

# Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

## Coffee brown scale (066)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On coffee, breadfruit, citrus, guava, soursop, ornamental plants, and especially cycads and ferns. It is reported from orchids. An important pest.
- The scale sucks sap causing wilts, distortions, and honeydew, on which fungi grow blackening leaves and blocking sunlight.
- Eggs are laid under the female; "crawlers" hatch and disperse by walking or on the wind. No males.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps and predators.
- Cultural control: prune infested stems and fruits; adequate nutrition; destroy ant colonies encouraging natural enemies; remove low branches and weeds.
- Chemical control: priority is to remove ants to let natural enemies work. If needed, use soap, white or horticultural oils; use synthetic pyrethroids to kill ants.

### Common Name

Coffee brown scale, hemispherical scale

### Scientific Name

*Saissetia* species. There are several species of *Saissetia* recorded in Pacific island countries. However, the species most often recorded on *Annona* in the South Pacific is *Saissetia coffeae*. The description below is for that species.

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Information from MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Hemispherical Scale (*Saissetia coffeae*); PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and CABI (2019) *Saissetia coffeae* (hemispherical scale). (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/48202>); and *Saissetia coffeae*. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saissetia\\_coffeae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saissetia_coffeae)); and from *Saissetia coffeae* (Walker). Hemispherical scale. Manaaki Whenua. Landcare Research. (<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/discover-our-research/biodiversity/plants-invertebrates-fungi-and-bacteria/invertebrate-systematics/scale-insects/factsheets/saissetia-coffeae/>)

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Photo 1. Coffee brown scale on the stems of unidentified host, (possibly *Pseuderanthemum whartonianum*), Honiara, Solomon Islands.



Photo 2. Female coffee brown scale, *Saissetia* sp., on a soursop fruit. The scales stay in place even after death.

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