



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

### Citrus mussel scale (340)



Photo 1. Adult purple scale, *Lepidosaphes beckii*.



Photo 2. Adult purple scale, *Lepidosaphes beckii*. View from underside. The cover or armour has been removed, and the body slide-mounted.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Citrus species. Potentially severe scale, sucking sap, causing leaf drop, dieback, and unsightly fruit.
- Mussel shaped, purplish-brown, pale at narrow end; eggs laid under a cover (or "armour"); "crawlers" (nymphs) hatch and disperse, settle, moult, and females grow up to 3 mm long. Males have wings, and short-lived.
- Spread by crawlers that walk, or are carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, and clothes, and trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: wasp parasitoid (*Aphytis lepidosaphes*).
- Cultural control: check nursery stock free from scale; if present, prune, and spray with insecticide (see below); in field, use *Gliricida* windbreaks to reduce crawlers carried by wind; provide adequate nutrition.
- Chemical control: use lime sulphur or wettable sulphur, leaving 30 days if also spraying oils (READ INSTRUCTIONS); alternatively, spot-spray infestations using soap, horticultural or white oils (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**); avoid malathion and synthetic pyrethroids - they will kill natural enemies.

#### Common Name

Citrus mussel scale; purple scale

#### Scientific Name

*Lepidosaphes beckii*

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

<sup>1</sup>Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2008) *Lepidosaphes beckii* (purple scale) Crop Protection Compendium ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)); and from Citrus Research International Scales: Mussel Scales. (<https://www.citrusres.com/system/files/documents/production-guidelines/Citrus%20Mussel%20Scales%20-%20Apr%202003.pdf>). Photo 1 United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Purple Scale (*Lepidosaphes beckii*) PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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

