MONITORING OF BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG (BMSB) IN THE SACRAMENTO DELTA PEAR ORCHARDS

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INTRODUCTION

The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) (BMSB) is a threat to the pear industry in the Sacramento Delta region and in the North Coast area. This project is a continuation of efforts to monitor the movement of this insect from the initial finds in the urbanized area of midtown Sacramento.

BMSB monitoring took place weekly starting around July 30 through mid-November 2019. We had intended to start earlier in the season but experienced some set-backs.

31 trap locations were identified in and around pear orchards and winegrape vineyards located in the major pear-growing areas in the Delta farmland and 2-3 locations in farmland-urban interface nearby. Our field assistant monitored for the insect by using sticky panel traps baited with the BMSB aggregation pheromone + methyl decatrienoate (MDT) marketed by Trécé, Inc. The sticky panel was affixed, and the lure was hung at the top of a 4 ft-tall wooden stake which was pounded on the ground. The traps were checked and serviced if needed on a weekly basis from August through mid-November.

RESULTS

Several BMSB insects were discovered during this monitoring project. The date, location, and number of finds are below.

Date	Location	Neary host/site	BMSB found
8/24/19	Courtland	Tree of heaven	3 male, 2 female
8/24/19	North Freeport	Sports complex/dog park	1 nymph
10/8/19	Courtland	Tree of heaven	1 male, 2 female

Results were shared with growers and pest control advisers verbally during the annual winter extension meeting organized in the region. The results were also presented at the annual Pear Board research project meeting at UC Davis.

FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to monitor this area using the same type of sticky traps and lures. Since pears in the area had already been harvested by the time we were able to set out the traps in 2019, in 2020 we plan to start earlier in order to capture data for more of the BMSB season. We also plan to conduct visual inspections on pears for potential BMSB damage, if needed.