



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Erythrina gall wasp (268)



Photo 1. Shoot of *Erythrina variegata*, caused by the Erythrina gall wasp, *Quadrastichus erythrinae*.



Photo 2. Close-up of Photo 1 to show the galls - gross distortions of the leaves and petioles of *Erythrina variegata*.



Photo 3. Dieback of *Erythrina variegata* caused by the Erythrina gall wasp, *Quadrastichus erythrinae*.



Photo 4. Galls of *Quadrastichus erythrinae* showing the exit holes of the gall wasp.



Photo 5. Male and female Erythrina gall wasp, *Quadrastichus erythrinae*.

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On *Erythrina* species. There are more than 100 species worldwide in tropical and sub-tropical countries, and they are used as ornamentals, living fences, and also as shade trees. An important pest.
- Eggs are laid in the shoots, and larvae cause leaves to deform and fall; repeated attacks cause dieback and tree death. Seedlings attacked, leading to species loss.
- Spread occurs by flight on the wind and, perhaps, on leaves on boats and planes.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasp collected in Africa, introduced and found effective in Hawaii.
- Cultural control: none recommended..
- Chemical control: none recommended, except imidacloprid injection of especially valuable trees. [Note, in some countries, control

is controversial: *Erythrina* is the food of fruit piercing moth larvae, in others it is a valuable native tree.]

## Common Name

Erythrina gall wasp

## Scientific Name

*Quadrastichus erythrinae*

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Information from Heu RA, Tsuda DM, Nagamine WT, Yalamar JA, Sih TH (2008) *Erythrina erythrinae* Kim (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae). New Pest Advisory. No. 05-03. State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture; and from CABI (2015) *Quadrastichus erythrinae* (Erythrina gall wasp) Crop Protection Compendium ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)). Photos 1&2 Albert (Bud) Mayfield, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org Photo 3 Albert (Bud) Mayfield, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Richard Markham, ACIAR, Canberra. Photo 5 Erich G. Vallery, USDA Forest Service - SRS-4552, Bugwood.org.

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