohn 2004	
	<i>Aleurotrachelus trachoides</i> (Back)	HO				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Evans 2007	
Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae	<i>Aphis coreopsidis</i> (Thomas)	FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	O	Susan Halbert personal communication	
	<i>Aphis gossypii</i> Glover	HO, FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Ebert and Cartwright 1997	
Coleoptera: Aphididae	<i>Aphis spiraeola</i> Patch	HO, FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Tsai and Wang 2001	
	<i>Uroleucon ambrosiae</i> (Thomas)	HO				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Funk and Bernays 2001	
Hemiptera: Cercophidae	Cercophidae unidentified	FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	U		
Hemiptera: Cicadellidae	<i>Empoasca solana</i> DeLong	FP				+	No	sap-sucking	P	Moffitt and Reynolds 1972	
	<i>Protalebrella brasiliensis</i> (Baker)	HO, FP				+	No	sap-sucking	P	Susan Halbert personal communication	
Hemiptera: Coccidae	<i>Ceroplastes</i> sp.	HO				+	No	sap-sucking	U		
	<i>Coccus hesperidum</i> (L.)	FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Ben-Dov 1993	

<sup>1</sup>FP: Fort Pierce, HO: Homestead; <sup>2</sup>Mi: *M. micrantha*, Cor: *M. cordifolia*, Sca: *M. scandens*, Odo: *C. odorata*; <sup>3</sup>Reared from the host plant during this study; <sup>4</sup>Feeding habits of the stage collected; <sup>5</sup>P: polyphagous, O: oligophagous, M: monophagous, U: unknown.

**Table 1.** (Continued) Arthropod herbivores collected from *M. micrantha* (exotic), *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata* in Florida during 2011-2013.

Order: Family	Species	Plant host <sup>2</sup>						Reared? <sup>3</sup>	Feeding habits <sup>4</sup>	Host Range <sup>5</sup>	Reference for host range
		Distrib. <sup>1</sup>	Mi	Cor	Sca	Odo					
Hemiptera: Flatidae	<i>Cyada</i> sp.	FP				+	No	sap-sucking	U		
	<i>Melormenis basalis</i> (Walker)	HO	+				No	sap-sucking	P	Wilson et al. 1994	
Hemiptera: Lygaeidae	<i>Xyonysius californicus</i> (Stål)	FP		+			No	sap-sucking	P	Palmer and Pullen 2001	
	<i>Xyonysius basalis</i> (Dallas)	FP		+			No	sap-sucking	U		
Hemiptera: Margarodidae	<i>Crypticeria genistae</i> (Hempel)	HO			+		Yes	sap-sucking	P	Hodges et al. 2008	
Hemiptera: Miridae	<i>Reuteroscopus ornatus</i> Reuter	HO	+				No	sap-sucking	O	Snodgrass et al. 1984	
	<i>Rhinachloa basalis</i> (Reuter)	FP		+			No	sap-sucking	P	Susan Halbert personal communication	
Hemiptera: Orthopteroidea	<i>Praelongorthezia praelonga</i> (Douglas)	HO			+		Yes	sap-sucking	P	Kondo et al. 2013	
Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae	<i>Phenacoccus</i> sp.	FP			+		Yes	sap-sucking	U		
	<i>Phenacoccus multicerii</i> Granara de Willink	FP		+			Yes	sap-sucking	P	Stocks 2013	
	<i>Phenacoccus parvus</i> Morrison	HO, FP	+	+			Yes	sap-sucking	P	Marohasy 1994	
	<i>Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi</i> Gimpel & Miller	HO, FP				+	Yes	sap-sucking	P	Mani et al. 2013	
	<i>Corimelaena lateralis</i> (Fabricius)	FP			+		No	sap-sucking	P	McPherson and Mohlenbrock 1976	
Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae	<i>Leucospilapteryx venustella</i> (Clemens)	HO, FP			+		Yes	leafminer	P	Diaz et al. 2014	
Lepidoptera: Bucculatricidae	<i>Bucculatrix</i> n.sp.	FP			+		Yes	leafminer	M	R. Diaz unpublished data	
Lepidoptera: Arctiidae	<i>Cosmosoma myrodora</i> Dyar	FP		+			Yes	leaf chewer	M	Moscoso et al. 2013	
	<i>Estigmene acrea</i> (Drury)	FP			+		Yes	leaf chewer	P	Capinera 2005	
Lepidoptera: Elachistidae	<i>Elachista</i> sp.	FP			+		Yes	leaf chewer	U		
Lepidoptera: Geometridae	<i>Synchlora frondaria</i> Guenee	HO, FP			+		Yes	leaf chewer	P	Canfield et al. 2009	
Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae	<i>Gremastobombycia chromolanae</i> Davis	FP				+	Yes	leaf chewer	M	Davis et al. 2013	
Lepidoptera: Noctuidae	<i>Condica cupentia</i> (Cramer)	FP		+			Yes	leaf chewer	O	Torres 1992	
Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae	<i>Adaina primulacea</i> Meyrick	FP				+	Yes	leaf chewer	M	Matthews and Maharajh 2009	
Lepidoptera: Pyralidae	<i>Glaphyria basiflavalis</i> Barnes & McDunnough	HO	+				Yes	leaf chewer	U		
	<i>Herpetogramma bipunctalis</i> (Fabricius)	FP			+		Yes	leaf chewer	P	Ruberson et al. 1994	
	<i>Phestinia costella</i> (Hampson)	FP				+	Yes	stem galler	M	Solis et al. 2008	
	<i>Omiodes indicata</i> (Fabricius)	HO			+		Yes	leaf chewer	P	Soe 2011	
Lepidoptera: Tineidae	<i>Coleophora</i> sp.	HO			+		Yes	leaf chewer	U		
Lepidoptera: Tortricidae	<i>Amorbia concavana</i> (Zeller)	HO	+				Yes	leaf chewer	P	Hayden 2012	
	<i>Platynota rostrana</i> (Walker)	FP				+	Yes	leaf chewer	P	Fontes et al. 1994	
	<i>Platynota stultana</i> Walsingham	FP			+	+	Yes	leaf chewer	P	Powell 1983	
Gastropoda: Bradybaenidae	<i>Bradybaena similaris</i> (Férussac)	HO	+				No	leaf chewer	P	Capinera and White 2011	

