

Erythrina gall wasp (268)

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



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 4. Galls of *Quadrastichus*



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



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

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Information from Heu RA, et al. (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 (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/restricted/?target=%2fcpc%2fdatasheet%2f46220>); and from Hawaii Invasive Species Council (2019) Invasive species: Erythrina gall wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*). (<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/biocontrol/latest-biocontrol/erythrina-gall-wasp/>). 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. Valley, USDA Forest Service - SRS-4552, Bugwood.org.

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