

***Moona*, a new genus of tetrastichine gall inducers (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) on seeds of *Corymbia* (Myrtaceae) in Australia**

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Abstract

Moona spermophaga Kim & La Salle gen. & sp. nov. (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae: Tetrastichinae) is described from eastern Australia. This species induces galls on the seeds of two species of *Corymbia* (Myrtaceae), can achieve quite high levels of infestation, and has the potential to become another invasive species associated with eucalypts which has escaped Australia. *Moona* is related to *Quadrastichodella*, and similarities and differences between these genera are discussed.

Key words: Tetrastichinae, *Moona*, *Corymbia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Quadrastichodella*

Introduction

Eucalypts have been established for wood production and reforestation in more than 100 countries. Planted eucalypt forests around the world produce more wood than that harvested every year in Australia and make eucalypts the worlds most utilized broad-leaved plantation trees. Eucalypts planted outside of Australia are most commonly used for either firewood or pulpwood (Eldridge *et al.*, 1993). Australian eucalypts are used throughout the world because of their significant advantages over other forest species. They are relatively pest-free and are capable of high growth rates in infertile soils and with a fluctuating moisture supply, and many of them are fire tolerant (Jacobs, 1955).

A eucalypt seed export program was initiated by the Australian Government under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (e.g., FAO, 1980). Since the 1960s, the export of eucalypt seed from Australia has intensified in response to an upsurge in world demand for seeds to start firewood plantation. For exam-