

## Section I: Surveys of Invasive and Emerging Pests

### ***MONSOMA PULVERATUM*, THE GREEN ALDER SAWFLY, IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

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In 2010, the introduced Green Alder Sawfly (GAS), *Monsoma pulveratum* (Retzius) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae), was found for the first time in the continental United States. First detected in North America in 1991, in Newfoundland, Canada, it was found again in 2004 in Alaska, where it has since caused significant defoliation of *Alnus tenuifolia* Nutt. The first identification of GAS from Washington State was based on a photograph taken in Vancouver, Washington, in April 2010. In response, a quickly executed cooperative survey by the U.S. Forest Service, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture revealed that the species is widespread in western Washington and northwestern Oregon, and appears to be present in eastern Washington as well. Additionally, visual survey conducted by Forestry Canada cooperators also found GAS in multiple locations in southwestern British Columbia and on Vancouver Island this year (Lee Humble, personal communication).

The 2010 survey found GAS in 11 counties in western Washington and Oregon, and in Stevens County in eastern Washington (Figure 1). Larvae and adults were found primarily in red alder (*Alnus rubra* Bong.), and were detected with either yellow or greenish-yellow panel traps or by hand collecting. Examination of specimens in student collections from Western Washington University indicates the species has been present in Whatcom County since at least 1995. It is unclear whether GAS will be as damaging in the Pacific Northwest as it has been in Alaska, where, in concert with disease and other insects, it has contributed to total alder defoliation along the Kenai River. A more systematic and widespread survey is being planned for spring 2011, which will expand the geographic area and specifically survey the host species defoliated in Alaska.

More information on 2010 GAS survey and the impacts in Alaska can be found at;  
<http://www.invasives.wsu.edu/defoliators/news.html>, and  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/invasives/green-alder-sawfly.shtml>

Figure 1. 2010 Green Alder Sawfly Collection Sites in the Pacific Northwest



*Monsoma pulveratum* records in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Specimens were collected by hand or on yellow sticky traps. Some Whatcom Co. records are from Western Washington University students, and date from 1995. Data provided by Canadian Forest Service (Lee Humble & Meghan Noseworthy), Andrei Karankou, the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, the United States Forest Service, Western Washington University, Skamania Co. Extension and Washington State Dept. of Agriculture.  
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