

Citrus fluted scale (343)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On many woody plants, trees, ornamentals and weeds. Important, potentially devastating on citrus.
- Damage: (i) sucks sap, leaves wilt, stems dry, and shoots dieback, (ii) honeydew drips onto foliage which is blackened by sooty moulds.
- Adult (females) up to 7 mm long, covered in yellow or white wax, with orange-red, yellow, brown body. They are hermaphrodites; fertilised eggs kept in fluted egg sac. Males winged, and rare.
- Spread by 'crawlers' (nymphs) walking, or carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, on clothes, and the trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: predators, e.g., ladybird beetle, *Rodolia cardinalis*, and fly parasitoid (*Cryptochaetum*).
- Cultural control: nursery stock free from scale; if present, prune and spray (see below); in field, provide adequate nutrition.
- Chemical control: 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. Use pyrethroids against ants.

Common Name

Citrus fluted scale, cottony cushion scale,

Scientific Name

Icerya purchasi



Photo 1. Adult female citrus (cottony) cushion scale, *Icerya purchasi*.



Photo 2. Group of adult female citrus (cottony) cushion scales, *Icerya purchasi*.



Photo 3. Crawler or first nymph stage, of the citrus (cottony) cushion scale, *Icerya purchasi*.



Photo 4. Nymphs of the citrus (cottony) cushion scale, *Icerya purchasi*.



Photo 5. Adults and nymphs of the citrus fluted scale, *Icerya purchasi*.



Photo 6. The ladybird beetle, *Rodolia cardinalis*, feeding on a colony of the citrus (cottony) cushion scale, *Icerya purchasi*.

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¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and CABI (2016) *Icerya purchasi* (cottony cushion scale). *Crop Protection Compendium*. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/28432>) and *Icerya purchasi*. Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icerya_purchasi); and *Icerya purchasi* Maskell. *Featured Creatures, Entomology & Nematology*. UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/fruit/cottony_cushion_scale.htm); and from Weeks JA (2012) Citrus Pests Cottony cushion scale *Icerya purchasi* (Hemiptera: Margarodidae). USDA, University of Florida. (<https://idtools.org/id/citrus/pests/factsheet.php?name=Cottony+cushion+scale>); Photos 1&5 Jeffrey W. Lotz, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Lesley Ingram, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Lorraine Graney, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Sonya Broughton, Department of Agriculture & Food Western Australia, Bugwood.org.

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