

Good Agricultural Practice Procedures for the control of *Raglius apicalis* on table grapes destined for export from South Africa to the People's Republic of China

Standard practice under South African conditions

1. NATURE AND SCOPE OF PROBLEM

Raglius apicalis (Lygaeidae) has been found on “dubbeltjiedoring” (*Tribulus terrestris*) in the Western Cape, and most other records are from light traps. There are no records of *R. apicalis* causing damage to grapes.

It is not a pest on grapevines, but could be a hitch-hiker/ contaminant drawn into packhouses by lights.

2. CONTROL

Avoid contamination of consignments with good packhouse sanitation and through inspection during packing.

- Cover lug boxes during transport to packhouses to prevent contamination.
- Inspect packaging material for signs of infestation.
- Bunches must be thoroughly inspected in the packing line and all contaminated bunches must be removed from the packhouse to prevent further contamination of clean bunches.
- Do not leave boxes/pallets with packed fruit in areas where they can be contaminated.
- Samples of insect specimens should be kept on hand for possible further verification.