

Sustainable solutions to control psyllids in pear orchards (*Psylla* spp)

Pear psyllids represent one of the major obstacles for the transition to an effective and ecologically safe pear production. Psyllids colonize pear orchards early in the season and rapidly build up high population levels. Psyllids have many natural enemies. In order to develop biocontrol solutions to these pests, a good overview of the parasitoid species present in Dutch pear orchards and their biology is needed.



In this project, you will dive into the community of parasitoids regulating this pest. You will also combine field observations with insights from laboratory experiments aimed at the target organisms. You will collect and culture some of the parasitoids and describe the biological characteristics relevant for field efficacy and possibility to rear the species.



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