



## Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Breadfruit (fluted scale) mealybug (184)



Photo 1. Adult breadfruit mealybugs, *Icerya aegyptiaca*, showing the long white waxy fringe around the body.



Photo 2. Underside of adult breadfruit mealybug, *Icerya aegyptiaca*, to show the legs and antennae.

#### Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Africa, Oceania. Principally breadfruit but also avocado, banana, citrus, jackfruit, mango, soursop, taro, and many others, including ornamentals. An important pest.
- Eggs laid into a sac producing “crawlers” that spread the pest. After a day, they settle down, feed, moult, becoming adult with 3–4 mm waxy processes.
- Damage done: (i) sucking sap, (ii) leaves turn black - fungi grow on honeydew excreted by mealybugs.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles (*Rodolia*) important
- Cultural control: prune infested stems, branches and fruits, and burn; add fertilizer, manure or compost to improve tree health; assist natural enemies: destroy ants nests (hot water), prune low branches, and weed.
- Chemical control: soap, white or horticultural oils; PDPs: neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; if ants are present use synthetic pyrethroids. Priority is to remove ants to let natural enemies work.

#### Common Name

Breadfruit mealybug, Egyptian fluted scale, Egyptian mealybug

#### Scientific Name

*Icerya aegyptiaca*

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<sup>1</sup>Waterhouse DF (1993) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects - Supplement 2*. ACIAR Monograph No. 20. Brown Prior Anderson, Burwood, Victoria; and from CABI (2015) *Icerya aegyptiaca*. Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpe/>). Photo 1 Alessandra Rung, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Peter Ooi, Department of Agriculture & Food Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Tunku Abul Rahman, Jalan University, Malaysia.

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests and Pathogens*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

