

## IMPORTING *TAMARIXIA TRIOZAE* INTO CONTAINMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

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The parasitoid *Tamarixia triozae* (Burks) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) has been imported from Mexico into containment in New Zealand as a potential biological control agent for the tomato/potato psyllid, *Bactericera cockerelli* (Sulz) (Hemiptera: Triozidae). The tomato/potato psyllid is a North American pest that was first reported in New Zealand in 2006. This psyllid has been found to vector the bacterial disease *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* or psyllarous and has now become a major pest on both greenhouse and outdoor solanaceous crops. Inundative releases of *T. triozae* have been used to control the tomato/potato psyllid in greenhouse crops in North America. In New Zealand this parasitoid may also have potential for the classical biological control of this psyllid. Data to support an application for the full release of this parasitoid will be obtained by: comparing the efficacy of *T. triozae* and an undescribed species of *Tamarixia* found in New Zealand in 1997; establishing the ability of *T. triozae* to parasitise the tomato/potato psyllid on capsicums, tomatoes and potatoes; and undertaking host specificity testing using indigenous psyllids. Approval to import *T. triozae* was obtained under the HSNO Act, 1996 and HSNO Order, 1998 (ERMA Approval Code: NOC002530-39) and the Biosecurity Act, 1993 (MAF Biosecurity, Permit to Import Live Animals: 2008035896).

## VEGETABLE BRASSICA IPM EXPANDING INTO OTHER BRASSICA-GROWING SYSTEMS IN THE SOUTH ISLAND

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An IPM programme originally developed for vegetable brassicas is now being adapted and extended into other brassica-growing systems in the South Island, including vegetable, fodder and seed brassica crops. MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund and various industry partners, plus government funding, is supporting research into best practices to manage the major foliage insect pests in these brassica crops. A pest risk assessment survey was undertaken this year to determine in which seasons, areas and growing systems pests are a problem. Pheromone trap data showed that diamondback moth (DBM), *Plutella xylostella*, survived overwinter as resident populations in localised brassica crops. DBM and leaf miners caused serious problems for many growers. DBM is resistant to standard broad-spectrum insecticides but growers are still applying these insecticides, which disrupt natural enemies of insect pests. European leaf miner, *Scaptomyza flava*, is the key leaf miner pest and appears not to be attacked by the larval parasitoid, *Asobara persimilis*, which could be introduced from the North Island. Field surveys also showed that the recently introduced larval parasitoid of white butterfly, *Cotesia rubecula*, has spread naturally to North and South Canterbury.