



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Hibiscus lesser snow scale (346)



Photo 1. Masses of, mostly male, lesser snow scale, *Pinnaspis strachani*, on oil palm fruit.



Photo 2. Close-up of Photo 1 to show the male and female lesser snow scale (lower centre), *Pinnaspis strachani*.



Photo 3. Adult lesser snow scale, *Pinnaspis strachani*, slide-mounted, and armour removed.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On fruit trees, shrubs and ornamentals, e.g., citrus, hibiscus, coconut, mango, and oil palm, but usually under biological control.
- Sucks sap from leaves, stems and fruit, weakening plants and causing distortions.
- Eggs laid under cover or "armour", hatching to produce "crawlers" (nymphs); these moult becoming females, up to 2.5 mm long, mussel-shaped, white to light brown, or males, shorter, narrower, and snow-white. Males become tiny fly-like insects, with wings; they are short-lived.
- Spread by crawlers walking, or carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, on clothes, and the trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles, parasitoid wasps (*Aspidiotiphagus*, *Aphytis* and others).
- Cultural control: check nursery stock is free from infestation; if present, prune; wide spacing preventing leaves touching and crawlers moving between trees.
- Chemical control: use lime sulphur or wettable sulphur, leaving 30 days if spraying oils (READ INSTRUCTIONS); alternatively, spot-spray infestations with soap solution, horticultural or white oils (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**); avoid malathion and synthetic pyrethroids - they will kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Lesser snow scale, hibiscus snow scale

Scientific Name

Pinnaspis strachani

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¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2008) *Pinnaspis strachani* (lesser snow scale) Crop Protection Compendium (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from *Pinnaspis strachani* (Cooley) (1992) Crop Knowledge Master University of Hawaii, Manoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Photo 2 MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Lesser Snow Scale (*Pinnaspis strachani*) PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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