

## Update on CAS Research in Taiwan

As far as I can gather, cycad aulacaspis scale came to Taiwan about 2 years ago and no one knows for certain how it got here but it has already established in most of the areas of Taiwan where cycads are present. CAS research in Taiwan is mainly being done by me as a prerequisite for completing my Masters in Entomology degree at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology. There are also collaborations from various Agricultural Research stations in Taiwan.

A survey was conducted to determine the level of infestation of CAS in different geographical regions of Taiwan and to identify other Coccidae species that infest cycads and the other natural enemies present in Taiwan. As presented in my abstract to the symposium in Japan (below), I will be conducting those studies here at the University.

A predatory beetle has been imported from Thailand, the same one that Dr. Richard Baronowski took to Florida, *Cybocephalus binotatus* Grouvelle (now according to Ronald Cave is *Cybocephalus nipponicus*). The beetles have been released in Taitung; this is the area where the cycad reserve is located. The progress and establishment of beetles will be monitored carefully and the trees will be surveyed again for the level of infestation of CAS.

The present funding for Cycad scale research is currently covered by the Council of Agriculture(COA) Taiwan with a grant of USD \$25,000. As far as future funding for CAS research, I am not sure how much money would be allocated for this in the future.

I hope this information will be helpful to you and your group.

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