



## A new felt scale genus (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha; Eriococcidae) from Papua New Guinea, with descriptions of two new species

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### Abstract

A new eriococcid genus, *Pseudomontanococcus* Kozár & Hodgson, is introduced to take two new species, *P. martini* Kozár & Konczné Benedicty and *P. baloghi* Kozár & Konczné Benedicty, both from Papua New Guinea. The adult females and 2<sup>nd</sup>-instar female nymphs of both species are described, as are the adult male and 2<sup>nd</sup>-instar male of *P. martini*.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, scale insects

### Introduction

The Eriococcidae (felt scale insects) is a large and geographically widespread family containing about 550 species in nearly 70 genera. It contains a number of species that are important plant pests, particularly on ornamentals, trees and cacti (Miller & Gimpel, 2000). However, even today the exact taxonomic status of the family is uncertain, and the characters diagnosing the group tend to be by absence of synapomorphies rather than their presence. Cox and Williams (1987) considered the Eriococcidae to be paraphyletic and certain authors (e.g. Cook *et al.*, 2002; Gullan & Cook, 2007) believe that other groups currently considered to be separate families (such as the Dactylopiidae and Kermesidae), should fall within the Eriococcidae. On the other hand, phylogenetic studies of the adult males do not support this view (Hodgson, 2002).

Although the family is widespread, very few genera and species are known from the Pacific subregion. For example, only 3 species are known from Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Philippines and New Caledonia, 2 species each from Hawaii and Indonesia, and only 1 from Fiji and Vanuatu (New Hebrides); none are known from Micronesia and Solomon Islands. The eriococcid fauna of the Oriental Region is also poorly known, the best studied area being China with 16 species. On the other hand, the eriococcid fauna of the Palaearctic Region has been relatively well studied and 175 species have been recorded to date (Ben-Dov *et al.*, 2006; Hoy, 1962, 1963; Köhler, 1998; Miller & Gimpel, 2000; Tang and Hao, 1995; Varshney, 1992). The felted scale fauna of the Australasian Region has also been studied fairly extensively recently and several new publications suggest this region could also have several more phylogenetically interesting and important genera and species (Gullan, 1999; Hardy & Gullan, 2007a, b; Henderson, 2006, 2007a, b; Hodgson & Henderson, 1996; Kozár *et al.*, 2007; Matile-Ferrero, 1988; Williams, 2007; Williams & Watson, 1990).

The insects discussed here were collected using Berlese funnels. This method is particularly important for collecting some groups of scale insects (Kozár & Miller, 2001). The first author has discovered a “treasure trove” of scale insect material in Berlese samples that were initially collected by Hungarian acarologists