Disease profile

Common Name	Fig psyllid		
Genus / species	*Mycopsylla fici*	**Order**	Hemiptera / Homoptera
Subfamily	Spondyliaspinae	**Superfamily**	Psylloidea
Life cycle	As is the case with all Hemiptera the life cycle involves incomplete metamorphosis. Adult females lay clusters of rusty brown coloured eggs on the underside of the leaves. Several life cycles can occur within a year.		
Host	*Ficus macrophylla*, rarely *Ficus rubiginosa* (essentially monophagous)		
Identifying features	The adult and nymphs have the typical for psyllid appearance. The presence of a sticky chewing-gum-like substance on the underside of the leaf.		
Symptoms	Partial or complete loss of foliage.		
Signs	A sticky exudate that looks like chewing gum forming a lerp on the underside of the foliage.		
Chemical control	Subcutaneous injection, soil injection or spray with a suitable systemic insecticide. (Imidacloprid based products are my preference.)		
Biological control	None commercially used. There are a number of natural predators. In particular a native wasp oviposits into the nymphs.		
IPM	Retain fallen leaves. Personal observations suggest that this species is highly attracted to fluorescent yellow and that traps may be of benefit in controlling adults. Personal observations also suggest that this pest is less significant when the tree is growing actively and soil moisture levels are high. This appears to be the case regardless of whether the soil moisture is from rainfall or irrigation.		



Adult *Mycopsylla fici*. Note female laying eggs along the lower margin of the leaf.

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Damage and nymphs castings



Clusters of eggs laid on the underside of the leaf.

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