



SEAPORT PROGRAM – ASIAN GYPSY MOTH
ADVICE TO AGENTS – 04 / 07

The purpose of this advice is to inform Shipping Agents of recent notification from the Russian Authorities of an increased number of Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in the forests surrounding Russian Far East Ports and to remind agents of the reporting and certification requirements for vessels arriving into Australia from these ports.

AGM is an exotic pest to Australia which, if became established, could devastate forests causing major environmental and economic damage. The most likely mode of introduction of AGM into Australia is from egg masses that have been deposited on vessels, on their cargo and containers and the hatching larvae traveling to shore by ‘ballooning’ or being blown by winds to shore.

Assessing the risk of a vessel introducing AGM is determined by AQIS officers assessing the responses to a series of questions on the Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (QPAR). Vessels that have visited a Russian Far East Port between 40°N and 60°N and east of 147°E during any period between 01 July and 30 September in the past 2 years and do not have a *Certificate of Freedom from Gypsy Moth* are high risk for AGM.

High risk vessels are not granted quarantine clearance until the vessel has been inspected and cleared of AGM, if applicable. Vessels that are considered high risk will be inspected although random inspections of vessels with a *Certificate of Freedom from Gypsy Moth* (which are required to be forwarded to AQIS) are made to verify the accuracy of the certification.

We are currently in the midst of the high risk season for AGM and have recently been notified of vessels with very high numbers of adults and egg masses which have required cleaning prior to departure from Russian Far East ports. The numbers of AGM detected on vessels since 1 July 07 have been noticeably greater than those seen in previous years and as such poses a greater risk of AGM being introduced into Australia

Nationally, quarantine officers are ensuring that extra vigilance is applied when conducting first port (pratique) inspections for vessels from these ports when they visit “high risk” Australian ports. This additional activity may involve more detailed inspections by quarantine staff. High risk Australian ports are primarily those below the Tropic of Capricorn.

Should a vessel arrive in Australia with AGM egg masses on board, AQIS will undertake a full AGM inspection of the vessel.

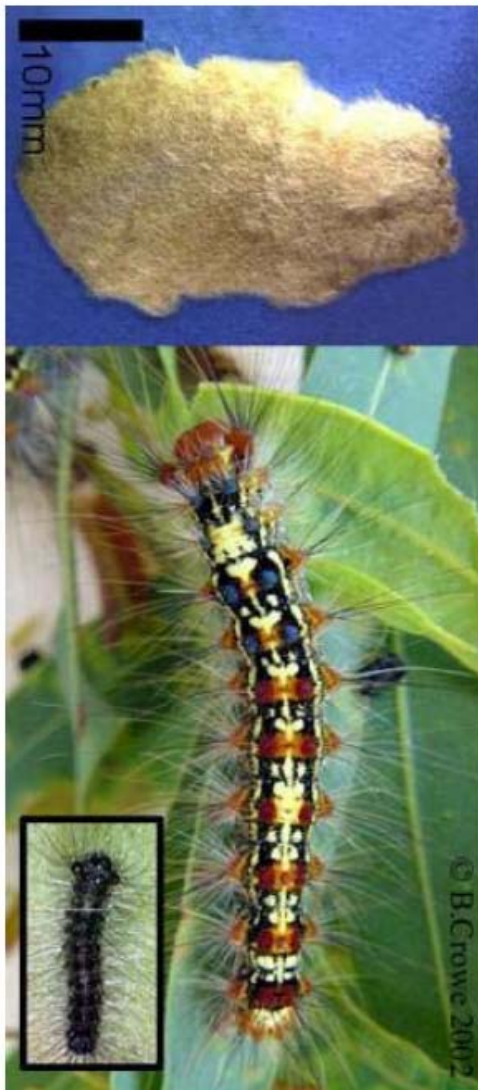
AQIS acknowledges the ongoing cooperation of the shipping industry in regard to maintaining Australia’s unique quarantine status. To assist with this ongoing cooperation, we ask that you distribute this advice widely. We appreciate your cooperation with this important quarantine issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact your AQIS Regional Office should you require any additional information.

David Franks
National Program Manager - Seaports
15 August 2007

Attached: Asian Gypsy Moth Fact Sheet

Asian Gypsy Moth



AGM egg mass (top photo) & larvae (bottom & inset photos) showing tufts of long hairs



AGM adult female (left) & male (right)

Scientific name: *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus)

Common names: Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM), Gypsy Moth (2 strains), European Gypsy Moth (EGM)-a strain.

Identifying marks:

Stage	Description
Eggs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80-1200 eggs in a mass, which is covered with yellowish scales (from the female's body) Egg masses average about 40 mm long by 20 mm wide and can remain viable for months (see photo left)
Larvae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instars (larval stages) are highly variable in colour Covered by tufts of long toxic hairs 2 rows of large spots on back-5 prs of blue/6 prs of red (head-rear)
Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colouration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> female are white; black marks male are grey-brown. Wingspan in females is 40-70 mm; in males is 30-40 mm.

Distribution: Widespread in Europe and north-eastern Asia & now introduced into North America.

Host range: AGM will feed on over 600 plant species, including oak, birch, aspen, eucalyptus, holly, pine, rose, fruit trees and urban ornamental plants.

Likely mode of entry: Egg masses on ships, containers & cargo (e.g. cars/bulldozers, used garden equipment (in personal effects)). Larvae can wind-disperse.

Indicators: Egg masses, rather than adults or larvae, are likely to be encountered. (Laid under lights at ports etc.)

Actions: If suspect egg masses are detected contact the AQIS Quarantine Entomologist immediately. The egg mass must be secured immediately to prevent dispersal.

Further information: Additional information can be obtained from the following websites:

- [AQIS field guide to exotic pests and diseases](#)
- [Pacific Forest Centre, Canada](#)
- [Forests.org](#)
- [USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine](#)
- [Exotic Pest Bulletin](#)