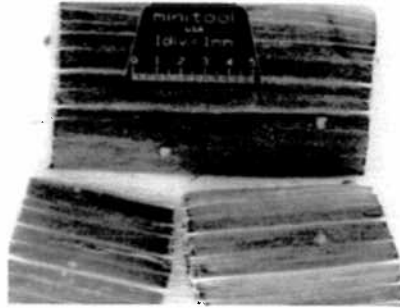


January 2013 Significant Agriculture Pest Interception



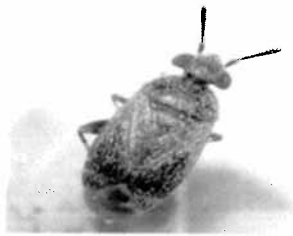
Interception of *Agapostemon sp* with Ginger cut flowers; First Find from Costa Rica

Agapostemon sp. is known only from the New World (Roberts, 1972). It is a metallic green bee that is relatively small (~3mm), with light yellow bands across the apices of the abdominal segments. These social bees are generally known for creating nests in soil and for pollination. There is evidence that the ecto and endo-parasites present in European populations are absent from the US populations and therefore warrants restriction, (Allen Smith-Pardo, SF). Available records from the National Identification Service (NIS) indicate that this represents a first find from Costa Rica.



Interception of *Gladiolus* rust, *Uromyces transversalis* G. Winter, on *Gladiolus* sp. leaves.

This interception marks the first time it was intercepted from Guatemala destined to the United States, and the first Miami interception for this pathogen. Other ports frequently intercept this pathogen from Mexico while Miami's import pathway reveals this pathogen arriving mainly from Costa Rica and Brazil. This is a quarantine significant rust disease which, in the late 1960's, spread to production areas in Europe and South America. In the late 1990's this pathogen spread to Australia.



Interception of Hemiptera, *Rhinacloa antennalis* found with a shipment of *Hydrangea* sp. Cut flowers from San Jose, Costa

This find was the first nationwide for the species, as verified by NIS data analysts. Since 2005, *Rhinacloa* species have been intercepted 22 times in Miami and about a third was identified as non-reportable species, while most were determined as '*Rhinacloa* sp. In only two cases were specimens identified as a reportable species---once as *R. cardini* (Barber and Bruner) with unidentified plant parts in baggage from St. Lucia that were intended to be propagated, and the other as *R. aricana* Carvalho with *Leucospermum* cut flowers from Ecuador. Species of *Rhinacloa* are known to feed on flower buds, flowers, and fruits of their hosts, as well as prey on small arthropods and their eggs. Specifically, researchers have reported them feeding on mango flowers in Florida (Peña 1993) and in Dominica (Whitwell 1993). Sometimes their feeding has led to premature flower drop in Florida (Peña and others 1996) and to yellowing of leaves.