

Two new mealybug species from the Falkland Islands (Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Coccoidea, Pseudococcidae)

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Abstract

Two new mealybug species, *Rhizoecus bolacis* sp. nov. and *Trionymus jonesi* sp. nov., are described from the Falkland Islands, the first species in any family of scale insects to be recorded from these islands. Both species live on the roots of *Bolax gummifera* (Apiaceae) and were extracted using Tullgren funnel apparatus.

Key words: *Rhizoecus bolacis* sp. nov., *Trionymus jonesi* sp. nov., mealybugs, Pseudococcidae, Falkland Islands, *Bolax gummifera*

Introduction

The following two new mealybug species were collected by Dr Alexander G. Jones, University of Wales, Bangor, during surveys of the Falkland Islands for Falklands Conservation. The new species are not only the first mealybugs to be recorded from these islands but the first of any species of scale insects of the superfamily Coccoidea to be discovered there. The Falkland Islands consist mainly of bleak rocky moorlands and comprise two main islands, East and West Falkland, and about 200 small islands, lying about 500 km east of the Strait of Magellan.

In a list of insects of the Falkland Islands recorded by Robinson (1984), the only species of Sternorrhyncha known at the time was the aphid *Pentamyzus falklandicus* Hille Ris Lambers. Brown (1987) subsequently described another species of Aphidoidea from the islands (*Pentamyzus tenuis* Brown). Jones (2004) recently gave a general introduction to insect life in the Falkland Islands.

Both the new mealybug species have been extracted using Tullgren funnel apparatus from material collected on the roots of *Bolax gummifera* (Apiaceae), a plant commonly known in the Falkland Islands as “balsam bog”. On shallow soils this plant forms a hard