

A new species of the mealybug genus *Rastrococcus* Ferris (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae) from New Zealand

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Abstract

A new species of the mealybug genus *Rastrococcus* Ferris, *R. namartini* sp. nov., is described from New Zealand. It feeds on *Myrsine australis* (A. Rich.) Allan and, although it is related to *R. asteliae* (Maskell), the only other species in the genus known from New Zealand, it seems to be most similar to *R. matileae* Williams & Watson, described from New Caledonia. In addition to the adult female, the first instar, second-instar male, prepupa and pupa are also described and illustrated. The adult female differs from all other species in the genus in possessing only 10 pairs of distinct cerarii.

Key words: *Rastrococcus*, New Zealand, *Rastrococcus namartini* sp. nov., mealybugs, Pseudococcidae, adult female, first instar, second-instar male, prepupa, pupa

Introduction

Ferris (1954) described the genus *Rastrococcus* with *Phenacoccus iceryoides* Green as type species. Also included in the genus by Ferris were *P. chinensis* Ferris, *P. mangiferae* Green, *P. ornatus* Green and *P. spinosus* Robinson. With the addition of further species described by Williams & Watson (1988) and Williams (1989, 2004), the total number of species described and illustrated in the genus is now 26 (Ben-Dov *et al.*, 2005). *P. ornatus* was transferred to the genus *Lankacoccus* Williams by Williams (1989). Three other species of *Rastrococcus* were described by Buchner (1957), based on different structures of the endosymbionts and, although the names are valid, it is not possible yet to identify these species using normal morphological characters.

At present, the genus extends from southern Asia (with a species as far north as Nepal), southern China, the tropical South Pacific region, eastern Australia and New Zealand. *R. iceryoides* was probably introduced to East Africa in the early 20th century