

JUMPING PLANT-LICE AND HOST PLANTS INTERACTIONS, DAMAGES ON CULTIVATED PLANTS AND FOREST TIMBERS IN CAMEROON

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Jumping plant-lice or psyllids form a moderate-size group of Hemiptera Sternorrhyncha. They feed on plant-sap, usually from the phloem, and are generally highly host specific. Psyllids are usually associated with dicotyledons, and related species often develop on related host taxa. They can be harmful to their angiosperm hosts in removing large quantities of plant-sap, and in producing honey dew which soils leaves and fruits, and attracts sooty moulds, or by transmitting diseases. Recent investigations on psyllid biodiversity in Cameroon enable us to describe new species from this country. The biology of psyllids was also studied during the last decade in Cameroon. The present work described the interactions between twenty psyllid species and their hosts in Cameroon. The damages that each psyllid species caused on its host have been raised. The visible damages, caused during larval stages, were mainly the formation of the galls, the enrolment of leaves, the burns and necroses on the plant tissue, the apparition of the wounds following to the egg insertion mode into the plant tissue. In some cases, the pit galls persist after the last moult of the insect. The damages caused by psyllid to the plant tissue are irreversible. *Phytolyma fusca* caused closed galls on leaves and buds of *Milicia excelsa*; larvae dig galleries that assure the communication between different galls. These galls persisted during larval stages and explode during the emergence of adults. Leaves and buds thus attacked dried and degenerated. *Pseudophacopteron pusillum*, psyllid of *Dacryodes edulis*; *P. fuscovenosum*, psyllid of *Deimboldia* sp.; *P. nothospondiadis*, psyllid of *Nothospondias letestui*; *Trioza* sp., psyllid of *Schefflera barteri* provoked closed and isolated galls on leaves of their respective host. These galls explode at the end of the larval development; the buds and leaves does not dry after the emergence of adults. *Trioza erytrae*, citrus psyllid; *Trioza* sp., psyllid of *Stephania abyssinica*; *Trioza* sp., psyllid of *Drypetes leonensis* caused pit galls or crypts on leaves of their respective host. These galls are opened at the lower face of the leaves. Heavy infestation spoiled the appearance of young trees of citrus. *Colophorina* sp., psyllid of *Deutarium macrocarpum*; *Afrotrioza* sp., psyllid of *Bersama* sp.; *Symtomosa* sp., psyllid of *Homalium letestui*; *Pseudophacopteron cuniculus*, psyllid of *Bligia unijugata*; *Diclidophlebia xuani*, psyllid of *Ricinodendron heudelotii* provoked galls resulting from the enrolment of young leaves that hold larvae and adults. Other psyllids species produced large quantities of honey dew responsible for the burns of the leaf tissue: *Psyllinae* sp., psyllid of *Pitosporum viridiflorum*; *Triozamia* sp., psyllid of *Antiaris africana*, *Paurocephala* sp., psyllid of *Dombeya ledermannii*; *Heteropsylla cubana*, psyllid of *Leucena glauca* and *Trioza messii*, psyllid of *Caloncoba welwitschii*. The egg laying insertion mode of *Mesohomotoma tesmanni* provokes some wounds in the leaves tissue of cocoa. *Pseudoeriopsylla* sp. attacks roots of *Ficus thonningii*. Most of the hosts are cultivated plants or forest timbers with economical value and pharmaceutical used in Cameroon.