BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF APPLE LEAF-CURLING MIDGE IN CANADA

Locations
Canada

Dates
01-06-2016 - 31-03-2019

Summary
A European biological control agent may help control an exotic pest of apple trees in western Canada. Damage from the apple leaf-curling midge in eastern Canada was effectively reduced by introducing a European natural enemy, *Platygaster demades*, in the 1990s. The pest arrived in British Columbia more recently, where releases of *P. demades* are now being considered. First, however, the identity of *P. demades* needs to be confirmed with molecular tools and its host range defined.

Results so far
We collected several thousand midge larvae in infested apple orchards in Switzerland, Germany, northern Italy, and Holland from which plenty of parasitoids emerged, including *Platygaster demades*. The molecular analysis of these specimens is in progress.

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