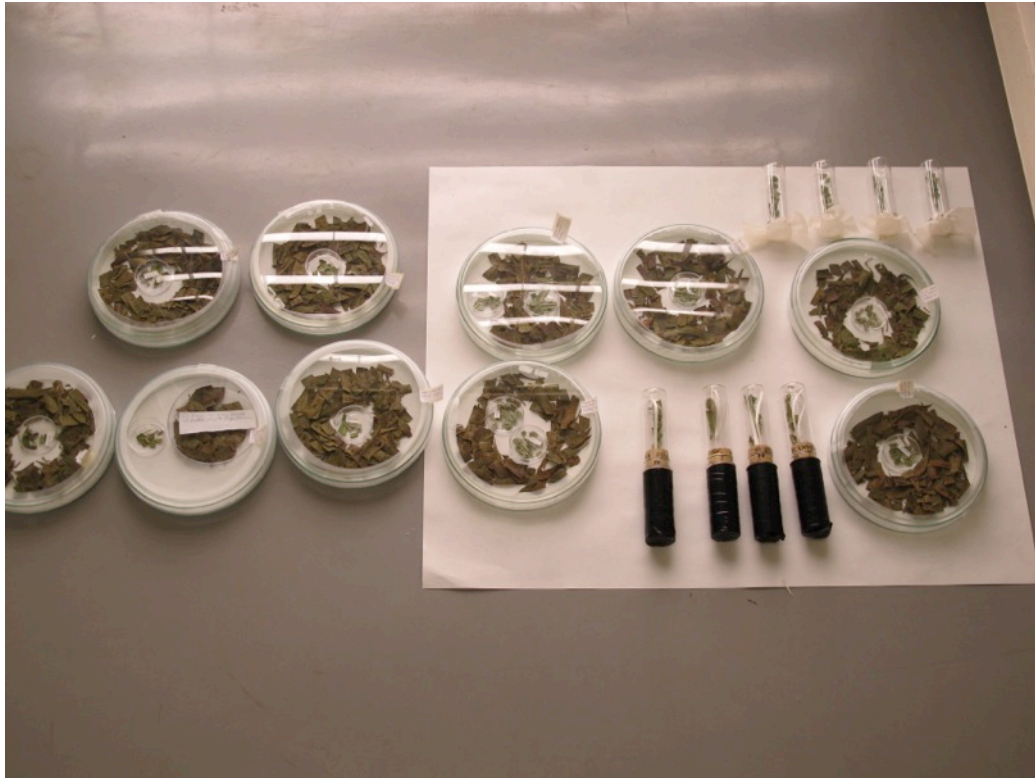




A male *C. noackae*. This family of wasps (Mymaridae) are also known as 'fairyflies' because of their delicate wings (photo: S. Bush).



A female *C. noackae* ovipositing into an egg of *T. peregrinus* (photo: S. Bush).



Techniques used to rear and study the biology of *C. noackae*.



Marlene Harney, Eston Mutitu, Tanya Joffe and Anne Noack in discussion at the FABI Biocontrol Centre.

The Pest: *Thaumastocoris peregrinus*

Thaumastocoris peregrinus is a sap-sucking insect that feeds on *Eucalyptus* leaves and is native to Australia. This bug (a true bug of the Order Hemiptera) was virtually unknown in its native range until 2002, when it became a pest in the Sydney and Brisbane areas. This build-up of populations in large centres in Australia most likely contributed to its spread to South Africa.

Thaumastocoris peregrinus was first noticed in South Africa in 2003 in the Pretoria area. It was first reported in *Eucalyptus* plantations in 2005, and was soon present in all the main *Eucalyptus* growing areas. The insect infests numerous *Eucalyptus* species, hybrids and their clones. Severe infestations can lead to canopy thinning, branch die-back and stunted growth of the trees. Chemical control and host resistance are not viable, and biological control is currently considered the only tool to manage *T. peregrinus* populations.



***Thaumastocoris peregrinus*
eggs and adult.**



Damage caused by *T. peregrinus*.