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**Table 2.** Predators and parasitoid collected from *M. micrantha*, *M. cordifolia*, *M. scandens* and *C. odorata* in Florida during 2011-2013.

Order: Family	Species	Distrib. <sup>1</sup>	Plant host <sup>2</sup>				Reared? <sup>3</sup>	Host <sup>4</sup>	Feeding habits	Reference
			Mi	Cor	Sca	Odo				
Trombidiformes: Anystidae	<i>Anystis</i> sp.	FP		+			no	U	Predator	Cal Welbourn <sup>5</sup>
Trombidiformes: Phytoseiidae	<i>Typhlodromalus peregrinus</i> (Muma)	FP		+			no	U	Predator	Cal Welbourn <sup>5</sup>
	<i>Galendromus</i> sp.	FP			+		no	U	Predator	Cal Welbourn <sup>5</sup>
Coleoptera: Coccinellidae	<i>Diomus roseicollis</i> (Mulsant)	FP			+		no	U	Predator	
Coleoptera: Coccinellidae	<i>Cycloneda sanguinea</i> (L.)	FP			+		no	U	Predator	Cardoso and Lázzar 2003
Diplopoda: Polyxenidae	<i>Polyxenus fasciculatus</i> (Say)	HO	+				no	U	Scavenger	G. B. Edwards <sup>5</sup>
Diptera: Cecidomyiidae	<i>Mycodiplosis coniofaga</i> (Winnertz)	FP			+		no	U	Rust feeder	R. Gagné <sup>5</sup>
Diptera: Tachinidae	<i>Hyphantrophaga sellersi</i> (Sabrosky)	FP		+			yes	<i>C. myrodora</i>	Parasitoid	N. E. Woodley <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>FP: Fort Pierce, HO: Homestead.

<sup>2</sup>Mi: *M. micrantha*, Cor: *M. cordifolia*, Sca: *M. scandens*, Odo: *C. odorata*.

<sup>3</sup>Reared from the insect host during this study.

<sup>4</sup>U: unknown.

<sup>5</sup>References were personal communications.

We identified 4 predator species and 1 parasitoid species associated with insect herbivores on these plants (Table 2). The parasitoid *Hyphantrophaga sellersi* (Sabrosky) (Diptera: Tachinidae) was reared from the pupae of the specialist herbivore *Cosmosoma myrodora* Dyar (Lepidoptera: Erebiidae) and represented a new host record. Because of the recent arrival and the limited distribution of *M. micrantha*, further studies are needed to assess whether local specialist insect herbivores will utilize this exotic weed in Florida. This study demonstrated that *M. micrantha* not only lacks specialist herbivores but also is a host of pests of agricultural and ornamental crops. Funding for this study was provided in part by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

## Summary

Field surveys revealed that in south Florida the recently established *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) had a lower diversity of monophagous insect herbivores compared to the native *Mikania* spp. or *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R. M. King & H. Rob. (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae). In addition, *Mikania micrantha* served as a host for pests of agricultural and ornamental crops in Florida.

Key Words: *Chromolaena odorata*, herbivore diversity, *Mikania cordifolia*, *Mikania scandens*

## Sumario

Muestreos de campo en el sur de Florida demostraron que la recientemente establecida *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) tenía una baja diversidad de insectos herbívoros monófagos comparado con las especies nativas *Mikania* spp. o *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M. King & H. Rob (Asterales: Asteraceae: Eupatorieae). Adicionalmente, *Mikania micrantha* sirvió como hospedero de plagas de cultivos agrícolas y ornamentales en Florida.

Palabras Clave: *Chromolaena odorata*, diversidad de herbívoros, *Mikania cordifolia*, *Mikania scandens*

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