

# Jacaranda Bug

## Jacaranda Bug

*Orthezia insignis*

### Impacts

- This insect posed a major threat to the survival of the Gumwood on St Helena, pre-1993
- It damages the plant by feeding on the innermost layer of the bark, and excreting nutrients which promote the growth of sooty mould.
- The black sooty mould covers the branches attracted by the honey dew produced by the Jacaranda bugs.
- It threatens the endemic gumwood trees and could possibly impact other endemic species



Showing the sooty mould caused by the Jacaranda Bug on the Gumwood.  
Photo: Rebecca Cairns-Wicks



The biological control ladybird beetle  
*Hyperaspis pantherina*.  
Photo: Simon Folwer



A healthy Gumwood Tree.  
Photo: Andrew Darlow

### Actions

- This bug was brought under control when the ladybird *Hyperaspis pantherina* was introduced in 1993 as a biological control
- Continued monitoring is conducted to ensure that it does not become a problem again