**Transcript**

***Dr Martin Steinbauer – Psyllids as biosecurity threats to plantation and native eucalypts in Australia and internationally***

Well, psyllids which are tiny insects that look a bit like a small cicada should use olfactory and visual cues to locate their host plants but in Australia we don’t actually know that or that has not been proven and so we’re working towards trying to show how they use those two cues to find eucalypts in the wild.

We want to confirm some of the theoretical models of host plant finding in psyllids for a group of plants that are Australia’s unofficial floral emblem so that we can understand their ecology in native forests and plantations.

We’re hoping that by understand why and how psyllids search for host plants that we can explain their outbreaks when their habitats change and because they can cause serious defoliation of trees explaining how they find their host and cause damage to them will help us mitigate the effects or at least forecast when outbreaks are likely to occur in the future.