Louisiana

SOYBEAN & FEED GRAIN REVIEW

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WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

Lessons We Learned in Brazil about Control of Piezodorus guildinii (a.k.a the red-shouldered stink bug)

First described in 1837, Piezodorus guildinii (a.k.a the red-shouldered stink bug) has five instars, the first of which is never seen because it resides in the egg. The second instar is up to 3 mm long, mostly red and indistinguishable from most other early instar stink bug nymphs. The third through the fifth instars are 4-8 mm long, mostly green with red and black markings along the side and top of the abdomen. Adults are 10-12 mm and brilliant green; as they get older, they may be more yellow. Adults normally have two stripes across the back of the thorax, one yellow and one dark red to purple or even black. This stink bug is much small than either southern green or green stink bugs, but is about the same size as Thyanta species. Adult Piezodorus guildinii can be separated from Thyanta species based on a spine extending from the second abdominal segment between the attachment of the hind legs to the body (a similar characteristic is used to separate southern green and green stink bugs). Piezodorus guildinii egg masses are easy to separate from southern green stink bug and brown stink bug egg masses because female Piezodorus guildinii always lay eggs in two rows totaling 10-15 eggs per egg mass. Southern green stink bug (Nezara viridula) eggs masses are almost always laid in rows forming a hexagon, and brown stink bug (Euschistus species) egg masses are disorganized.

Piezodorus guildinii is distributed throughout South and Central America. Within North Americ, its distribution is restricted to the Southeast (from New Mexico to the eastern seaboard and North to Georgia, Central Louisiana and S. Carolina). No common name is recognized by the Entomological Society of America; however, consultants, producers and extension agents in Louisiana and Texas refer to this insect as the red-shouldered stink bug. This has led to some confusion, because Thyanta species are also referred to by this common name. Thyanta species

usually occur more frequently in central and north Louisiana and Arkansas, and these species do not build up to high populations and are much easier to control. Piezodorus guildinii occurs further south (at least for the time being) in much larger numbers and can be extremely difficult to control with insecticides.

In Brazil, Piezodorus guildinii populations grow more slowly than populations of southern green stink bug because female Piezodorus guildinii lay an average of 50 eggs (compared to more than 100 for southern green stink bug) and P. guildinii nymphs take longer to develop. Despite the lower rate of population growth, it has been estimated that within a single soybean crop in Brazil, one can find up to eight generations of Piezodorus guildinii compared to a maximum of five generations of southern green stink bug (Nezara viridula). The higher number of generations may result from earlier infestation of soybean fields, possibly before flowering. Because of the large number of generations within a single soybean crop, one can usually find all life stages (adults, nymphs and eggs) simultaneously by the middle to end of the cropping season.

High populations (up to 8 stink bugs per row meter) of Piezodorus guildinii that persist for an extended period (20-30days) during the pod fill period of soybean development can reduce yields by up to 30%. Lower populations (less than 4 stink bugs per row meter) that persist for up to 15 days will cause less than 10% yield loss. Although the populations of Piezodorus guildinii generally grow more slowly than populations of southern green stink bug, the damage caused by an individual Piezodorus guildinii adults or nymphs can be substantial. For example, when stink bugs were infested on plants in field cages at 4 stink bugs per row meter for 15 days, southern green stink bugs damaged about 3% of the seeds available, whereas Piezodorus guildinii adults damaged 18% of the seeds. Economic thresholds used in Brazil for Piezodorus guildinii range from 2 to 4 stink bugs per row meter. The stink bug threshold in Louisiana is similar to the higher threshold (4 per row meter) used in Brazil for Piezodorus guildinii.

Conservation biological control of natural enemies attacking stink bugs is a common practice in Brazil, much like the United States. Stink bug egg masses are attacked by small, parasitic wasps that occur widely in Brazil. These wasps can attack and kill more than 60% of the Piezodorus guildinii eggs in a soybean field. The two most abundant wasps are Trissolcus basalis and Telenomus mormideae. Trissolcus basalis has been introduced into Louisiana, but this wasp was not successful in controlling southern green stink bug (Nezara viridula), and it has not been observed attacking eggs of Piezodorus guildinii. In Brazil, adult Piezodorus guildinii are attacked by the parasitic fly, Trichopoda pennipes. This is a similar fly that attacks southern green stink bug adults in Louisiana. Southern green stink bugs that have been attacked by this fly can be identified by a small white egg (sometimes more than one) that will appear somewhere on the body of the adult stink bug. In Brazil, the number of Piezodorus guildinii attacked by this fly is lower than the number of southern green stink bugs attacked, probably because Piezodorus guildinii adults are smaller and less desirable.

