

**UK Overseas Territories and  
Crown Dependencies Programme**

Information sheet

**Improving bio-security in the UK OTs:  
identification service for invasive  
invertebrate plant pests**

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# Defra Biodiversity Project

## Improving bio-security in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories: identification service for invasive invertebrate plant pests

We would like to remind you of the free invertebrate plant pest identification service Fera are offering all UK Overseas Territories and invite you to submit specimens you require identifying. This is a Defra funded service provided by entomologists at The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) in the United Kingdom. The pilot service received much positive feedback and a large number of invertebrate samples were submitted to Fera. The third phase of the project is now in progress and the scope has been widened to include all UK Overseas Territories. The current project is due to end in April 2012, but we would like to continue offering the free identification service.

### Some of our successes:

Thus far the project has generated many valuable contributions to our knowledge of the invertebrate fauna of four of the UK Overseas Territories. It has highlighted a large number of previously unreported non-native species introductions, and perhaps more surprising, approximately eight species apparently new to science have been discovered.



Photograph: An undescribed species of *Eurypepla*, a tortoise beetle, from the Cayman Islands  
© Fera

### Submitting samples:

If you would like to receive support in the diagnosis of plant pest invertebrates please contact us by email at [ukot@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukot@fera.gsi.gov.uk) and we will provide you with details of how to prepare samples and where to send them. We aim to provide at least a provisional diagnosis to you within 3 working days from receipt of sample. We always identify to species level where possible, and provide biological information such as host preference, distribution etc. when known.

### New pests of pine in the Turks and Caicos Islands

The destructive pine tortoise scale, *Toumeyella parvicornis* was until very recently the only insect pest known to be causing losses to the Caicos pine, *Pinus caribaea* var. *bahamensis* in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Samples submitted through this project have identified three other scale insect species on this host, and at least two are non-native and are likely to be contributing to the serious and rapid decline of the pine forests.



Photograph: Barnacle scale *Ceroplastes cirripediformis*, one of the newly discovered pests attacking Caribbean pine in the Turks and Caicos  
© Eric Salamanca, DECR (TCI)



Photograph: Close up of a mature adult female barnacle scale, *Ceroplastes cirripediformis*  
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