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 nympha, 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*

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.