In Brazil, control of Piezodorus guildinii can be achieved with products and rates similar to those used to control southern green stink bug (Nezara viridula); the most difficult pentatomid (stink bug) pest to control with insecticides is Euschistus heros (a brown stink bug), **not** Piezodorus guildinii. The table blow lists the insecticide products recommended for use in Brazil for control of Piezodorus guildinii. As indicated in the table, several older compounds including organochlorines (e.g. endosulfan) and organophosphates (e.g. methamidophos) are still recommended for Piezodorus guildinii control; however, the effectiveness of these products has declined. The pyrethroids provide good to adequate control of these populations.

Asian soybean rust (ASR) is a major concern in Brazil, and this has implications for Piezodorus guildinii control. Coverage is a critical issue when applying fungicides for ASR control, so applications are made using oils as a carrier in ultra low volumes (ULV) through hollow cone nozzles. Because the equipment and application technologies used for applying insecticides are the same or similar to those used to apply fungicides, insecticide coverage is probably good as well. This is important because the question concerning coverage as a potential problem with the insecticide applications aimed at Piezodorus guildinii in Louisiana has been raised.

In addition to the question about coverage, comments made by researchers in Brazil and anecdotal evidence from producers in Louisiana suggest that adults, and possibly nymphs, may avoid exposure to insecticides by moving away from treated areas and surfaces. Researchers in Brazil have shown that ordinary table salt in a 0.5% solution applied to plants arrests the behavior of stink bugs, including Piezodorus guildinii. In fact, in the recommendation guides published by Embrapa (available at www.cnpso.embrapa.br), it is suggested that insecticide rates can be reduced by one-half when the insecticides are applied in a salt solution. Several producers did not use this technique because: 1) most applications were made using oil as a carrier, 2) most of the products used for control are performing adequately, and 3) corrosion may be a problem when using a 0.5% salt solution as a carrier for insecticides.

Recommended products (and rates in lbs active ingredient per acre) in Brazil and Louisiana.

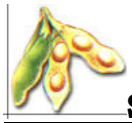
Technical name	Commercial product	Recommended rate (lb a.i./a) in Brazil	Recommended rate (lb a.i./a) in LA	Notes
acephate	Orthene®	0.5-0.66	0.5-0.75	24(c) in LA
carbaryl	Sevin®	0.8-1.3	--	1 lb ai/a labeled for vegetable style soybean
cypermethrin	Ammo®, Demon®	0.027-0.044	--	
cypermethrin+ thiamethoxam	Engeo®	2-3 oz/a*	--	thiamethoxam not registered for soybean
zeta-cypermethrin	Mustang max®	--	0.025	Recommended for stink bug control but **not** P. guildinii
cyfluthrin	Baythroid®	0.013	0.044	In Louisiana, this product recommended for suppression only.
chlorpirophos	Lorsban®	0.64	--	
deltamethrin	Decis®	0.005-0.007	--	
dimethoate	Dimethoate®, Cygon®	0.67	--	
endosulfan	Phaser®, Thionex®	0.25-0.5	--	
Methamidophos	Monitor®	0.27-0.5	--	
beta-cyfluthrin +imidacloprid	Connect®	0.05-0.1 oz/a*	--	Imidacloprid not registered for soybean
Permethrin	Ambush®	0.045	--	

* Formulated product

Our trip to Brazil will lead to the testing of a variety of products and techniques including: (1) the treatment of seed with systemic insecticides, (2) new chemistries and insect growth regulators, (3) insecticides suspended in a 0.5% salt solution, (4) monitoring parasitism levels in Piezodorus guildinii egg masses, (5) determining if our current stink bug thresholds are adequate for Piezodorus guildinii, and (6) determine if physiological resistance to insecticides exists in populations of Piezodorus guildinii in Louisiana, and (7) monitoring early-season host plants for the presence of Piezodorus guildinii.

Work on Objective 7 has begun. Sweep samples taken in West Baton Rouge and Acadia parishes showed populations of Piezodorus guildinii building on black medic (samples taken on March 11 ranged from 9-36 adults per 100 sweeps) and dock (ranging from 0-4 adults per 100 sweeps), and hairy vetch (2 per 100 sweeps).

