

BOOK REVIEWS

COLON-FERRER, M., AND S. MEDINA-GAUD. 1998. Contribution to the systematics of the diaspidids (Homoptera: Diaspididae) of Puerto Rico. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico. ix + 254 p. (Including 14 color photographs). \$20 plus \$3.00 for postage, from Editor's Office, College of Agricultural Sciences, PO Box 21360, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928.

A regional publication about armored scale insects is a useful instrument for entomologists concerned with identifications from that region. This serves as a useful tool for extension entomologists, regulatory entomologists, and students of entomology. Many pertinent literature sources are combined generally to make identifications easier without consulting different literature sources. A concise review of the Puerto Rican and other geographical areas literature is given.

In this publication the authors have covered 77 species of armored scale insects. Three genera are recorded for the first time in Puerto Rico. Keys are included for identification of the 11 scale insect families known to occur in Puerto Rico, for 3 tribes, and for the respective species.

Preservation methods and microscope slide mounting techniques are covered; however, with a few limitations. One limitation is the use of Essig's Fluid with the acronym (EAF), which is Essig's Aphid Fluid, without any mention of its contents. Another glaring mistake is the symbol for potassium hydroxide (KOH) is given as KHO (possibly correct but unconventional).

A host plant index is also provided. This is helpful as some armored scale insects are host specific or nearly so. Parasite and predator information, where available, is provided.

Each species has a short field description of female and male armor with a more extensive morphological description of the female body. A line drawing of the typical type used for scale insects is given for each species, although only one drawing appears to be original, and the others are taken from the cited literature sources.

Overall, this is an adequate regional treatment of important plant pests, the armored scale insects. If you can overlook the numerous typographical errors and the egregious mistaken identity of Photo 2b as *Aonidiella orientalis*, when it is obviously *Diaspis boisduvalii* you will be happy with this compilation of information on armored scale insects.

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