

# Summary

A brief account of the *Leucaena* psyllid *Heteropsylla cubana*, its damage to *L. leucocephala* and economic importance in Southeast Asia, and the research steps taken to find a solution to the problem is presented.

In tropical America, the *Leucaena* psyllid has not been considered to be an insect pest of major importance because of natural biological control, apparently mainly through predators. However, significant damage and economic loss have been observed on farms in the Valle del Cauca department, Colombia. Damage can be particularly severe during the dry season when psyllid infestation leads to wilting and death of

**shoots, with the subsequent interruption of foliage production and, when defoliation coincides with another severe stress, even to the death of otherwise drought-resistant plants.**

**Further, intensified monitoring of the psyllid situation in tropical America is suggested and a series of research steps is recommended.**