*Information was provided by Dr. Matt Baur, assistant professor, LSU Dept. of Entomology.



SOYBEAN UPDATE

Asian Soybean Rust: The First Year, a New Challenge

Since the report from Louisiana in November 2004, Asian soybean rust (ASR) has been at the forefront of soybean producers' minds. Identifying and managing rust is a work in progress. There is much to learn about this disease; recommendations for ASR management will evolve over time. A common recommendation: If you have a profitable program, do not change. Implementing effective practices that ensure successful soybean production is still key. Avoid practices that jeopardize yield and quality (planting too early, using unproven varieties, miracle cures). ASR is not the only consideration a producer faces in 2005.

With that said, ASR is a potential threat to U.S. soybean production. This problem is successfully managed in other countries and will be managed successfully in Louisiana. Effective disease management begins with accurate identification and an understanding of the factors affecting disease development. I would like to address several areas involved with identifying and managing soybean rust, which may be helpful. Correctly identifying ASR is crucial for successful disease management. Several diseases can be confused with ASR, but through careful examination these diseases can be differentiated from ASR (Figures 1-5). Of these, Bacterial pustule most resembles rust. One difference between ASR and Bacterial pustule is where the symptoms begin in the soybean canopy. ASR initiates in the lower canopy, and Bacterial pustule is usually evident in the upper canopy. Signs of Downy mildew or Frogeye leaf spot do not include pustules.

Symptoms: The initial symptom of ASR usually begins as a very small brown water-soaked spot or lesion (Figures 6&7). The spots or lesions enlarge during favorable conditions and, depending on the variety, will be tan to reddish-brown when mature (Figures 8-10). Tan lesions are considered compatible, and reddish-brown lesions are characterized as incompatible. This incompatible response **IS NOT RESISTANCE**. Lesions are usually restricted by the leaf veins. Pustules (reproductive structures) are most abundant on the lower leaf surface. When conditions are optimum for development, lesions can be visible 5 days after infection and pustules can produce spores in 9 to 10 days. Optimum conditions that favor ASR development are temperatures between 59-77 F and leaf wetness periods of 6 to 10 hours; however, ASR can develop at temperatures beyond 77 F. These symptoms are hard to see with the unaided eye; a 20X hand lens or Microscope is recommended.

Scouting: It will be difficult to scout for rust. This disease is illusive. Because epidemics initiate in the lower canopy of the plant, fields CANNOT BE effectively scouted without examining the lower plant canopy (Figure 11). Careful and thorough examination of the lower leaves is essential for early detection. Scout field areas where rust is most likely to develop (longest periods of leaf wetness at least 6 hours): along tree lines where the crop is shaded from the morning sun, low-lying areas or poorly drained areas. If possible, examine 20 or more leaflets at each scouting site. There are no suggested sampling sites per acre, but the more sites the better the chance of finding rust. A drive along the side of a field or a casual walk through the field is worthless for early detection of ASR.

Inducing lesions to sporulate: Sporulation can be induced on suspect leaves by placing leaves on moist paper towels and putting them in a sealable-plastic bag stored at room temperature, out of direct sunlight. The suspect pustules should be sporulating in 48 to 72 hours. If samples must be stored for several days, place DRY leaves between DRY paper towels, place in a sealable-plastic bag, remove excess air and place in the refrigerator. DO NOT FREEZE!!!!

Considerations for fungicide applications: After rust is confirmed in the area, producers should be prepared to apply a fungicide. Sentinel soybean plots have been or will be planted in strategic locations (South Louisiana, experiment stations and producers' fields). The status of rust in these plots can be found at the LSU AgCenter Asian Soybean Rust Web site: http://www.lsuagcenter.com/subjects/soybeanrust/index.asp.

Initial fungicide applications 'if needed' will probably be applied between R1 to R3. Fungicide applications may be needed on vegetative soybeans, but these decisions will be made on a field by field basis. In Brazil, fungicides in the triazole class were used in combination with other chemistries (strobilurins: Quadris and Headline). Triazoles have curative activity on rust and should be used when rust is present. We will learn more about these products as new information is available.

Application timing is critical. A fungicide should be applied immediately if treatable levels of rust are detected in reproductive soybeans (R1 to R6). Treatable levels of rust are yet to be fully defined, but incidence of 10% or less is desirable. Other sources indicate yield losses have occurred if levels are higher than 10% in early reproductive soybeans. Treatment thresholds will be developed as we gain experience. When making a decision to treat, other considerations that may be important are: 1. growth stage and disease severity/incidence, 2. yield potential, 3. weather forecast and 4. price.

