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An updated checklist of the scale insects (Hemiptera: Coccoidea) of the Margarodidae *sensu lato* group

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Table of contents

Abstract	4
Introduction	4
Callipappidae	5
<i>Callipappus</i>	5
<i>Platycoelostoma</i>	6
Coelostomidiidae	6
<i>Coelostomidia</i>	6
<i>Cryptokermes</i>	7
<i>Mimosicerya</i>	7
<i>Neocoelostoma</i>	7
<i>Paracoelostoma</i>	7
<i>Ultracoelostoma</i>	8
Kuwaniidae	8
<i>Hoffeinsia</i>	8
<i>Kuwania</i>	8
<i>Neosteingelia</i>	9
Marchalinidae	9
<i>Marchalina</i>	9
Margarodidae	9
<i>Dimargarodes</i>	9
<i>Eumargarodes</i>	9
<i>Eurhizococcus</i>	9
<i>Heteromargarodes</i>	10
<i>Margarodes</i>	10
<i>Margarodesia</i>	12
<i>Neogreenia</i>	12
<i>Neomargarodes</i>	13
<i>Porphyrophora</i>	14
<i>Termitococcus</i>	18
Matsuoccidae	18
<i>Eomatsuoccus</i>	18
<i>Matsucoccus</i>	18
Monophlebiidae	21
<i>Afrodrosicha</i>	21
<i>Aspidoproctus</i>	21
<i>Auloicerya</i>	23
<i>Buchnericoccus</i>	23
<i>Corandesia</i>	23
<i>Crypticerya</i>	23
<i>Drosicha</i>	26
<i>Drosichoides</i>	28
<i>Echinicerya</i>	28
<i>Etropera</i>	28
<i>Gigantococcus</i>	29
<i>Gueriniella</i>	30
<i>Gullania</i>	31
<i>Hemaspidoproctus</i>	31
<i>Icerya</i>	31
<i>Insulococcus</i>	37
<i>Labioproctus</i>	37
<i>Laurencella</i>	37
<i>Lecaniodrosicha</i>	37
<i>Llaveia</i>	37
<i>Llaveiella</i>	38
<i>Matesovia</i>	38
<i>Melaleucococcus</i>	38
<i>Misracoccus</i>	39
<i>Modicicoccus</i>	39
<i>Monophlebidus</i>	39
<i>Monophleboides</i>	39
<i>Monophlebulus</i>	40
<i>Monophlebus</i>	41

<i>Nautococcus</i>	41
<i>Neohodgsonius</i>	41
<i>Nietneria</i>	42
<i>Nodulicoccus</i>	42
<i>Palaeococcus</i>	42
<i>Paramoandesia</i>	42
<i>Peenga</i>	42
<i>Perissopneumon</i>	42
<i>Proticerya</i>	43
<i>Protortonia</i>	43
<i>Pseudaspidoprocus</i>	44
<i>Sishania</i>	44
<i>Steatococcus</i>	45
<i>Tessarobelus</i>	45
<i>Vrydagha</i>	45
<i>Walkeriana</i>	45
Pityococcidae	46
<i>Cancerococcus</i>	46
<i>Desmococcus</i>	46
<i>Pityococcus</i>	46
Steingeliidae	46
<i>Araucaricoccus</i>	46
<i>Conifericoccus</i>	46
<i>Palaeosteingelia</i>	47
<i>Steingelia</i>	47
<i>Stomacoccus</i>	47
Stigmacoccidae	47
<i>Stigmacoccus</i>	47
Xylococcidae	48
<i>Jansenus</i>	48
<i>Xylococcus</i>	48
<i>Xylococcus</i>	48
<i>Nomina nuda</i>	49
References	50
Index to species and subspecies	59

Abstract

This article is an update (closing-date December 2010) of the Margarodidae *sensu lato* catalogue (Ben-Dov, 2005a). The 457 species and subspecies placed among 73 genera of scale insects are classified in 11 families. The geographical distribution and host plants are given for each species and subspecies.

Key words: Callipappidae, Coelostomidiidae, Kuwaniidae, Marchalinidae, Margarodidae, Matsucoccidae, Monophlebiidae, Pityococcidae, Steingeliidae, Stigmacoccidae, Xylococcidae, systematics

Introduction

The scale insects (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Coccoidea) are a relatively small superfamily with nearly 8000 species. They are all plant parasites, and feed using their stylet-like mouthparts to suck plant sap. The adult females are wing-less and considered to be paedomorphic, whereas the adult males in most species are alate and develop through complete metamorphosis. The size of coccoids varies considerably from less than 1 mm to 35 mm, but the majority of species are small and they develop in cryptic sites. Therefore, they are hard to detect, which has resulted in their being transported widely around the world. Many species of scale insects are important pests of agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Scale insects are divided into two major informal groupings, the archaeococcoids and the neococcoids. The exact composition of these is still somewhat controversial but the Margarodidae *sensu lato* is a major group within the archaeococcoids. This paper outlines the classification within this group as presently accepted.