



Redescription of the adult female and 1st-instar nymph of *Ceroplastodes dugesii* (Signoret, 1886) (Hemiptera: Coccidae) and description of the other immature stages

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Abstract

Ceroplastodes dugesii (Signoret), the Mexican wax scale, is the type species of the genus but previous descriptions have not included some important characters. With the collection of new material of this species off *Acacia* from Mexico, the opportunity is taken to illustrate and either describe or redescribe all stages apart from the adult male.

Key words: Soft scales, Mexican wax scale, Coccoidea

Resumen

Ceroplastodes dugesii (Signoret), la Cochinilla blanda mexicana, es la especie-tipo de su género. Sin embargo, las descripciones existentes no incluyen algunos caracteres de importancia taxonómica. Con la adquisición de nuevo material de esta especie, recogido de un árbol de *Acacia* en México, se toma la oportunidad para ilustrar y describir o redescibir todos los estadios de esta especie a excepción del macho adulto.

Introduction

Lecanopsis dugesii was briefly described by Signoret (1886) on the basis of specimens sent to him by Lichtenstein. The genus *Ceroplastodes* was introduced by Cockerell (1893b) to take his species *Inglisia nivea* (Cockerell, 1893a). Later, in 1902, Cockerell synonymised *C. nivea* (Cockerell) with *L. dugesii* Signoret. Recently, Avasthi and Shafee (1991) studied the types of *C. dugesii*, *C. daleae* Cockerell and *C. deani* Lawson preserved at U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington (USNM), and synonymized *C. daleae* Cockerell and *C. deani* Lawson with *C. dugesii*; they also gave a short redescription of the adult female. Hodgson (1994) redescribed the adult female on the basis of the type of *C. dugesii* preserved at USNM. Because of the poor condition of the specimens (old post-reproductive females), neither Avasthi and Shafee (1991) nor Hodgson (1994) were able to fully describe the dorsum. More recently Hodges and Williams (2003) described the 1st-instar nymph, also from specimens preserved at the USNM. It is clear from the data labels reported in the cited papers (Avasthi & Shafee, 1991; Hodgson, 1994; Hodges & Williams, 2003) that the recent descriptions and redescrptions of *C. dugesii* were based on the same material, collected between 1894 and 1906 and preserved at the USNM.