

Infection of *Aenetus virescens* (Lepidoptera: Hepialidae) larvae by the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*

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Abstract

Beauveria bassiana is recorded in the larvae of *Aenetus virescens* for the first time. Infected larvae were found in forest litter (dead wood) and in live tree hosts. An indication of mortality of larvae in live trees is given. The gross appearance of infected larvae is described.

Keywords: Lepidoptera; Hepialidae; *Aenetus virescens*; fungus; *Beauveria bassiana*; New Zealand.

Previous records of larval pathogens of *A. virescens* have been restricted to the genus *Cordyceps*. Cunningham (1921) makes an unconfirmed record of *C. gunnii* Berk., and Dingley (1953) records an undetermined species. *C. robertsii* Hooker was erroneously identified as a larval pathogen of *A. virescens*, but this fungus attacks subterranean hepialids (Cunningham 1921). I have recorded 2 as yet unidentified pathogens, a bacterium (P. J. Wigley pers. comm.) in the larva and a fungus in the pupa.

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