

Current Status of Arthropods of the Weed Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, in California

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Most abundant of the insects feeding on gorse in California are the weevil, *Apion ulicis*, directed at preventing spread (32% seed pods with eggs), and the moth, *Agonopterix nervosa*, an accidental introduction, in limiting foliage and needle production (25-50% new shoots infested). Feeding lesions of *A. ulicis* on the seed pods also affords entry of a fungus, which destroys a small percentage of seeds. Also present are chrysomelids, pyralids, mirids, Collembola, and oribatid mites. Despite the presence of these phytophagous arthropods, biological control, i.e., reduction of gorse, is not evident. The limited attack by these arthropods in time and space warrants importation of additional arthropods.
