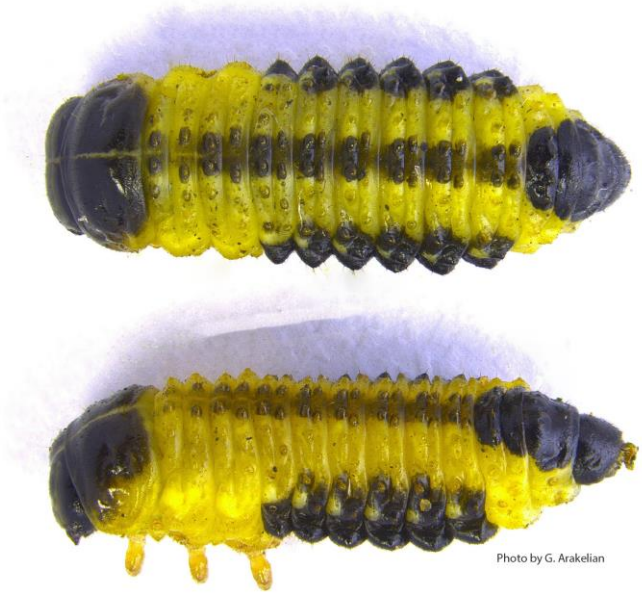
# Dotted paropsine leaf beetle
# *(Paropsis atomaria)*


Adult (dorsal view)




Larvae (dorsal/lateral view)

**Distribution:** One of the most widely distributed eucalyptus leaf beetles in Australia. Discovered on Lemon scented gum *(Corymbia citriodora)* in Los Angeles in August 2022.
Both, genus and species are new for the Western Hemisphere.
**Field ID:** Eggs are laid in a ringed cluster on young stems or leaves. Number of eggs per cluster may vary between 20-100.
Larvae have yellowish bodies with black heads and terminal segments. After hatching, they consume their eggshells and then switch to foliage feeding. Pass through 4 instars. Larvae possess defensive glands on terminal segments which they use by elevating posterior ends of their bodies and discharging droplets. Mature larvae drop to the ground for pupation.
Adults have convex oval bodies (10-13 mm long) with yellow and orange markings. They commonly display several conspicuous blackish spots on their elytra.
*P. atomaria* has 2 generations per year.

December 2022


Eggs


Damage to leaves of Lemon scented gum *(Corymbia citriodora)*

**Hosts and damage:**

*Paropsis atomaria* has relatively broad (among eucalyptus leaf beetles) host range of at least 20 *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* species. Among them are such common California landscape trees as Red gum (*E. camaldulensis*), Silver dollar gum (*E. polyanthemos*), Sugar gum *(E. cladocalyx)* and Lemon scented gum *(C. citriodora).*

*P. atomaria* feeds on foliage of its host trees, notching them or consuming entire leaves (often leaving bare twigs). This may lead to significant defoliation and tree death. Especially vulnerable are stressed mature and young, newly planted trees.

During heavy infestations high aggregations of various larval stages and adults can be observed on different parts of the tree, on the ground surrounding it and on various nearby non-host plants.