



Landcare  
Tasmania



**BIOCONTROL: Cape broom psyllid**  
Biological control of Cape/Canary/Montpellier/French broom

### MAINTAINING YOUR PSYLLID POPULATION

Sites should not be controlled by alternative means (herbicide, cut and paste etc.) to allow the psyllid to establish and breed up to damaging populations.

The broom psyllid has the potential to not only control large, established infestations but also kill emerging seedlings for many years until the seedstock is exhausted. Old mature broom plants can take several years to die.



*Before (2010)*



*After (2012)... where is the broom?*



This information sheet is based on the  
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)  
Pamphlet Biological control of cape broom.

All images are from TIA unless otherwise noted.

This Project is part of the Landcare Biodiversity  
Grants delivered by Landcare Tasmania in  
partnership with the State Government's  
Conservation Partnership Section, through  
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## CAPE BROOM

also known as Canary, Montpellier, French broom (scientific name *Genista monspessulana*) is an erect shrub up to three metres tall with yellow flowers and trifoliolate leaves (leaves in threes).

## CAPE BROOM PSYLLID

(scientific name *Arytinnis hakani*) is a sap-sucking bug from Europe that can retard growth, reproduction, spread, and potentially kill Canary broom plants (both mature and seedlings).

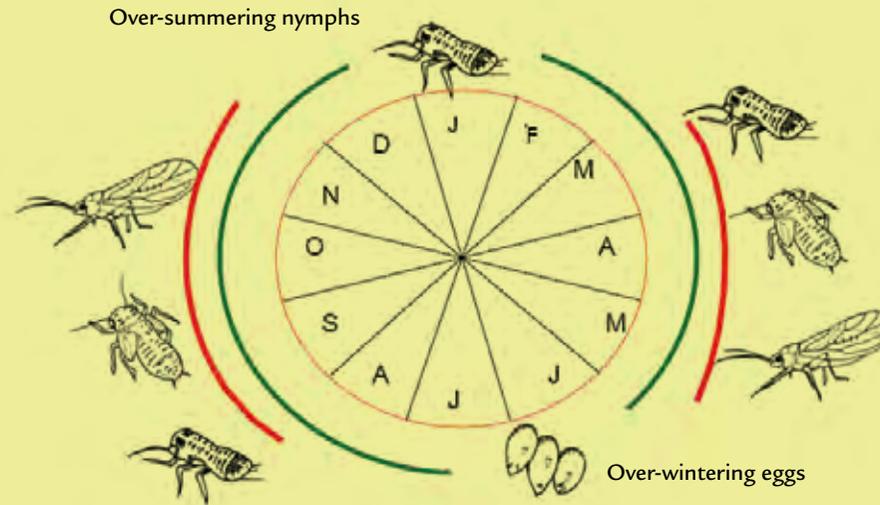


Nymph (Crawler)



Adult (Hopper)

## LIFECYCLE OF THE CAPE BROOM PSYLLID



SPRING – Four generations

AUTUMN – One generation

Source: Control of Cape broom with the Cape broom psyllid, *Arytinnis hakani*. Fact sheet, South Australian Research and Development Institute

A generation can take between one or two months depending on the season

Adult females lay up to 200 eggs among young leaves and flower buds. Eggs are less than 1mm long and cream to orange.

Nymphs or crawlers hatch from the eggs and are up to 2mm long, wingless and change from orange to bright green as they increase in age.

Adults are 2-3 mm long with green to yellow-green bodies, transparent wings and are often called 'hoppers' due to their ability to hop.

In Tasmania the Cape broom psyllid can pass through about three generations a year.

## BACKGROUND

The Cape broom psyllid, is abundant in the western Mediterranean. The psyllid was approved for release in south east Australia after host specificity tests confirmed that it had a narrow host range and posed no risk to native flora. The psyllid was first released in Tasmania in 2009 and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture worked to establish it at sites throughout the State.

Through the support of a Landcare Biodiversity Grants project, further releases of the psyllid were conducted in 2014. It has already spread to the majority of the State but numbers have been bolstered by these releases.

## SPREADING THE PSYLLID

### Site size:

The site should have enough Canary broom for the psyllid to breed-up and establish; one hectare of scattered plants or 1/2 hectare of dense infestation.

### When:

Spring & summer. Look for plants that have good populations of juveniles and adults by shaking a branch onto a dark surface such as a black towel, shirt or jumper.

### How:

Cut psyllid infested branches and tie or wedge amongst branches of Canary broom plants at new sites. Transfer in a cool esky and spread within 24 hours.

### Self-spread:

The psyllid is also very effective at spreading itself via wind drafts, having been found at least 20km from release sites.

### Permission:

Make sure you gain permission before spreading onto private or public land.