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367

Description of a new species of *Ovaticoccus* Kloet (Hemiptera: Coccoidea, Eriococcidae) from Belize, with remarkably large hind coxae and causing leaf-curl galls

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Abstract

A new species of eriococcid scale insect, *Ovaticoccus amplicoxae*, is described from Belize. The species has enormous hind coxae, unlike any described so far in this genus, or in related genera. In life, the species galls the leaves to such an extent that it has been impossible to identify the host plant.

Key words: *Ovaticoccus amplicoxae* sp. nov., scale insect, Eriococcidae, Belize, leaf curling

Introduction

A series of field-study visits to Belize has been made by the second author, principally to collect whiteflies (Aleyrodidae) in readiness for the preparation of an account of the whiteflies of Belize. This work was carried out while based at Las Cuevas Research Station (LCRS), in the Chiquibul Forest Reserve (CFR), Cayo District, located at approximately 16° 43 N, 88° 58 W, 45 km south of the San Ignacio / Santa Elena conurbation. CFR is located centrally within the Maya Mountains, and comprises an area of over half a million hectares of forested upland, with LCRS itself located in a shallow hollow in the centre of an extensive area of dense, closed-canopy, secondary broadleaf forest. Its altitude is approximately 600 metres, and LCRS is a joint facility of The Natural History Museum, London and the Belize Forest Department. Searching for aleyrodid material has also revealed samples of other sternorrhynchous groups, including the extraordinary member of the eriococcid genus *Ovaticoccus* that is the subject of the present communication.

The new species of *Ovaticoccus* described here has some unusual characters, lacking macrotubular ducts and microtubular ducts, and possessing enormous hind coxae that are

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