

## Cassava white peach scale (052)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On *bele*, chilli, capsicum, cassava, passionfruit, and paper mulberry (*Broussonetia* sp.). An important pest.
- Scale with tube-like mouthparts sucking sap from stems. Covered by a protective shell, the 'armour': round in females, white and long in males.
- Eggs hatch as 'crawlers' that walk or are spread by wind. Both sexes settle down, feed and produce the armour, but males become winged, tiny, mosquito-like insects without mouths that mate and then die.
- Natural enemies: many predators, and parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: scale-free cuttings; avoid planting near old crop; collect and burn infested stems during growth and after harvest.
- Chemical control: use soap, white or horticultural oils with or without malathion. Malathion likely to kill natural enemies.

### Common Name

White peach scale; also known as the mulberry scale

### Scientific Name

*Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*



Photo 4. Male (stem to left) and female (stem to right) scales, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, on bele, *Abelmoschus manihot*.



Photo 1. Large number (dead) of male scales, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, on paper mulberry, *Broussonetia papyrifera*.



Photo 2. Female scale, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, on cassava.



Photo 3. Infestation of male scales, *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*, on bele, *Abelmoschus manihot*.

AUTHORS Helen Tsatsia & Grahame Jackson

Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* (Targioni-Torzetti). *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Assistance. Photos 2&4 Graham Teakle, Canberra; and CABI (2020) *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* (mulberry scale). (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/45077>); Branscome D (2019) *Pseudaulacaspis pentagona* (Targioni). *Featured Creatures, Entomology & Nematology*. UF/IFAS, University of Florida. ([http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/scales/white\\_peach\\_scale.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/scales/white_peach_scale.htm)).

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