WHAT IS *LEPTOGLOSSUS OCCIDENTALIS* ?

Leptoglossus occidentalis (Heidemann, 1910) a hemipteran bug of the family Coreidae, the western conifer seed bug is native to North America, where it acts as a forestry pest. It has become widely established across Europe and the Mediterranean region, where it is classified as an invasive alien species. It is closely associated with conifers, particularly of the genus *Pinus*, feeding on their cones and seeds. While harmless to humans and adult trees, its impact on seed yield and forest regeneration makes it a species of major forestry concern.

MORPHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

Leptoglossus occidentalis is a phytophagous hemipteran whose life cycle is directly linked to conifers, particularly the availability of developing cones and seeds. It typically completes one to two generations annually in temperate zones, reaching up to three in warmer conditions.

In the adult stage, the insect has an elongated, flattened body between 15 and 20 mm long, where females are larger than males. Its colour ranges from dark brown to reddish-brown. One of its most distinctive features is the light zigzag band on the forewings, as well as the broad, leaf-like hind legs typical of the genus *Leptoglossus*. The head is narrow, with long, segmented antennae and mouthparts adapted for piercing cones and seeds. Like other bugs, it has scent glands that give off an unpleasant smell to protect itself.

The eggs are small, elongated and cylindrical, ranging in colour from pale yellow to brown. They are laid in rows along needles, twigs or structures near the cones. Each female can lay several dozen eggs over the course of the spring.



First-instar nymphs hatching

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Nymphs go through five stages. They look similar to adults but lack developed wings, starting lighter in colour and darkening as they grow. Running from late spring through to summer, this phase sees nymphs actively feeding on developing cones, causing most of the seed damage.

New adults emerge in late summer and feed for a short time before seeking overwintering shelter in autumn. They shelter under bark, in natural crevices or inside buildings near woodland, remaining in diapause until the following spring when the cycle begins again.

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UIPFETA401	ECONEXLEPTOGLOSSUS SHELTER TRAP	
UIPFETA204	CROSSTRAP® MINI WITH DRY COLLECTOR (with slider).	
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ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS OCCIDENTALIS 0,5 MG 60 DAYS

ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS SHELTER TRAP

BIOCONTROL

western conifer seed bug

www.leptoglossusoccidentalis.eu



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DESCRIPTION

CODE	TRADE NAME
UIPHOVA560	ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS OCCIDENTALIS 0,5 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT. Aggregation pheromone diffuser designed to attract both sexes of the species *Leptoglossus occidentalis* with a minimum 60-day duration in the field.

Once removed from their packaging, the dispensers do not require any activation; they simply need to be positioned correctly in the trap. DO NOT OPEN, CUT OR PUNCTURE THE BLISTER



ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS OCCIDENTALIS 0,5 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT

Code: UIPHOVA560

CODE	TRADE NAME
UIPFETA401	ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS SHELTER TRAP A shelter-style device, made from high-strength solid wood, specially designed to be hung up outdoor and withstand severe weather.

It provides an optimal overwintering site for individuals attracted by the pheromone, where colonising bugs naturally emit their own pheromone to enhance the aggregation effect.



ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS SHELTER TRAP

Code: UIPFETA401

DETECTION AND MONITORING

Apply at a density of 1 to 3 diffusers per hectare. Traps must be in place in the area to be monitored before the insects emerge from their winter shelters, as the weather improves in early spring. Monitoring can continue until the start of autumn, when they once again seek shelter for the winter.

COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING

To ensure comprehensive monitoring, the number of traps per area should be increased depending on local conditions and site uniformity. Shelter traps should be spaced 100 to 500 metres apart per hectare, as the aggregation pheromone plume has a shorter attraction range than that of sex pheromones. For areas adjacent to infested sites, traps should be set up along the perimeter, roughly 50 metres from the protected area, to act as a barrier.

