



A new species of *Prionococcus* (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Coccoidea: Coccidae) from Mexico, with a discussion of its affinities

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Abstract

The adult female, 1st-instar nymph, 2nd-instar female, 2nd-instar male, male puparium, prepupa, pupa, and adult male of a new species of *Prionococcus* Williams, Hodgson & Danzig, *P. fontanai* Pellizzari & Hodgson, are described and illustrated. Keys are given for the separation of the 3 species now in the genus *Prionococcus* and for separating the instars. The relationships of this genus within the family Coccidae are discussed.

Key words: *Agave*, *Mesolecanium*

Resumen

La hembra adulta, ninfa del primer estadio, ninfas de la hembra y el macho del segundo estadio, el pupario, prepupa, pupa y el adulto del macho de una nueva especie de *Prionococcus* Williams, Hodgson & Danzig: *P. fontanai* Pellizzari & Hodgson, se describen e ilustran. Se proveen claves taxonómicas para la separación de las 3 especies ahora incluidas en el género *Prionococcus* y para la separación de todos sus estadios. Se discuten las relaciones de este género dentro de la familia Coccidae.

Introduction

The genus *Prionococcus* Williams, Hodgson & Danzig was recently established (2002) to take two new species of soft scales from Mexico and Central America, namely *P. agave* and *P. americanus*. A third species of *Prionococcus* was collected in Mexico in March 2005 on *Agave americana* (Plate 1) by Paolo Fontana, entomologist at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Padua. All instars were collected (Plate 2) and are here described and illustrated.

Prionococcus Williams, Hodgson & Danzig

Prionococcus Williams, Hodgson & Danzig 2002: 111.

With the addition of the species described as new below, there are now three species in *Prionococcus*, and these can be separated using the following key.