



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coconut mealybug (347)



Photo 1. Adult female (centre), beige, with filaments at margin, and the white cocoons of the coconut mealybug, *Nipaecoccus nipae*. Nymph are also present.

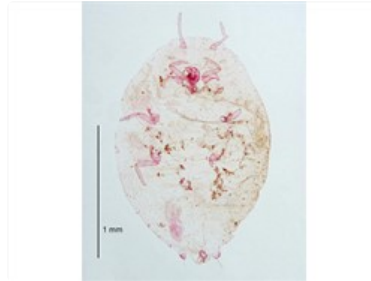


Photo 2. Adult coconut mealybug, *Nipaecoccus nipae*, slide mounted.



Photo 3. Colonies of female and male coconut mealybug, *Nipaecoccus nipae*.



Photo 4. Adult females, males and crawlers (first instar nymphs), coconut mealybug, *Nipaecoccus nipae*.



Photo 5. Adult females, males (cocoons) and crawlers (first instar nymphs), coconut mealybug, *Nipaecoccus nipae*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On fruit crops, palm species, and ornamentals. Mealybug of minor importance, except where tended by ants.
- Damage: i) feeding turns plants yellow and weak; ii) honeydew drips onto foliage and sooty moulds weakens plant growth.
- Adult (females) up to 2.5 mm long, covered with beige, reddish-brown, yellowish-orange, wax, over reddish-brown to orange body. Wax on top in pyramids, similar to those on margins. Males develop inside cottony cocoons, emerging as tiny fly-like insect with wings, large eyes, legs.
- Spread by "crawlers" (nymphs) walking, or carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, on clothing, and trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles and parasitoid wasp (*Pseudaphycus*).
- Cultural control: check nursery plants, prune infestations; add manure or fertilizer to hasten growth; control ants - boiling water, prune low-hanging branches, remove weeds.

- Chemical control: soap solution, horticultural or white oils (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**); avoid malathion and synthetic pyrethroids - they will kill natural enemies. Use pyrethroids against ants.

Common Name

Coconut mealybug, spiked mealybug

Scientific Name

Nipaecoccus nipae

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Information from CABI (2016) *Nipaecoccus nipae* (spiked mealybug) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and *Nipaecoccus nipae* (Maskell) Entomology & Nematology, UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/mealybug/coconut_mealybug.htm); and from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Photo 1 Gillian Watson PestNet. (<http://www.pestnet.org/SummariesofMessages/Crops/Fruitnuts/Guava/Nipaecoccusnipae.mealybug.guava.Kosrae,FSM.aspx>). Photo 2 Rhode BE & Crosby TK (2013) Coconut Mealy Bug (*Nipaecoccus nipae*) PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 3 Randy Thaman USP Fiji. Photo 4 United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org. Photo 5 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji.

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

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