

Coconut (false) scale (348)

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Not in Oceania. A scale of coconut, banana, mangosteen, and ornamentals. Since 2009, a serious outbreak in the Philippines.
- Sucking causes leaves to yellow, wilt and dry out, nuts have less 'meat' and 'milk' is sour. Heavy infestations kill seedlings and young palms.
- Eggs in crescents under the cover or 'armour'; 'crawlers' (nymphs) hatch and disperse, settle, moult; females produce yellow to brown transparent armour, up to 3 mm across. Males have wings, but short-lived.
- Spread by crawlers walking, or carried by wind, vehicles, animals, birds, on clothing, and trade in plants.
- Natural enemies: research into predators and parasitic wasps continues.
- IPM recommendations (Philippines): leaf pruning, insecticide trunk injections, and canopy sprays; biocontrol agents (e.g., a *Comperiella* species), and fertilizer to hasten recovery. [The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (of Philippines) has given approval for growers to use a vegetable oil.]

Common Name

Coconut scale, coconut false scale

Scientific Name

Aspidiotus rigidus; previously *Aspidiotus destructor rigidus*.

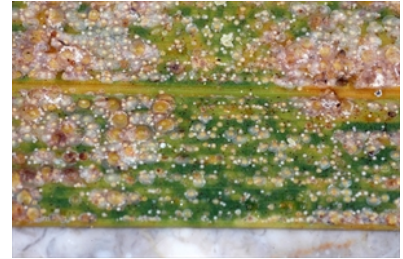


Photo 1. Masses of adults and nymphs of the coconut (false) scales, *Aspidiotus rigidus*, on the leaf of a coconut.



Photo 2. Yellowing of mature palms, due to infestation of coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.

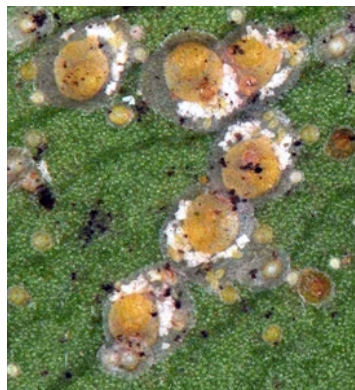


Photo 4. Close-up of female coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*, showing the crescent of egg skins at the margins of the armour or scale cover.



Photo 3. Yellowing and drying of leaflets of a coconut frond infested by the coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.



Photo 5. Slide-mounted body of the coconut scale, *Aspidiotus destructor*.



Photo 6. Slide-mounted body of the coconut (false) scale, *Aspidiotus rigidus*.



Photo 7. Adults and nymphs of the coconut scale, *Aspidiotus destructor*. Note that the egg skins are around the margin in contrast to those of the coconut (false) scale, which are in a crescent on one side of the cover.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Watson GA, et al. (2016) *Aspidiotus rigidus* Reyne (Hemiptera: Diaspididae): a devastating pest of coconuts in the Philippines. Agriculture and Forest Entomology 17:1-8. (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264159039_Aspidiotus_rigidus_Reyne_Hemiptera_Diaspididae_A_devastating_pest_of_coconut_in_the_Philippines#:~:text=The%20coconut%20scale%20insect%2C%20Aspidiotus,Philippines%20between%202010%20and%202015); and CABI (2020) *Aspidiotus rigidus*. Crop Protection Compendium; and from Molet T (2015) CPHST Pest Datasheet for *Aspidiotus rigidus*. USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST (<http://download.ceris.purdue.edu/file/2821>). Photos 1-4 Merle Shepard/Gerald Carner, Clemson University, USA. Photos 5-7 Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch, California Department of Food & Agriculture, Sacramento, USA.

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