

FALSE OLEANDER SCALE, *PSEUDAULACASPIS COCKERELLI* (COOLEY)
(HOMOPTERA: COCCOIDEA: DIASPIDIDAE)¹
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INTRODUCTION: False oleander scale, an armored scale, was first found in Florida at Meade Gardens, Winter Park, Orange County, by J. R. Springer on sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* L.) in 1942. This scale formerly was referred to as magnolia white scale (*Phenacaspis natalensis* Ckll.) and oleander scale (*Phenacaspis cockerelli* (Cooley)). In 1953, G. B. Merrill reported the distribution in Florida as Orange and Leon counties and the known hosts as: banana shrub (*Michelia fuscata* (Andr.) Blume), bird-of-paradise (*Strelitzia* spp.), oleander (*Nerium oleander* L.), a palmetto (*Sabal mexicana* Mart.), and sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana* L.).

DESCRIPTION: The female armor is pear-shaped, shiny white, and 2-3 mm long. The exuviae are terminal and yellowish brown (Fig. 1, 2, & 3). The male armor is elongate, snow white, feebly tricarinate, and about 1 mm long. The male exuviae are terminal with a faint yellowish tinge. Males usually occur in clusters on the leaf.



Fig. 1: Pear-shaped female false oleander scale (X10).



Fig. 2: Cluster of male false oleander scale. A few female scales are present (X6).

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Fig. 3: False oleander scale on bird-of-paradise, slightly reduced.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: False oleander scale has become an economic pest of many of the major ornamental plants found in Florida commercial nurseries. The rapid distribution throughout Florida can be attributed to the movement of infested nursery stock.

CONTROL: Chemical controls, recommended by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, include Diazinon 25% EC, Dimethoate (Cygon) 25% EC, or Malathion 57% EC. If control is needed, contact your county agent. READ AND HEED LIMITATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS GIVEN ON MANUFACTURERS' LABELS.

HOSTS: Over 100 plant species are recorded as hosts of this scale in Florida (Dekle, 1976:226).

SURVEY AND DETECTION:

1. Scales may be found throughout the year.
2. Inspect visually on both leaf surfaces.
3. Submit adult female specimens, on the host; in plastic bag or envelope.

DISTRIBUTION IN FLORIDA: This scale insect probably occurs in all Florida counties; however, it has not been reported from Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Lafayette, Okeechobee, Taylor, Wakulla, and Walton counties.

LITERATURE CITED:

- Dekle, G. W. 1976. Florida armored scale insects. Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry. Arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas 3:1-345, 280 fig.
- Merrill, G. B. 1953. A revision of the scale insects of Florida. State Plant Board of Florida. Bull. 1:1-143, 112 fig.