



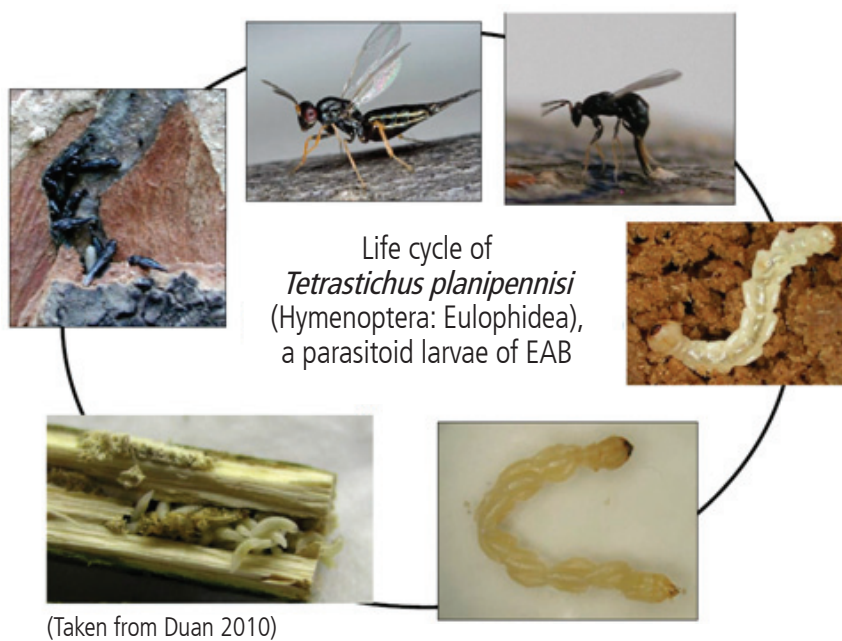
Biological control method regarding emerald ash borer in wooded areas

Description

The project, led by the Service de l'environnement of Montréal, consists in releasing natural enemies of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Several thousand parasitoids will be released at different times during the summer in some natural woodlots, such as Westmount's Summit Woods Green Space. This classical biological control project, through the use of exotic natural enemies of the EAB, is a long-term strategy for the conservation of natural woodlots in urban areas.

How does it work?

Parasitoid females of the species *Tetrastichus planipennis* will locate EAB larvae under the bark of the ash tree. The female parasitoid then pierces the bark and lays eggs inside the borer larva. The eggs hatch and the parasitoid larvae eat the larva of EAB from within, ultimately killing it. This type of parasitoid is able to produce several generations per year. A parasitized larva of EAB can produce up to a hundred *Tetrastichus* adults, which will go parasitize other larvae of EAB!

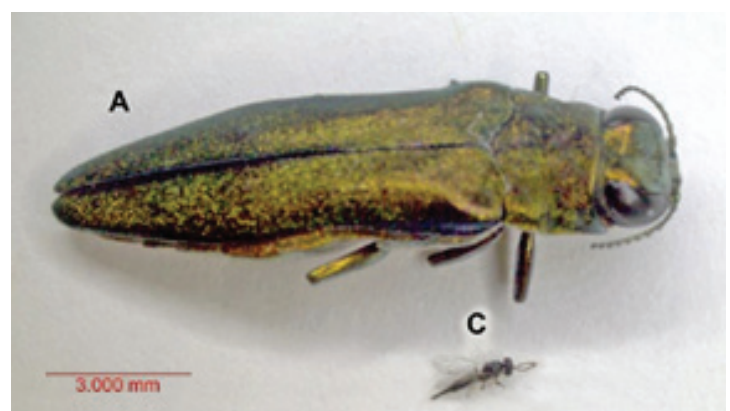


Unique collaboration!

The Service de l'environnement of Montréal has partnered with the US (USDA) and Canadian (Canadian Forest Service) governments in order to implement this unique research project for the agglomeration of Montreal. In North America, the parasitoids release site of Westmount for EAB control is amongst the most northerly in addition to being located in one of the most heavily urbanized areas.

Is it risky?

No. Parasitic wasps used are very specific and their only prey is EAB. In the absence of EAB, parasitoids will simply die. The parasitoids wasps to be released are harmless to humans. They are very small (few mm long only) and are unable to sting.



A : Emerald ash adult
C : Parasitoid wasp species *Tetrastichus planipennis*
Source : J. Plunkett

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