

# ***Leptocybe invasa* biological control program in Brazil: An update**

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Forestry products are one of the most important exportation incomes for the Brazilian economy, based mainly in *Eucalyptus* plantations. Introduction and establishment of *Eucalyptus* invasive pests in Brazil has caused decreased wood productivity. The Chalcid blue gum *Leptocybe invasa* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) is an Australian species first recorded in Brazil in 2008, considered a nursery pest in the beginning and currently a pest in clonal plantations. The classical biological control with introduced parasitoids is the main strategy for management of this pest. *Selitrichodes neseri* Kelly & La Salle (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) was imported to Brazil from South Africa in 2015. After four years this parasitoid has been released and established in seven states in nurseries and plantations. *S. neseri* has a short life cycle (approx. 19 days), in comparison with *L. invasa* (approx. 87 days). After four years, infestation decreased in states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Bahia. Another parasitoid, *Quadrastichus mendeli* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), was recently found in unintentional introductions in São Paulo state in December of 2018. Studies about bioecology, dispersion and a possible interaction between both parasitoids are ongoing.

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