

An account of the Pacific mealybug genus *Laminicoccus* Williams (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae)

D.J. WILLIAMS & J.H. MARTIN*

Department of Entomology; The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

*j.martin@nhm.ac.uk

Abstract

The Pacific mealybug genus *Laminicoccus* Williams is reviewed. At present six species are assigned to the genus including a new species, *Laminicoccus samoanus* sp. nov., described from Western Samoa. Most of the host-plant records of these mealybugs are from monocotyledons and many of the species seem to prefer plants belonging to the families Arecaceae, Pandanaceae, and Poaceae. One or two host-plant records, nevertheless, are from dicotyledons. A key to species of *Laminicoccus* is provided. The mealybug *Pseudococcus pandanicola* Takahashi, described originally from Palau, had been included in *Laminicoccus* but is here reassigned to *Pseudococcus* and redescribed.

Key words: *Laminicoccus*, Pacific area, *Laminicoccus samoanus* sp. nov., mealybugs, Pseudococcidae, key to species, *Pseudococcus pandanicola* Takahashi redescribed

Introduction

Williams (1960) described the genus *Laminicoccus*, with *Tylococcus giffardi* Ehrhorn from Hawaii as type species, and included *Pseudococcus vitiensis* Green & Laing, a species described originally from Fiji, and the new species *L. cocois* Williams from the Solomon Islands.

In an extensive review of the mealybugs of Micronesia, Beardsley (1966) indicated that *Pseudococcus vitiensis* and *P. carolinensis* Takahashi, a species described by Takahashi (1939) from the Caroline Islands, were identical with *Dactylopius pandani* Cockerell described from the Marquesas Islands. Beardsley, therefore, synonymised *P. vitiensis* and *P. carolinensis* with *D. pandani* and discussed its distribution under the new combination *Laminicoccus pandani* (Cockerell). Williams (1985a) later described *Laminicoccus flandersi* Williams from *Howeia* sp. in Australia (New South Wales) and mentioned that the species was also present in New Zealand. Cox (1987) discussed *L. flandersi* from New Zealand further, and described the new species *L. asteliae* and *L. eastopi* also from New