

Cystiphora schmidtii

Skeletonweed Gall Midge

Weed(s) Attacked: Rush Skeletonweed
SCNWCB February 2006

GENEALOGY

Original sources for U.S. release was Greece. First U.S. releases made in 1975. Established in the Pacific Northwest, including Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Established in Stevens County.

LIFE CYCLE

There are as many as five generations per year. Eggs are injected into leaves and stems. Larva hatch and begin to feed on the plant tissue around them. This causes the plant to form swollen purplish galls which encase the larva. Most larva pupate inside the gall. Some mature larva leave the gall, fall to the ground litter, and pupate. Both Larva and pupa stages overwinter, most inside the gall, some in the ground litter. The generation that winter catches finish their development into adults the following spring.

EFFECT

The larva is the destructive stage.

REDISTRIBUTION

Collect infected plants from July through September. Bind the galled plants together into "Teepees". Wedge these bundles into plants that are not infected. Some of the immature midges will complete their development within the collected galls, emerge, and attack the new plant. Cooler weather, evening releases, and high humidity helps the chances for establishment.

COMMENTS

The midge has become prey of native predators and parasitoids. The usefulness of this agent is therefore diminishing. It is still an important natural enemy of Rush Skeletonweed however.

