

## Citrus snow scale (105)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Mostly, citrus, but the Pacific banana is a host. An important pest.
- The scale has tube-like mouthparts, sucking sap from stems. Heavy infestations cause leaf fall and dieback.
- Eggs hatch and "crawlers" walk or spread by wind, settle, feed and produce the protective armour, oyster-shaped in females, white and straight in males. Males become fly-like, without mouthparts, mate and die.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles and parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: scale-free nursery stock; *Gliricidia* windbreaks to protect from spread of "crawlers"; adequate nutrition.
- Chemical control: use lime sulphur or wettable sulphur, leaving 30 days if also spraying oils (READ INSTRUCTIONS); alternatively, spot-spray infestations with horticultural oil, white oil, or soap solution (**see Fact Sheet no. 56**); avoid malathion and synthetic pyrethroids - they will kill natural enemies.

### Common Name

Citrus snow scale, white louse scale

### Scientific Name

*Unaspis citri*

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<sup>1</sup>Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Unaspis citri* (Comstock). *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press; and CABI (undated) Citrus snow scale *Unaspis citri*. Plantwise Knowledge Bank. (<http://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/Datasheet.aspx?dsid=55685>); and MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Citrus Snow Scale (*Unaspis citri*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and from Buckley CR, Hodges AC (2017) Citrus snow scale. UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida. ([http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/scales/citrus\\_snow\\_scale.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/scales/citrus_snow_scale.htm)). Photo 1 (and Diagram) Gillian Watson, Senior Insect Biosystematist, Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Sacramento, CA, USA. Photo 2 Hamdeo. Scale covering a citron tree, killing it. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Citrus\\_Scale\\_.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Citrus_Scale_.jpg)).

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Photo 1. Female citrus snow scale, *Unaspis citri*. The female is very different from the male; it is oval, brown-black and 2 mm long, whereas the male is 1 mm, and white.



Photo 2. Male pupae on citron, citrus snow scale, *Unaspis citri*.

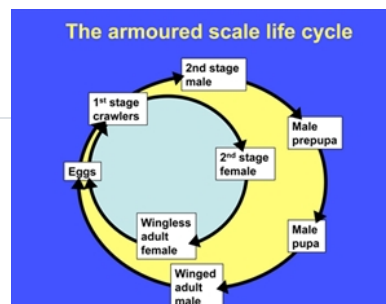


Diagram. Life-cycle of an armoured scale.

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