

Breadfruit (Seychelles) scale (242)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Especially woody plants. Common on avocado, breadfruit, *Casuarina*, citrus, *Ficus*, guava. Hosts occur in more than 60 plant families. Many hosts. An important pest.
- Females produce living young. Males rare.
- Outbreaks cause leaves to yellow and shoots to die.
- Honeydew from these sap-sucking scales falls onto leaves and fruits, to be turned black by fungal moulds.
- 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; priority is to remove ants to let natural enemies work: use synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Seychelles scale, silvery cushion scale, breadfruit mealybug

Scientific Name

Icerya seychellarum



Photo 1. Colony of *Icerya seychellarum* on *Macaranga* species Papua New Guinea attended by *Oecophylla* ants. Immatures are yellow.



Photo 2. *Icerya seychellarum* on unidentified host. Note the red colour of the mealybugs under the white powdery wax.



Photo 3. *Icerya seychellarum* adults showing the long hairs and white and yellow waxy coverings.



Photo 4. Infestation of flowers of *Veitchia* species, with all stages of *Icerya seychellarum*; from a distance the flowers appear white.



Photo 5. Close-up of one of the flower spikes of *Veitchia* species (Photo 4), showing infestation of *Icerya seychellarum*.

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