

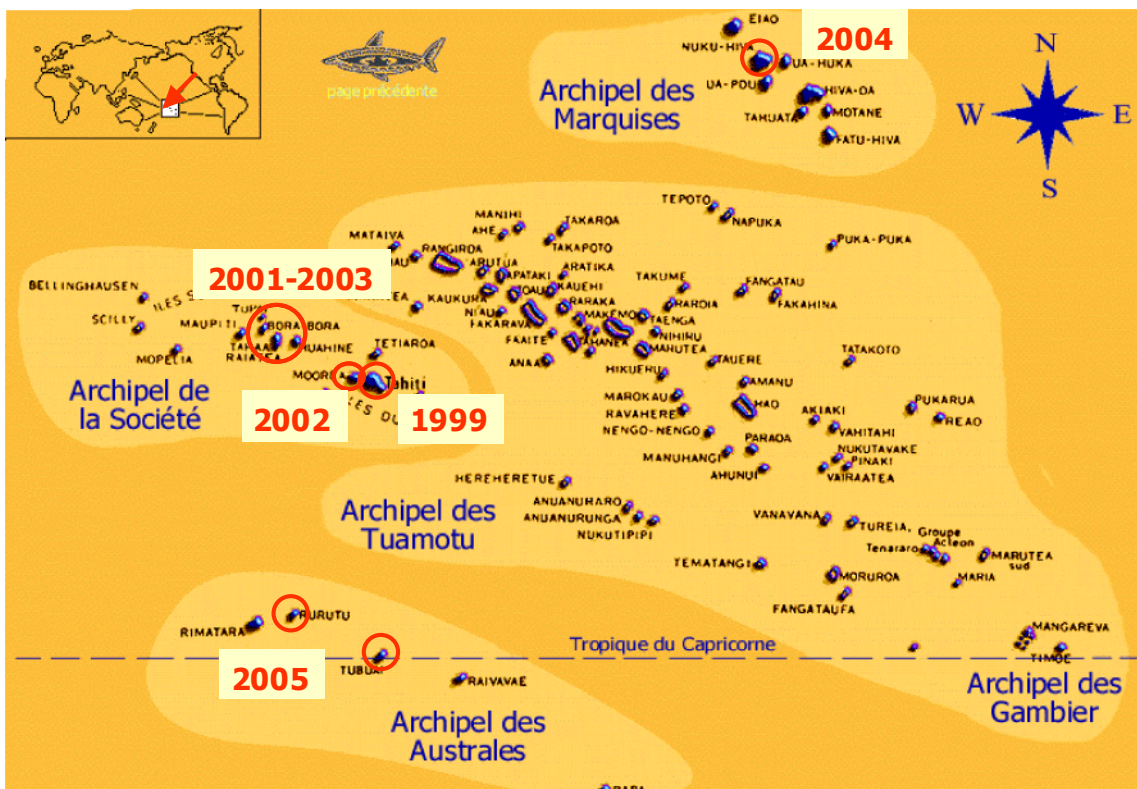
# The glassy-winged sharpshooter, *Homalodisca coagulata* in French Polynesia and biocontrol.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter or GWSS, *Homalodisca coagulata*, was first reported on Tahiti in 1999 in the municipality of Arue. Since two to three years, it has tremendously proliferated on the entire island with huge population density. It has also reached some outer islands.



It becomes established in the Society Islands first : on Raiatea in 2001, on Moorea in 2002, on Huahine and Bora Bora in 2003.

For the last months, it has become a threat to all archipelagos : it was reported in the Marquesas by the end of 2004 and in the Austral Islands in early 2005.



A biocontrol plan has been initiated with the introduction of parasitoids (microwasps) *Gonatocerus ashmeadi* et *G. triguttatus* (Hymenoptera : Mymaridae), their mass-rearing and their release in progress. The female wasp lay its eggs inside the GWSS eggs and the wasp larvae kills the developing GWSS nymphs. A preliminary inventory of native cicadellidae has been done and the risks the wasps could pose have been assessed.



*G. ashmeadi*

The mass-rearing scheme has reached its 22<sup>nd</sup> generation of wasps with a rate of production of 700 to 1500 wasps per generation. As a rule, only one third of the population should be kept to sustain the mass-rearing system, the two thirds are released, that is 200 to 800 wasps released each week since May 2005.