Coverage is as important as timing when applying a fungicide. Since rust begins in the lower canopy, fungicides must be present in the lower canopy to obtain maximum efficacy. If not contrary to the fungicide label, applications by ground should deliver 15 to 20 GPA using high pressure (80 psi or more). Maggi Farms, Brazil, the largest soybean farm in the world, makes its first fungicide application by ground and subsequent applications by air. When aerial applications are employed, apply at least 5 GPA or higher if specified by the label. Nozzles should deliver droplets 200 to 400 microns. The use of Lo or No-Drift nozzles that produce large droplets is not recommended for fungicide applications for ASR. In Brazil fungicide applications were delivered using cone or fan nozzles. There has been emphasis on twin-jet or similar type nozzles, but information from the LSU AgCenter is pending. Nozzle types and their effects on rust control will be evaluated this year if possible. **Regardless of application method used, deposition and coverage in the lower canopy are imperative for an efficacious application.** Another factor affecting coverage will be row spacing. Compared to wide rows (30 inches or wider), narrow rows will probably inhibit the penetration of a fungicide. At this time a recommendation for wider row spacing is not justified, but realize that applications to narrow beans may not be as effective as applications to wide rows.

We have a lot to learn about detection and management of ASR. No one knows what is in store for 2005. A common focus among producers, extension specialists, researchers, consultants and other soybean personnel is to maintain an open line of communication. For information on ASR identification and management, visit our Web site: http://www.lsuagcenter.com/subjects/soybeanrust/

*This article was written by Dr. Boyd Padgett, plant pathologist, Northeast Research Station.

Sentinel Plots Ready: In managing soybean rust, sentinel plots will play a large role in providing information on the spread of the disease. The objective is to have a crop in the field well ahead of the traditional crop, thus acting as a trap crop for the spores. If rust is detected in the sentinel plots, this will allow proper production decisions on regional and statewide bases to be made accordingly.

In South America and other parts of the world, sentinel plots are used to track the spread of the disease. They are also used to facilitate computer models attempting to predict where the disease may potentially spread. These prediction models are based on several variables including sentinel plots and environmental conditions.

In Louisiana, 21 sentinel plots have been planted and are being monitored by LSU AgCenter personnel. More information about soybean rust is on the LSU AgCenter's Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com/soybeanrust , www.soyrust.org or at the national Web site www.sbrusa.net.

Extension Demos: We have delivered all soybean seed for maturity Group IV demos and are still delivering Group Vs. Because of seed availability, we will not have a Group VI Core Block. At present, one variety is available and can be delivered to county agents who would like to include this in their demonstrations.

2005 Recommended Soybean Varieties: Recommended varieties for Maturity Groups IV, V and VI are available online and can be accessed at www.lsuagcenter.com/soybeans. Select **Variety Trials and Recommendations** for individual parish information.

Louisiana Soybean Association (LSA): LSA is a producer-based soybean organization affiliated with the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the United Soybean Board (USB). This organization has many roles, including updating statewide soybean producers on current legislative and environmental issues. The LSA also has representatives on the ASA and USB boards. This allows Louisiana issues to be brought to a national audience. As a member of LSA, you support local, state, national and international promotion and use of soybeans. Membership is available to anyone involved in production agriculture. Agribusiness personnel are also strongly encouraged to join. For more information about becoming a member of LSA, please contact:

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To join online: The Web address is www.soygrowers.com. Select ***membership*** and enter your information.

CORN UPDATE

Louisiana Corn Crop Slow to Get Started

The Louisiana corn crop is off to a slow start, not because of low temperatures slowing growth or fertility issues, but because rainfall delayed planting. Most producers have been delayed about two weeks. At this time (April 11), we are generally planting only the fields that we have had difficulty planting or decided at the last minute to continue planting. USDA reports that intended corn acres for Louisiana will be about 400,000, which seems realistic. At the end of last week, estimates for Louisiana corn planted acreage was about 250,000 acres plus. The rainfall forecast today (April 11) will probably mark the end of corn planting.

