Invasive Bean Plataspid (Kudzu Bug) Discovered in North Carolina

The invasive bean plataspid (Fig. 1), dubbed the “kudzu bug” by University of Georgia researchers, has now been sighted on kudzu in Macon Co., North Carolina. This insect is a native to Asia and feeds on legumes. The North Carolina sighting was made by Georgia entomologists who “stumbled” into the state from monitoring in adjacent Georgia counties. NC State entomologist Jack Bacheler is planning on making a trip to this area in the near future to confirm this sighting and to evaluate the current distribution in the state. So far we do not have any reports of this insect on North Carolina soybeans.

![Kudzu bug eggs and adult laying eggs. Images by J. Greene, Clemson U.](image)

The kudzu bug was initially detected in only 9 counties and was restricted to Georgia in the fall of 2009. Detection and monitoring efforts have been increased in 2010 and it has been confirmed in 46 counties in Georgia and 13 counties in South Carolina. Its initial spread from the Piedmont regions is reaching into some of the more intensive agricultural regions of both Georgia and South Carolina. Some of these confirmations have only been made on kudzu, but many sightings include soybeans. University of Georgia entomologist Phillip Roberts is conducting initial investigations evaluating insecticide management and cage studies evaluating economic damage and areas of the plant where this pest may feed.

Please contact both Ken Ahlstrom, Cooperative Agriculture Pest Service coordinator with the NCDA (Ken.Ahlstrom@ncagr.gov, (919) 733-6931 x236), and Dominic Reisig (Dominic_reisig@ncsu.edu, (252) 793-4428 x133) if you find this pest. Researchers in both Georgia and South Carolina are collecting GPS locations of where this insect is found to map distributions. If you could also provide this information, as well as the plant on which it was found, it would enhance our ability to respond to this new threat. Please use caution not to spread this pest from field to field if you find this pest.

From: Dominic Reisig, Extension Entomologist