NECESSARY MATERIAL

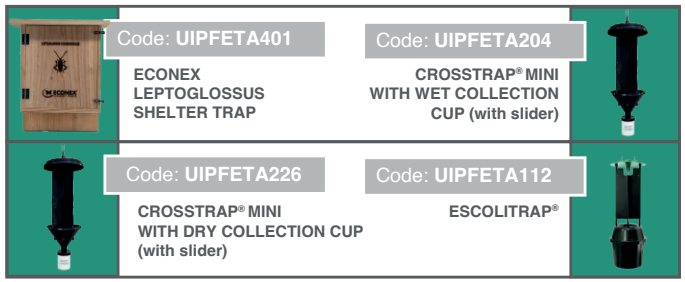
To maximise capture efficiency, we recommend using the **ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS SHELTER TRAP**, a shelter device made from high strength solid wood to withstand the elements. It is designed to be attached to a tree trunk or other support. The interior of the trap is lined with corrugated cardboard to make the shelter comfortable, creating a suitable place for the insect to overwinter.
It features a hinged front door providing easy access to the interior to place the pheromone, inspect captures, and remove or dispose of the sheltered pest insects.

CROSSTRAP® MINI o **ESCOLITRAP®** traps can also be used to detect and monitor *Leptoglossus occidentalis*. The **CROSSTRAP®** trap works with two types of collector: **CROSSTRAP® MINI WITH WET COLLECTION CUP (with slider) 1L**, for wet trapping, and **CROSSTRAP® MINI WITH DRY COLLECTION CUP (with slider) 1L**, for live trapping.

The **CROSSTRAP® WET COLLECTION CUP (with slider) 1L** used to retain captured insects, is located at the bottom of the funnel. It has a capacity of approximately 1L (11 cm in diameter by 13.5 cm high).

The **CROSSTRAP® DRY COLLECTION CUP (with slider) 1L** used to retain captured insects, is located at the bottom of the funnel. It has a capacity of approximately 1L (11 cm in diameter by 13.5 cm high) and is fitted with a stainless steel mesh at the bottom to allow rain to drain away.

In all cases, the traps must be activated by inserting the **ECONEX LEPTOGLOSSUS OCCIDENTALIS 0,5 MG 60 DAYS 1 UNIT** , at the appropriate stage of the biological cycle.



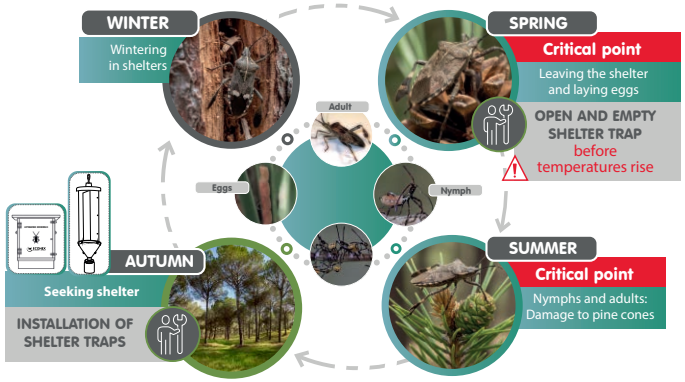
PREVENTION

To prevent *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, cultural and monitoring measures are recommended to reduce risk:

- The presence of natural enemies helps naturally regulate this pest population. The key is to encourage existing organisms, such as insectivorous birds by providing nest boxes, or arachnids by providing insect shelters.
- Avoid conifer monocultures. Diversifying species allows for better ecosystem regeneration and reduces pest pressure.

PERIOD OF USE

Active trapping is recommended during the autumn months.



FACTORS INFLUENCING SPREAD

Spread is influenced by several key factors which, when combined, enable rapid expansion:

- It is an insect with good flying ability, which facilitates its spread.
- It feeds on numerous species of conifers.
- A climate with mild winters increases the survival rate of adults. Every year there are more insects and they colonise new areas.
- The transport of untreated timber, the movement of forestry and agricultural machinery, and trade between nurseries are all routes of spread.

DAMAGE

Leptoglossus occidentalis causes its main damage in forest environments by feeding on developing cones and conifer seeds. This activity results in empty, malformed, or non viable seeds, which significantly reduces germination capacity. Furthermore, it can facilitate the entry of fungi such as *Diplodia pinea*.

Although it does not usually weaken or kill mature trees, its impact is particularly significant in reforestation areas, nurseries, and seed orchards, where it can cause high losses in seed production and compromise natural regeneration and reforestation programmes.

The pine nut industry may see a reduction in production and its profitability threatened.

STORAGE

The product must be stored in its original packaging and kept refrigerated at 4°C or in a freezer at -18°C, in which case it will remain usable for 2 and 4 years, respectively. Keep away from food and drink.