

Lepidosaphes laterochitinsa Green

(HOMOPTERA: DIASPIDIDAE)¹

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SYNONYMY: *Lepidosaphes laterochitinsa* Green, 1925, Ent. Month. Mag. 61:41.
Lepidosaphes bladhiae Takahashi, 1931, Soc. Trop. Agric. Taihoku Imp. Univ. J. 3:379.
Lepidosaphes spinulosa Beardsley, 1966, Ins. Micronesia 6(7):543.

INTRODUCTION: *Lepidosaphes laterochitinsa*, an armored scale insect, was intercepted twice in Florida during 1987 on *Aglaonema* spp. from the Philippine Islands. In both cases the insects were alive. This scale insect is not known to occur in Florida; therefore, steps were taken to insure that it did not become established.

DESCRIPTION: The female armor (Fig. 1) is elongate, narrow, sides nearly parallel, and widening slightly at the posterior. The armor color is dark dull brown. The length is about 4 mm, and the width is about 0.6 mm. The armor surface texture is coarser than other species of *Lepidosaphes* in Florida. The male armor is nearly the same color and shape as the female armor, but is about one-half the size (Green 1925).

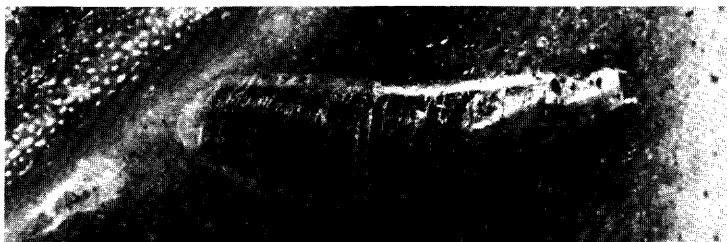


Fig. 1. *Lepidosaphes laterochitinsa*, adult female armor, photo by Jeffrey W. Lotz, DPI #87033-38.

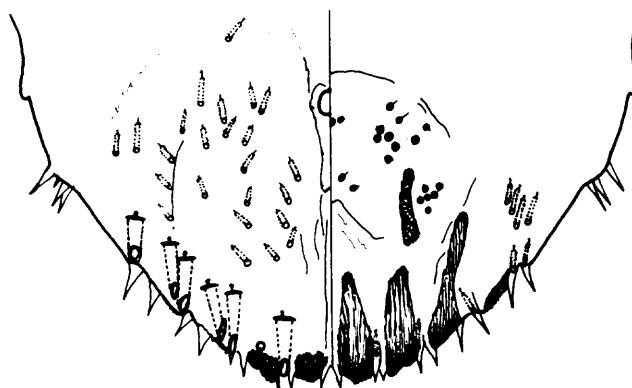


Fig. 2. *Lepidosaphes laterochitinsa*, left side dorsal surface, right side ventral surface, DPI #87128.

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Slide-mounted specimens are about 1 mm long. The body shape is elongate, and widest across abdominal segment 1. Abdominal segments 1 to 4 are slightly produced laterally (Beardsley 1966). Pygidium (Fig. 2) with median lobes moderately developed, second lobes well developed, combined width of two lobules about equal to one median lobe. Dorsum of pygidium with 6 marginal macroducts on each side. An area of well developed sclerotization is present around the anal opening and extends posteriorly as a bar-like sclerosis (Beardsley 1966). Venter of pygidium with 20 to 30 perivulvar pores arranged in 5 groups. Ventral sclerotization of pygidial lobe bases extend anteriorly in a somewhat characteristic pattern. The sclerotization of the lateral thoracic regions which prompted Green (1925) to give the species its name was not present in any of the specimens intercepted in Florida. However, Takagi (1970) has shown this to be variable.

Small spinules of 1 size are distributed thickly on dorsum and ventrum of head. *Lepidosaphes similis* Beardsley is similar to *L. laterochitinsa*, with the exception of the former having distinctly larger and fewer spinules on the dorsum of the head (Beardsley 1975).

DISTRIBUTION: England (in glasshouses, type locality), Taiwan, Philippine Islands, Southeast Asia, Micronesia, and intercepted but not established in Florida.

HOSTS: *Alstonia schloris*, *Areca catechu*, *Ardisia sieboldii*, *Artocarpus altilis*, *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Bruguiera sexangula*, *Camellia sinensis*, *Casuarina* sp., *Cestrum* sp., *Citrus* sp., *Cocos nucifera*, *Cycas rumphii* f. *seemannii*, *Epipremnum mirabile*, *Eurya japonica*, *Hevea* sp., *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*, *Illicium philippinense*, *Maesa* sp., *Mangifera indica*, *Manihot esculenta*, *Persea japonica*, *Plumeria rubra* forma *acutifolia*, *Psidium* sp., *Ravenala madagascariensis*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Schefflera octophylla*, *Smilax china*, and *Vitis* sp.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: The economic importance is unknown, but with all scale insects there is potential economic impact when they are introduced into areas without their natural enemies.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Inspect leaves, stems, and canes of *Aglaonema* spp., particularly if these or other plants have been imported from Asia or Pacific islands. Submit specimens on the host to the Entomology Bureau.

LITERATURE CITED

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