



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coconut (false) scale (348)



Photo 1. Masses of adults and nymphs of the coconut (false) scales, *Aspidiotus rigidus*, on the leaf of a coconut.



Photo 2. Yellowing of mature palms, due to infestation of coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.



Photo 3. Yellowing and drying of leaflets of a coconut frond infested by the coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.

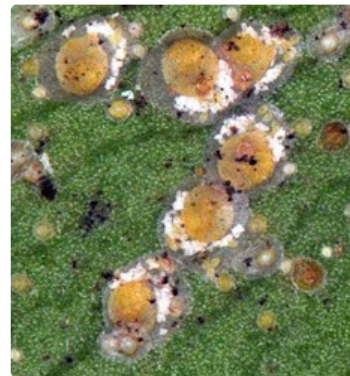


Photo 4. Close-up of female coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*, showing the crescent of egg skins at the margins of the armour or scale cover.



Photo 5. Slide-mounted body of the coconut scale, *Aspidiotus destructor*.



Photo 6. Slide-mounted body of the coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.



Photo 7. Adults and nymphs of the coconut scale, *Aspidiotus destructor*. Note that the egg skins are around the margin in contrast to those of the coconut (false) scale, which are in a crescent on one side of the cover.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Not in Oceania. A scale of coconut, banana, mangosteen, and ornamentals. Since 2009, a serious outbreak in the Philippines.
- Sucking causes leaves to yellow, wilt and dry out, nuts have less "meat" and "milk" is sour. Heavy infestations kill seedlings and young palms.
- Eggs in crescents under the cover or "armour"; "crawlers" (nymphs) hatch and disperse, settle, moult; females produce yellow to brown transparent armour, up to 3 mm across. Males have wings, but short-lived.
- Spread by crawlers walking, or carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, on clothing, and trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: research into predators and parasitic wasps continues.
- IPM recommendations (Philippines): leaf pruning, insecticide trunk injections, and canopy sprays; biocontrol agents (e.g., a *Comperiella* species), and fertilizer to hasten recovery. [The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (of Philippines) has given approval for growers to use a vegetable oil.]

Common Name

Coconut scale, coconut false scale

Scientific Name

Aspidiotus rigidus; previously *Aspidiotus destructor rigidus*.

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Information from Watson GA, Adalla CB, Shepard, Carner GR (2016) *Aspidiotus rigidus* Reye (Hemiptera: Diaspididae): a devastating pest of coconuts in the Philippines. *Agriculture and Forest Entomology* 17:1-8; and from *Aspidiotus rigidus* Purdue University (<https://www.cabdirect.org/cabdirect/abstract/20153049018>). Photo 1-4 Merle Shepard/Gerald Carner, Clemson University, USA. Photos 5-7 Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Sacramento, USA.

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