

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Protopulvinaria pyriformis (Cockrell) a Soft Scale Insect New to Egypt (Hemiptera: Coccidae)

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Several samples of a soft scale insects were collected on the underside of leaves from heavily infested *Schefflera* sp. shrub (Family: Araliaceae). They were mounted on slides and identified by the author as *Protopulvinaria pyriformis* (Cockrell) according to the description and illustration of Hamon and Williams (1984). By revising the latest completed list of scale insects occurring in Egypt (Mohammad and Ghabbour, 2008) it was found that neither the genus nor the species were recorded before in Egypt. This note has increased the number of soft scale insects currently know in Egypt to 30 species belonging to 16 genera.

The adults of *P. pyriformis* (Fig. 1) are 2.5-3 mm long, pyriform in shape, thin and flat, light greenish in younger females turned to brown light in older ones, surrounded by a thin white waxy fringe. Eggs are deposited under females with very short posterior ovisac. The nymphs are translucent to greenish colour.

The extremely long and narrow anal plate at the centre of body of *P. pyriformis* (at least four times longer than wide) separates this species from the related several species such as *P. mangiferae* (Green) and *P. lxorae* (Green)

Damage of this insect, as well as other soft scales, is not only extracting the sap from foliage, but also excreting large quantities of honeydew which support the growth of sooty mould fungus, and leads to defoliation.

Williams (2010) mentioned that this species is cosmopolitan in distribution and is recorded on *Schefflera* spp. and *Hedra helix* (Araliaceae), in addition to *Gardenia jasminoides* (Rubiaceae) as host plants in Guatemala.



Figure 1. Adult female and nymph of *Protopulvinaria pyriformis*.

REFERENCES

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