

First Record of *Mysaromima liquescens* Meyric (Lepidoptera: Elaschistidae) Damaging Paricá (*Schizolobium parahyba* var. *amazonicum*)

RM PITTA¹, FJ WRUCK²

¹Embrapa Agrossilvipastoril, Sinop, MT, Brasil

²Embrapa Arroz e Feijão, Santo Antônio de Goiás, GO, Brasil

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Correspondence

RM Pitta, Embrapa Agrossilvipastoril, 78556-970 Sinop, MT, Brasil; rafaelpitta@embrapa.br

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Abstract

We report Paricá as the first host recorded for *Mysaromima liquescens* Meyrick, and the damaging potential of *M. liquescens* larvae as borers in Nova Canaã do Norte, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Paricá (*Schizolobium parahyba* var. *amazonicum*) is an Amazonian fast-growing tree widely planted in reforestation areas in the Amazon biome due to its adaptability to different environmental conditions and satisfactory economic value (Rosa 2006). As a consequence of an intensification of its cultivation, new Paricá–insect interactions have been reported, especially for pests species, such as for *Quesada gigas* Olivier (Zanuncio *et al* 2004), *Solenopsis saevissima* F. Smith (Lunz *et al* 2009) and *Pantophthalmus kerteszi* Enderlein and *Pantophthalmus chuni* Enderlein (Lunz *et al* 2010).

We now report on the association of *Mysaromima liquescens* Meyrick with Paricá and on its potential as a pest. *M. liquescens* larvae were found causing severe damage to Paricá trees cultivated in an agrosilvopastoral system (10°24' 06"S, 55°43'35"W) in Nova Canaã do Norte, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, in July 2012. The infestation reached an average of 12–14 larvae (2.5-cm in length) per plant. Larvae built 3-cm deep galleries from

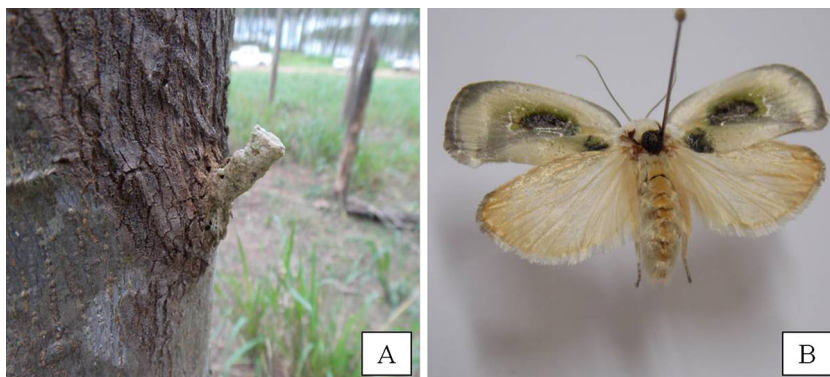
the bark towards the heartwood tree. It was possible to see a tube composed of caterpillar's excrements and wood exudates frequently located either in scars at the insertion of petioles or in wounds (Fig 1a) provoked by the cattle gnawing the bark of the trees.

Samples of the trunks were cut and kept in the laboratory until adult emergence. The adult specimens obtained were 12-mm long, with a 40-mm wingspan, forewings rather broad with two black oval spot surrounded above and posterior with a greenish color mixed with gray; hind wings were pale colored (Fig 1b).

In its original description, specimens of *M. liquescens* were collected in Colombia (Meyrick 1926), but no hosts were reported. Therefore, Paricá is the first record of a host to this species.

Due to the severity of the attack, research into the population dynamic of *M. liquescens*, its biology, and behavior are needed in order to support further studies for the management of this species in Paricá.

Fig 1 **a** Tube composed of caterpillar's excrements and wood exudates. **b** Adult specimen of *Mysaromima liquescens*.



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