



HORTICULTURAL PESTS OF REGULATORY CONCERN

Cypress twig gall midge

Name: *Taxodiomyia cupressiananassa* (OstenSacken)
Observed: Southern New Jersey
On: *Taxodium* sp.
Order: Diptera
Family: Cecidomyiidae

Historically, cypress twig gall midge was known to be an occasional pest of baldcypress throughout the central United States. Recently, galls were observed and collected from multiple locations in southern New Jersey. Beginning in late summer, the branch tips of infested trees were arched downward disrupting the natural upright growth habit. The galls are light green to deep purple, variable in size with the largest measuring >20mm. Each gall contains 6 to 15 larvae. The larvae are yellow to orange in color and smaller than 2mm in size. They are contained within individual cells surrounded by spongy tissue and are only visible through dissection of the gall. The larvae overwinter inside the gall and the adult midges emerge in spring, typically in mid-May.¹ Two generations are known to occur throughout its range.

generation. Pesticides are often not recommended because of the impact they can have on natural predators.



Figure 2. *T. cupressiananassa* larvae



Figure 1. Dissection of cypress twig gall



Figure . Disfigured *Taxodium* branches containing cypress twig galls

The most appropriate method for control of cypress twig gall midge is through responsible cultural practices and good sanitation. Galls can be pruned from the branch tips during the fall and fallen galls can be removed from below the host trees to reduce the population for the next

¹ W. Johnson & H. Lyon, *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs*, 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991