The LSU AgCenter recommends that corn planting should not continue after April 15. The advantage of earlier or optimal planted corn are numerous including higher yields, less lodging and earlier shading of the crop row, which helps on weed control as well as soil water evaporation. Earlier planted corn reaches the reproductive phases of growth more quickly, which allows the crop to have more sunlight in the grain-filling growth stage. It is not advantageous to plant corn much later than April 15.

This year the predominant problem is bird damage. Blackbirds have eaten corn plants back to the soil line. In some situations, corn will recover, depending on how much disease damage occurs after the feeding. Using plastic owls or blown up “red eyes” can help discourage birds. If you do not move these devices around though, the birds will become accustomed to them.

Every year we deal with corn turning yellowish, which looks like a fertility problem, but it really is just poor growing conditions. The best thing for corn under these conditions is optimal sunshine, fertility, soil temperature and water. One additional point to remember about corn is that early season stresses can really damper yield potential. Kernel number and rows are being set when corn is about "knee high," so not having the crop under stress at this time is a benefit.

The big question that remains: Where did the additional 100,000 acres or so of "traditional" corn acres go in Louisiana in 2005? Some producers have mentioned more grain sorghum, soybeans and cotton in some situations (especially in north Louisiana).

*This article was written by Dr. David Y. Lanclos, assistant professor and LSU AgCenter specialist.

Insect Update: Adult *Piezidorus guildinii*, red-shouldered stink bugs, were found in alternate host plants during February and March. Reports from south and southwest Louisiana indicate that this stink bug can be found in legume/clover type of plants such as black medic (yellow flower and bur seed pod) and hairy vetch (purple flower) in or near fields, fence rows, etc., where soybeans were grown last year. In some cases, sweep net samples revealed high counts, but time will tell how these initial findings translate into soybean infestations.

One SLN 24(c) Acephate label for Louisiana soybeans will be in effect for the 2005 season: Micro Flo Co. We are hopeful that further labeling will occur so an adequate supply will be available for the potential *Piezodorus guildinii* problem.

As we move into spring, the importance of establishing and maintaining a healthy corn stand becomes greater. Regardless of the choice of soil insecticide or seed treatment, seedling corn stands

should be checked carefully so pests such as cutworms and chinch bugs do not cause post-emergence stand loss or seedling damage.

*This information was provided by Dr. Jack Baldwin, LSU AgCenter Extension entomologist.

Extension Demos: At this time, all corn seed for the 2005 demos have been delivered and planted. Please contact county agents for specific information about them.

GRAIN SORGHUM UPDATE

2005 Recommended Hybrids: The 2005 Recommended Grain Sorghum Hybrids are available at: www.lsuagcenter.com/grains/sorghum. Core Block hybrids have been delivered for Extension demonstrations.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Different Perspective: This will be a new addition to the newsletter in which various county agents will provide information on what is happening in specific areas. This can and will include any complaints or pest issues, meetings or pictures.

Donna Lee, East Carroll Parish: "Cotton ground is being prepared for planting. All corn and the majority of grain sorghum have been planted. We got a tremendous amount of rain early in April. That slowed us down somewhat but everything seems to be on track now."

*Keith Fontenot, Evangeline Parish: "*The earlier maturing soybeans have been planted, and we're waiting on a rain to start the Group Vs. Many farmers are behind several weeks because of the early wet weather and now it's too dry. A lot of ground is being worked up, and some are just waiting to cut the wheat to double-crop with their soybeans."

*Miles Brashier, Pointe Coupee Parish: "*Everything is looking good overall. Corn is 100% planted, 90% of our Group IVs are planted, and we're waiting on wheat harvest to plant the Group Vs. Corn had some bird damage early, but we replanted, and it's looking great now. Soybeans have been a little slow coming out of the ground because of the lower temperatures, but are starting to look a lot better."

Glen Daniels, Concordia Parish: "Our corn is 100% planted; grain sorghum is about 80%-90%. Looks like the majority of our soybeans are going to be Group IVs and we've planted about 60%. The dry weather has stopped everything for now. We should end up with about 75,000-76,000 acres."

UPCOMING EVENTS

June
6/6-8 – LCAAA Annual Meeting – Sulphur
6/29 – Northeast Research Station Annual Field Day – St. Joseph
6/30 – Rice Research Station Annual Field Day – Crowley

July
7/7-11 – Farm Bureau Convention – New Orleans
7/14 – Terral Field Day – Greenville, Miss.

August
8/25 – Rapides Parish & Dean Lee Research Station Field Day- Alexandria

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