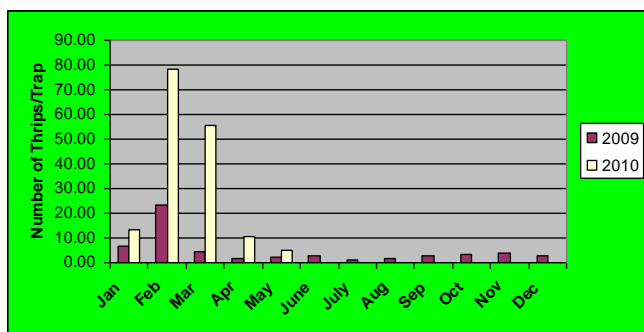
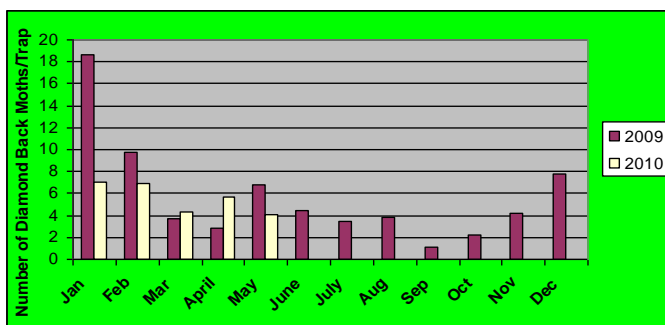


## Thrips infestation on Orchids



**Comments:** The overall average thrips populations showed a decline in this month also which is due to the farmers taking up adequate plant protection measures including rotation of chemicals and use of correct dosage to get the maximum kill. Secondly the prolonged dry weather conditions has also improved to a great extent.

## Diamond Back Moth infestation on Vegetables



**Comments:** The average DBM population is slightly on the lower side in this month as compared with the same month last year. In general the DBM population is on the decline in this year as compared with last year. The reason being the farmers taking up adequate plant protection measures.

## CUBAN LAUREL THRIPS *GYNAIKOTHRIPS FICORUM* REPORTED ON *DIPTEROCARPUS* SP

Cuban laurel thrips viz., *Gynaikothrips ficorum* is pantropical, appearing wherever *Ficus retusa* is planted. It is recorded from Algeria, Canary Islands, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guam, Taiwan, Ecuador, India, Java, Mexico, Nassau (Bahamas), Nicaragua, Israel, Palestine, Panama, Puerto Rico, Salvador, Thailand, Spain, and the United States. In September 2006, this species was detected on *Ficus benjamina* in Singapore. Recently we have trapped this thrips in large numbers on yellow traps placed near *Dipterocarpus* saplings (Fig. 1). The thrips were also observed on the foliage causing leaf curl on the above plants (Fig. 2).

*Ficus retusa* var *nitida* L. is the preferred host for this species. When the thrips become abundant on a host, they will feed on other hosts. Recorded hosts are various species of *Ficus*, *Codiaeum variegatum*, *Melicocca bijuga*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Viburnum suspensum*, and *Citrus* sp. Additional hosts from where the thrips have been recorded are *Eucalyptus*, *Gliricidia*, and *Calocarpum* sp. Cuban laurel thrips are also known to be an occasional pest of orchids

The life cycle of this thrips takes two to four weeks. When viewed from above, the second stage larva is shaped like an elongate diamond. Older larvae are light yellow in color. The adult varies from about 2.6 mm to 3.6 mm in length and is dark yellowish-brown to black and the breeding is continuous. Although the adult moves or fly rapidly when disturbed, it remains on or close to the leaves most of the time. They are also active flyers on hot days. Adult thrips use their mouthparts to feed on the rapidly growing tissue. Feeding by thrips typically causes tiny scars on leaves.

Tight curling of the leaf is caused by feeding from the developing colonies of immature thrips (Fig. 2 ). The curled leaf becomes hard and tough, then gradually become yellower and browner, and drops off eventually. The thrips can be a nuisance when they drop onto people.

Prune and destroy injured and infested terminals to suppress the population of thrips. Regular pruning of infested parts is especially effective with *G. ficorum*. Insecticides such as abamectin and imidacloprid are reported to be effective against thrips.



Fig 1. Cuban lural thrips trapped in large numbers on yellow traps placed near *Dipterocarpus* sp



Fig 2 . Leaf curling caused by Cuban lural thrips infestation in *Dipterocarpus* sp

### Pest Interceptions from Importing Countries ( May 2010)

AVA was notified of one pest interceptions from exported aquatic plants consignments for May 2010.

Commodity: *Hygrophila salicifolia*  
Pest Intercepted = *Bemisia tabaci*  
Intercepting Country = France

Exporters are advised to implement pest control management on farm with yellow sticky traps and insecticide applications (rotation of insecticides and correct dosage will help in reducing the insect resistance) to control whiteflies infestations. Pre-shipment insecticidal dipping treatments will further help in killing the pupae of the whiteflies.

### CONTACT US

Please report any unusual occurrence of pests and diseases (new or severe occurrence) to Plant Health Laboratories, AVA. It would help to protect our plant industry and the garden city from new invasive pests or diseases. You can report your observations through:

Email : [AVA\\_Planthealth@ava.gov.sg](mailto:AVA_Planthealth@ava.gov.sg) or Telephone: 63165168 or 188 or Fax: 63161090.

Please provide the location, plant hosts attacked and suspected pests or diseases to our officers to follow-up and confirm the situation if required.

Visit us at:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/AgricultureFisheriesSector/PlantHealthServices/PlantHealthLabServices/index.htm>