

Taxonomy of *Aonidiella yehudithae* sp. nov. and *Lindingaspis misrae* (Laing) comb. nov. with a key to species of *Aonidiella* Berlese & Leonardi (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Diaspididae)

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Abstract

Aonidiella yehudithae sp. nov. is described from ivy, *Hedera helix* collected on the island of Crete, Greece. *Aonidiella misrae* Laing, 1929 is transferred to *Lindingaspis*, a lectotype is designated, and the species is shown to be the senior synonym of *Lindingaspis fusca* McKenzie, 1943. A key is given for the separation of the 32 species currently included in the genus *Aonidiella*, based on the adult female.

Key words: scale insects, Coccoidea, Diaspididae, *Aonidiella yehudithae*, *Aonidiella misrae*, *Lindingaspis misrae*, new species, Greece, Crete, *Hedera helix*

Introduction

Prior to this study, the genus *Aonidiella* Berlese & Leonardi (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Diaspididae) included 33 species distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical zones of earth, as well as in greenhouses or on indoor plants in temperate zones. Three members of *Aonidiella*, namely *A. aurantii* (Maskell), *A. citrina* (Coquillett) and *A. orientalis* (Newstead) are ranked as major pests of fruit trees world-wide. In the Mediterranean region the genus was represented by 5 species, namely *A. aurantii* (Maskell), *A. citrina* Coquillett, *A. lauretorum* (Lindinger), *A. orientalis* (Newstead) and *A. taxus* Leonardi (Borchsenius, 1966; Ben-Dov & German, 2003).

This paper presents the description of *Aonidiella yehudithae* sp. nov., described from material collected on the Island of Crete, Greece. In the course of this study it was necessary to compare the new species with *A. misrae* Laing, 1929. The study showed that the latter actually belonged to the genus *Lindingaspis*, in which it is a senior synonym, with *Lindingaspis fusca* McKenzie, 1943 as its junior synonym.