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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF *Sirex noctilio* IN SOUTH AFRICA

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The Kamona strain of the parasitic nematode *Deladenus siricidicola* was inoculated into 250 *P. radiata* trees infested with *S. noctilio* larvae in the south-western Cape Province in 1995. Only 3.3 % of trees had been killed by *Sirex*. Prior to the emergence of *Sirex* wasps from these logs, sections were removed to the research station where they were individually caged. Percentage parasitism by *D. siricidicola* over their entire range averaged 23 %. This low parasitism rate was due to reduced dispersion of the nematode within the logs after inoculation but the rate is expected to improve considerably when spread naturally by the wasp itself. Importations of *Ibalia leucospoides* and *Megarhyssa nortoni* have been proposed to augment the present control exerted by *D. siricidicola*.