

*OPUNTIASPIS CARINATA* (COCKERELL)<sup>1</sup>  
(HOMOPTERA: COCCOIDEA: DIASPIDIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION: *Opuntiaspis carinata* (Cockerell) was recently collected in Florida for a new continental U.S. record. Apparently the infested plants were shipped to Florida from Mexico via Texas 2 or 3 years ago. In past years, USDA inspectors have intercepted this armored scale insect several times from Guatemala and Mexico.

HABIT: The female armor (fig. 1) is about 2.5 mm long, straight, slender, gray to brownish with a slight median ridge (carina); male is similar in color and shape but smaller. They occur on both leaf surfaces.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: The economic importance is unknown, but because one very old record is on "lime", precautions should be taken to limit the spread of this insect.

HOST AND DISTRIBUTION: The only known host in Florida is *Beaucarnea recurvata* Lem. (ponytail palm), but USDA interceptions have been on species of *Anthurium*, *Citrus*, *Nolina*, *Oncidium*, *Pedilanthus*, *Philodendron*, *Theobroma*, *Tillandsia*, and *Yucca*. In Florida it is known from Dade, Palm Beach, and Polk counties and to date has only been collected in nurseries.

CONTROL: Dimethoate has been used with good results. Follow directions on label for rate of application and safety information.

REFERENCES:

- Anonymous. 1978. USDA Cooperative Plant Pest Report 3(26):313.  
Ferris, G. F. 1937. Atlas of the scale insects of North America. (ser. 1) (vol. 1).  
California, Stanford Univ. Press. 136p., illus.



Fig. 1. *Opuntiaspis carinata* (adult female) (x 30)

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