

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2006-55
December 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Lime Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*) Detected in the Municipality of Guanica, Puerto Rico

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

In June 2006, PPQ survey officials collected specimens of the Lime Swallowtail, *Papilio demoleus* L. (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) during a residential survey in the Municipality of Guanica, Puerto Rico. USDA's Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) confirmed the identification. This detection represents the third such find of this Asian citrus pest within the Western Hemisphere. The first confirmed detection occurred in the Dominican Republic and was reported by the APHIS' Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS) in 2004. A subsequent OPIS report included information from University researchers on an unconfirmed sighting of *P. demoleus* in the Municipality of Guanica, Puerto Rico, prompting more focused survey in that area; this resulted in the confirmed detection of lime swallowtail in Puerto Rico. More recently, a December 2006 OPIS report helped to confirm new country detection of lime swallowtail in Jamaica.

The larvae feed primarily on young citrus nursery trees and new growth flushes on mature trees. The pest is not associated with citrus fruit and there are no citrus production areas within proximity of the detection site. The literature on this pest also reports several non-Rutaceous host plants, including *Annona squamosa* (sugar apple), *Cullen* spp. (scurfpea), *Psoralea pinnata* (fountain bush), and *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Indian jujube).

While evaluating the risk posed to the rest of the United States by this pest, PPQ will:

- Maintain its policy for *P. demoleus* as an actionable/reportable pest;
- Direct domestic survey specialists in Puerto Rico and Florida to survey for lime swallowtail as part of existing detection surveys;
- Direct PPQ to heighten inspection vigilance during pre-departure passenger and cargo clearance of flights destined for mainland United States;
- Add *P. demoleus* to the Citrus Health Response Plan, as appropriate; and

- Direct the Center for Plant Health, Science and Technology to gather and evaluate control measures for this pest.

/s/John H. Payne for

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