

### Disease Profile

<b>Common name</b>	Cuban laurel thrip	<b>Family</b>	Phlaeothripidae
<b>Genus/species</b>	<i>Gynaikothrips ficorum</i>	<b>Order</b>	Thysanoptera
<b>Pest/disease type</b>	Thrips that rasp/suck sap from the foliage and cause leaflets to deform/roll and often defoliate		
<b>Host</b>	<i>Ficus sp.</i> , particularly <i>F. microcarpa var. hillii</i> , <i>F. benjamina</i> and <i>F. retusa</i>		
<b>Symptoms</b>	Leaflets normally roll inward, juvenile foliage is normally affected, purple pits appear on the leaflet where damage has occurred, as the damage increases the leaflet may appear yellow, leathery and fall prematurely from the tree.		
<b>Life cycle/Identifying features</b>	<p><b>Eggs:</b> are laid on the upper surface of the leaflet. A full life cycle can be completed within 30 days in warm weather.</p> <p><b>Nymphs:</b> are pale in colour less than 1mm in length and feed predominately on the midrib of the leaflet on the upper side of the leaf. Their feeding caused the leaf to roll inward on its self creating a shelter for the thrips.</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> are approx. 1mm in length, are dark in colour and have a pointed abdomen typical of thrips, their wings are feathered another characteristic of thrips. In warm weather the adults will migrate as they are strong fliers</p>		
<b>Control options</b>			
<b>Environmental controls</b>	Tip pruning affected plants will remove a large percentage of the food source and eggs. Extreme cold weather will provide some control.		
<b>Biological controls</b>	3 species of predatory bugs have been used to control Cuban laurel thrip in North America. These are <i>Macrotrachiella laevis</i> and <i>Cardiastethus rugicollis</i> in Puerto Rico, and <i>Montandoniola moraguesi</i> in Florida, USA. None of these insects are present in Australia. There are many wasps that parasitise other species of thrip which may provide limited control. Predatory mites sold as <b>Amblyseius</b> may also provide some control.		
<b>Chemical control</b>	Thrips can be controlled with a systemic insecticide as the rolled leaf protects them from contact insecticides. Imidacloprid may be used successfully.		





**References:**

[www.wikipedia.com.au/thrips](http://www.wikipedia.com.au/thrips),  
[http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/plant\\_info/pests\\_diseases/fact\\_sheets/cuban\\_laurel\\_thrips](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/plant_info/pests_diseases/fact_sheets/cuban_laurel_thrips).  
All images by Shaun Talent

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