

California Pest Rating Proposal

Synophropsis lauri (Horváth): laurel leafhopper

Hemiptera: Cicadellidae

Current Rating: Q

Proposed Rating: C

Comment Period: **06/11/2026 through 07/26/2026**

Initiating Event:

Synophropsis lauri was found in the environment in California. It has not been through the pest rating system. Therefore, a pest rating proposal is needed.

History & Status:

Background: Direct evidence of feeding by *S. lauri* was not found. However, this leafhopper has been reported on a variety of plants, including *Arbutus unedo*, *Hedera helix* (multiple references), *Olea europaea*, *Viburnum* spp. (Holzinger et al., 2016; Korányi et al., 2011; Seljak, 2016). It was reported to be common on *Olea europaea* and *Laurus nobilis* in Italy, which suggests that these two trees are hosts (Gargani et al., 2021; Mazzoni, 2005).

Synophropsis lauri is not known to vector phytopathogens. However, phytoplasmas have been detected in this insect. One individual *S. lauri* was found to contain *Candidatus* Phytoplasma prunorum (the causative agent of European stone fruit yellows) in France (Jarausch et al., 2001). Those authors suspected that this did not support multiplication of the phytoplasma in the insect, but rather simply presence in the digestive tract. The 16SrIII-U variant phytoplasma was detected in *S. lauri* from France (Trivellone et al., 2022).

Worldwide Distribution: **Asia:** Turkey; **Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Republic of Crimea, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia (Baugneé, 2011; D’Urso and Mifsud, 2012; Gargani et al., 2021; Holzinger et al., 2016; Jarausich et al., 2001; Khamaeva et al., 2022; Koufakis et al., 2024; Nickel, 2010; Seljak, 2016; Zeybekoğlu et al., 2015).

Official Control: *Synophropsis lauri* is not known to be under official control.

California Distribution: *Synophropsis lauri* was found on ivy (*Hedera* species) in a residential area in Santa Clara County in May, 2026. There are research-grade citizen scientist reports from Alameda, Los Angeles, and Santa Clara counties that are as early as August 2024 on the web site iNaturalist (iNaturalist).

California Interceptions: *Synophropsis lauri* has not been intercepted in California.

The risk *Synophropsis lauri* poses to California is evaluated below.

Consequences of Introduction:

- 1) **Climate/Host Interaction:** *Synophropsus lauri* is likely polyphagous. It is known to be established in California, and it is established in other localities with a Mediterranean climate. Therefore, it receives a **High (3)** in this category.
 - Low (1) Not likely to establish in California; or likely to establish in very limited areas.
 - Medium (2) may be able to establish in a larger but limited part of California.
 - **High (3) likely to establish a widespread distribution in California.**
- 2) **Known Pest Host Range:** Although information is not available to indicate with a high level of confidence what plants are actually fed upon by *Synophropsis lauri*, this leafhopper is likely

polyphagous based on its presence in numbers on a variety of plants. Therefore, it receives a **High (3)** in this category.

- Low (1) has a very limited host range.
- Medium (2) has a moderate host range.
- **High (3) has a wide host range.**

3) **Pest Reproductive and Dispersal Potential:** *Synophropsis lauri* can presumably fly. Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

- Low (1) does not have high reproductive or dispersal potential.
- **Medium (2) has either high reproductive or dispersal potential.**
- High (3) has both high reproduction and dispersal potential.

4) **Economic Impact:** Although it is polyphagous, *S. lauri* is not reported to cause impacts to plants. Although phytoplasmas have been detected in *S. lauri*, this insect is not known to act as a vector. Therefore, it receives a **Low (1)** in this category.

Economic Impact:

- A. The pest could lower crop yield.
- B. The pest could lower crop value (includes increasing crop production costs).
- C. The pest could trigger the loss of markets (includes quarantines).
- D. The pest could negatively change normal cultural practices.
- E. The pest can vector, or is vectored, by another pestiferous organism.
- F. The organism is injurious or poisonous to agriculturally important animals.
- G. The organism can interfere with the delivery or supply of water for agricultural uses.

Economic Impact Score: Low

– **Low (1) causes 0 or 1 of these impacts.**

– Medium (2) causes 2 of these impacts.

– High (3) causes 3 or more of these impacts.

5) **Environmental Impact:** *Synophropsis lauri* is not known to significantly impact its host plants.

Therefore, *S. lauri* receives a **Low (1)** in this category.

Environmental Impact:

A. The pest could have a significant environmental impact, such as lowering biodiversity, disrupting natural communities, or changing ecosystem processes.

B. The pest could directly affect threatened or endangered species.

C. The pest could impact threatened or endangered species by disrupting critical habitats.

D. The pest could trigger additional official or private treatment programs.

E. The pest significantly impacts cultural practices, home/urban gardening or ornamental plantings.

Environmental Impact Score: Low

– **Low (1) causes none of the above to occur.**

– Medium (2) causes one of the above to occur.

– High (3) causes two or more of the above to occur.

Consequences of Introduction to California for *Synophropsis lauri*: Medium (10)

Add up the total score and include it here.

–Low = 5-8 points

–**Medium = 9-12 points**

–High = 13-15 points

6) **Post Entry Distribution and Survey Information:** *Synophropsis lauri* was found in Santa Clara County in May 2026. In addition, based on research-grade citizen scientist reports of *S. lauri* on iNaturalist, this leafhopper appears to also be present in Alameda and Los Angeles counties and was likely in California at least as early as 2024. It receives a **Low (-1)** in this category.

–Not established (0) Pest never detected in California, or known only from incursions.

–**Low (-1) Pest has a localized distribution in California, or is established in one suitable climate/host area (region).**

–Medium (-2) Pest is widespread in California but not fully established in the endangered area, or pest established in two contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

–High (-3) Pest has fully established in the endangered area, or pest is reported in more than two contiguous or non-contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

Final Score:

7) The final score is the consequences of introduction score minus the post entry distribution and survey information score: Medium (9)

Uncertainty:

There is uncertainty regarding the potential for *S. lauri* to vector phytopathogens.

Conclusion and Rating Justification:

Synophropsis lauri is a leafhopper that is not known to be a significant plant pest. It is already established in California. For these reasons, a “C” rating is justified.

References:

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Responsible Party:

Kyle Beucke, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-698-3034, [permits\[@\]cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:permits[@]cdfa.ca.gov)

***Comment Period: 06/11/2026 through 07/26/2026**

***NOTE:**

You must be registered and logged in to post a comment. If you have registered and have not received the registration confirmation, please contact us at [permits\[@\]cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:permits[@]cdfa.ca.gov).

Comment Format:

- ❖ Comments should refer to the appropriate California Pest Rating Proposal Form subsection(s) being commented on, as shown below.

Example Comment:

Consequences of Introduction: 1. Climate/Host Interaction: [Your comment that relates to "Climate/Host Interaction" here.]

- ❖ Posted comments will not be able to be viewed immediately.

- ❖ Comments may not be posted if they:

Contain inappropriate language which is not germane to the pest rating proposal;

Contains defamatory, false, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, discriminatory or illegal material;

Violates agency regulations prohibiting sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination;

Violates agency regulations prohibiting workplace violence, including threats.

- ❖ Comments may be edited prior to posting to ensure they are entirely germane.

- ❖ Posted comments shall be those which have been approved in content and posted to the website to be viewed, not just submitted.
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Proposed Pest Rating: C