



**Ministry of Agricultural Development
NATIONAL DIRECTION OF PLANT HEALTH**

NOTIFICATION

The Republic of Panama through the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), the National Plant Protection Authority (DNSV) notifies the country's phytosanitary situation regarding an insect known as Black Chinche, *Brachyplatys* sp.

For the purposes of this notification, the provisions of ISPM N° 17 "NOTIFICACIÓN DE PLAGAS" and ISPM N° 8 "DETERMINACIÓN DE LA SITUACIÓN DE UNA PLAGA EN UN ÁREA" from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) have been taken into account.

The Department of Phytosanitary Surveillance of the DNSV through the Section of Specific Pests carried out phytosanitary surveillance actions in 2013, taking into account the occurrence of an outbreak of an insect species that was colonizing the pigeon plants *Cajanus cajan*. At the end of 2012, was established as a strategy for monitoring this insect.

1. Send specimen sample to a taxon expert.
2. Pest delimitation surveys in detection areas.
3. Record of data on the results obtained in the field.

Between January and February of 2013, the Department of Detection and Phytosanitary Diagnosis of the DNSV, Luis Alvarado, Agricultural Engineer, Entomology Msc., determined that the specimens belonged to the Plataspidae Family (Hemiptera), an exotic family for the Neotropics. Images and specimens were sent to Dr. Wayne Gardner, a researcher at the University of Georgia (U.S.A.) who has been working with the first Plataspidae species introduced to America: *Megacopta cribraria*. Dr. Gardner consulted Dr. Joseph Eger, who was part of the group of scientists who made the first report of a Plataspidae (*Megacopta cribraria*) in the New World (Eger et al, 2010). Based on the images and specimens sent, Dr. Eger tentatively identified the specimens sent as *Brachyplatys subaeneus* (Westwood) and requested data on the collection to be sent to two specialists who would confirm the species.

We conducted surveys throughout the province of Colón, the entire province of Panamá, the entire province of West Panama and the province of Coclé to El Copé, so we can announce that *Brachyplatys* sp has been dispersed throughout the transistmica lane to Escobal in the province

of Colón; in the capital city to the sector of Tanara in the district of Chepo and to the district of San Carlos in the province of West Panama, see figure N ° 5.

Considering the database that was obtained with the information obtained from the delimitation surveys to establish the dispersion of this insect, belonging to the genus *Brachyplatys*, Order Hemiptera, family Plataspidae, and from the observations made; it can be determined that it is a species high mobility, possibly as a stowaway came through the Tocumen international airport or port in the Atlantic area.

The insect has shown a distribution associated with the pigeon pea plants and, as well as members of this family (such as *Megacopta cribaria*) show a dispersion more associated with the pathway than the products.

Detections have been made in pigeon pea plants, isolated in backyards and not in production sites, it has been observed that the insect is found in the armpits of the branches and in the trunk, in some young leaves and not so in the pods, See figure 1; Nor has it been observed diseases related to this sucking insect. There is little report of this insect in the place of origin, Malaysia, on economic and environmental damages, natural enemies, among others.

Parasitized eggs were collected, (Rubén Sarracín, Agricultural Engineer, Entomology MSc. In Teremar, Juan Díaz and Luis Alvarado, Agricultural Engineer, Entomology Msc. in RioTapia, Tocumen), from which emerged individuals from the family Encyrtidae (Hymenoptera). The determination of the species is managed by a specialist, see figure N ° 4.

The National Plant Health Directorate, based on the provisions of ISPMs 8 and 17, states that the phytosanitary situation of *Brachyplatys* sp in the Republic of Panamá is of **pest present only in some areas planted with host crops**, confirmed by surveys.



Figure N ° 1: *Brachyplatys* sp. In cultivation of pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*).



Figure 2: Immature states of *Brachyplatys* sp.



Figure N ° 3: First instar nymphs



Egg hatching



Figure N ° 4: Emergence of the micro-hymenopterus of parasitized eggs.

Figure 5:
DETECTION AREAS OF *Brachyplatys* sp.

